



Australian Federation of University Women Inc.

PO Box 224, Enmore NSW 2042

<http://www.afuw.org.au>

July 1, 2009

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
The Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

Dear Mr Rudd

Re: An Australian National Action Plan for UN Security Resolution 1325

Along with other members of the Australian Federation of University Women, I was recently privileged to take part in a community consultation, funded by the Office for Women and organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The topic of the consultation was whether Australia should join the 14 nations that have, to date, answered the United Nations 2004 call for National Action Plans to implement Security Council Resolution 1325, passed in 2000. Those participating in the consultations were overwhelmingly in favour of Australia's doing so, and we urge you to start the process for an NAP as soon as possible.

Resolution 1325, emanating as it did from one of the UN's most important bodies, was a document of enormous significance, not only for women but for peace-making and peace-building in general. It recognized that women are central to security issues in conflict and that the protection of women and girls in conflict situations must be secured through their participation in all aspects of conflict resolution.

Resolution 1325 has achieved a widespread rhetorical acceptance that is not matched by implementation. Women are still all too often largely invisible in negotiations for resolving conflict, and still bear a heavy burden of suffering in conflict situations, something recently recognized by Resolution 1820, which specifically condemns sexual violence in conflict as a security problem and urges an end to a culture of impunity for such crimes.

A National Action Plan for implementing Resolution 1325 would sit very well within the context of the aim expressed in your National Security Statement to Parliament, namely to promote 'an international environment, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, that is stable, peaceful and prosperous, together with a global rules-based order which enhances Australia's national interests.' It would also address a gender dimension largely neglected in the National Security Statement and the White Paper on Defence, although very much a part of the current thinking of AusAID, as evidenced in *Gender Guidelines: Peace-Building (2006)* and the annual thematic performance report on gender equality initiated in the same year.

An NAP for Resolution 1325 would be a strong sign of your government's willingness to continue to give serious attention to issues affecting women, as well as a sound security measure for Australia and the region. We urge you to act on this,

Yours Sincerely,

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