



Civil Society Voices on  
Canada's next  
Women, Peace and  
Security National  
Action Plan  
Executive Summary

This report was made possible due to the time and volunteer commitment of our generous members of the Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada's CNAP3 Working Group. With special thanks to Beth Woroniuk, Katrina Leclerc, Laura Sewell, Monique Cuillerier, Urooj Mian, Zoe Dugal for their contributions as editors of the report.

We would also like to thank Sandra Biskupski-Mujanovic, the lead author on this report. In addition, thank you to our paid consultants, Shayne Wong for social media & online event support and proofreaders Laura O'Connor and Bénédicte Santoire. A special thanks to Monique Cuillerier for the layout of this report.

The full report is available at  
[wps-dialogue-fps.ca](http://wps-dialogue-fps.ca)



© 2022, Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada.  
[wpsn-canada.org](http://wpsn-canada.org)

The WPSN-C is grateful for the financial contribution from Global Affairs Canada that supported the WPS Dialogues FPS process.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In May and June 2022, the Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada (WPSN-C) organized a series of activities, seeking civil society input and recommendations on Canada's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (CNAP3). To ensure accessibility, numerous methods were used to gather input; these included five virtual webinars, written suggestions submitted via the [wps-dialogue-fps.ca](https://wps-dialogue-fps.ca) website, a public survey, and several social media discussions. In total, we gathered 162 responses. These inputs are organized around eight core thematic areas:

## 1. Strengthen feminist ambition, goals, and approaches

The ambition and scope of CNAP3 should reflect Canadian leadership in feminist foreign policy. Participants strongly believed that intersectionality must be a foundational principle in the CNAP3 and operationalized in a way that commits to addressing the overlapping nature of discrimination. The focus is women, but women in all their diversity. This includes attention to how issues of sexual diversity and identity issues, ability/disability, Indigeneity, age, class, race, religion, etc. intersect in specific contexts. Further, it was widely recommended that Canada pay closer attention to women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, strengthen its commitment to a feminist foreign policy, and improve WPS training among Government of Canada (GoC) staff.

## 2. Make policy coherence a priority

A whole-of-government approach to ensure that all departments are on the same page when it comes to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and a high degree of inter-departmental cooperation was further encouraged. Ideally, WPS objectives will be integrated consistently across all Canadian departments and agencies implementing the CNAP and all Canadian policies should be mutually reinforcing. Likewise, consistency between the international and domestic agenda is critical.

## 3. Strengthen and provide clarity on the 'domestic agenda'

CNAP3 should include a broad definition of security and pay attention to conflict and injustice that happen inside Canada. Immediately prioritizing reconciliation and decolonization was consistently highlighted as an area of critical importance, including the



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

implementation of all [231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls](#) and the [94 Calls-to-Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) report.

Likewise, high importance was further placed on integrating and operationalizing the [Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#). Further, addressing racism and discrimination is essential in CNAP3. In terms of the domestic agenda, recommendations from the [Arbour Report](#) also need to be implemented to make the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) a safe work environment for everyone.

### 4. Refocus on the “peace” in women, peace and security

Prioritizing disarmament and the prevention of all forms of violence was a concern for many participants. Recommendations included greater focus on domestic violence, re-assessing arms exports and other components of Canada’s militarized economy, and a move towards a peace economy, including signing the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#).

### 5. Bring a feminist lens to the “security” in women, peace and security

In line with feminist thinking, the CNAP3 definition of security should be widened. The Plan should include attention to emerging security threats such as climate justice and cyber security. A better understanding of the climate-WPS-gender equality nexus is needed and Environment and Climate Change Canada should be a signatory to the CNAP3. Likewise, it was frequently recognized that cyber security is a transnational issue that affects women in Canada and around the world. It is important to understand how gender norms contribute to the weaponization of social media and how the safety and security of women peacebuilders, activists and human rights defenders are under threat in online spaces. There is also a need to address persistent barriers to women’s use of information and communication technologies for peacebuilding and to resolve the heightened exclusion and invisibilities of those who are not online, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 6. Dedicate resources to each objective, indicator, and activity

Dedicated funds, costing, and budgeting for all CNAP3 activities and goals are necessary. Feminist funding practices such as flexible, long-



term, and rapid response funding are required to support the work of women peacebuilders, women human rights defenders and aid in conflict prevention, humanitarian response, statebuilding, and recovery.

### **7. Strengthen Government of Canada links with non-governmental actors in Canada and in conflict-affected countries**

For CNAP3 to be successful and make meaningful change, collaboration on the formulation and implementation of the WPS agenda is necessary. The GoC needs to actively engage women and LGBTQI activists, peacebuilders and human rights defenders and ensure it meets its duty of care so as not to jeopardize the safety of these activists, including through supporting asylum seekers in Canada. It was also recommended that the GoC sustain and build on its engagement with civil society to achieve its goals. This will require adequate funding of civil society WPS organizations.

### **8. Strengthen accountability and reporting**

Clear, timely, consistent, and transparent reporting on CNAP3 is imperative. This includes making progress reports available in a timely manner for them to be relevant and useful. Progress reports also need to provide clear information on progress and challenges, going beyond anecdotal lists of initiatives. Ideally reporting will also include information on how WPS goals are operationalized. Reporting on funding is of particular importance. Indicator clarity and a re-evaluation of how indicators are tracked was also recommended. A funded monitoring and evaluation plan (with timelines) should also be included in CNAP3.

Canada has the potential to advance the successful implementation of WPS objectives through CNAP3. While CNAP2 had successes that are worth celebrating, gaps remain and there is room for improvement. CNAP3 can draw on a host of literature and feedback into best practices on WPS NAPs, and can likewise draw on civil society input and expertise. The diverse recommendations shared in this report call for a robust and ambitious CNAP3 where greater attention is paid to intersectionality, emerging security issues, women peacebuilders and human rights defenders, and disarmament, through a detailed and comprehensive budget and sustained civil society involvement.

