

CONCEPT NOTE
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP) ON
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (WPS) FOR JAMAICA

PREAMBLE

The development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) presents an important opportunity for Jamaica to strengthen the integration of gender perspectives into national security, justice, peacebuilding, crisis response, and governance. The process also allows Jamaica to translate its international commitments under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related WPS resolutions into a practical, nationally grounded framework for implementation.

Jamaica has already commenced engagement on the development of a WPS NAP through a consultative process led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), supported by the Office of the Prime Minister, Defence Division¹, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport through the Bureau of Gender Affairs (MCGES/BGA), the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The discussion to date has confirmed that Jamaica's WPS NAP should be treated as a whole-of-government policy framework, informed by the country's existing national security and gender policy architecture, while remaining aligned with the four WPS pillars of prevention, protection, participation, and relief and recovery.

RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION

Jamaica's security environment includes interconnected challenges such as violent crime, organised criminality, community insecurity, gender-based violence, trafficking, cyber threats, disaster vulnerability, and institutional resilience. These issues do not affect all groups equally. Women and girls are often disproportionately exposed to violence, coercion, exclusion, and insecurity, while broader social inequality can limit participation in decision-making and reduce the effectiveness of prevention and recovery efforts.

Available evidence illustrates the gendered dimensions of these challenges. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data indicate that, between 2015 and 2024, 101 women in Jamaica were reportedly killed by either an intimate partner or family member, averaging approximately eleven deaths annually. The 2016 Jamaica Women's Health Survey found that 25.2 per cent of Jamaican women had experienced physical violence by a male partner, while 27.8 per cent had experienced intimate-partner physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.

¹ The process to formalize the Ministry of Defence is ongoing

Administrative data similarly demonstrate the importance of applying a gender lens to wider violence prevention and response efforts. The Jamaica Constabulary Force's 2025 Incident Analysis Report recorded 4,048 females among the 9,646 persons reflected in violent-crime statistics, including murder. While these figures should not be treated as a measure of gender-based violence alone, they reinforce the need for sex-disaggregated analysis and gender-responsive approaches across prevention, protection, justice and recovery.

Jamaica's Climate Change Policy Framework (2023) recognises that women's socioeconomic circumstances, including higher exposure to poverty, can increase vulnerability to displacement and constrain their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. This reinforces the importance of integrating gender considerations into disaster risk reduction, crisis response and recovery.

The WPS framework is therefore relevant to Jamaica not only as a gender equality agenda, but also as a security, justice, and governance agenda. A NAP will provide a structured framework to align security, justice, gender, disaster response, and foreign policy efforts around shared priorities. It would also support better policy coherence across Jamaica's existing instruments, including the National Security Policy, Plan Secure Jamaica, the Citizens' Security Plan, the National Policy for Gender Equality, the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence, and related justice-sector and climate-related gender strategies.

The development of the NAP is further justified by the outcomes of activities occurring between March and May 2026, which included several consultative meetings and a Regional WPS Symposium in Kingston. The discussions in these forums have all reinforced the need for a structured national framework to sustain progress on the WPS Agenda. The NAP will institutionalise Jamaica's gender-responsive security governance, strengthen multi-agency coordination, and support more inclusive and resilient approaches to national security.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of the NAP is to institutionalise gender-responsive policies and practices across Jamaica's peace, security, justice, crisis response, and governance architecture. Specific objectives are proposed as follows:

- a. Strengthen the meaningful participation of women in peace, security, justice, and decision-making processes.
- b. Enhance the protection of women and girls, and address violence against women and girls, within Jamaica's security and justice environment.
- c. Promote gender-responsive approaches in security and justice sector reform, accountability, and institutional governance.

- d. Integrate gender perspectives and resilience considerations into disaster risk reduction, crisis response, humanitarian action, and recovery.
- e. Establish effective coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms for implementation of the WPS Agenda.

In finalising these objectives, further consideration may be given to how Jamaica's national context, including issues relating to boys, men, vulnerable populations, and resilience, is most appropriately reflected within the final text of the NAP.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENT

The development of Jamaica's WPS NAP will be overseen through a National Steering Committee, supported by a core group arrangement to manage successive stages of the process. The Steering Committee is intended to provide strategic oversight, policy direction, and inter-agency coordination. The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by MFAFT and the Office of the Prime Minister, Defence Division, with MFAFT serving as Secretariat. Core membership will include representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, Defence Division, MFAFT, Ministry of National Security and Peace, MCGES, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MJCA), Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), JDF, JCF, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA), and other relevant entities as agreed. Civil society will be engaged later in the process in an advisory capacity to support consultations, legitimacy, and broad-based buy-in.

This governance arrangement is intended to preserve a whole-of-government approach while ensuring that gender expertise, security sector relevance, and policy coordination are all reflected in the development of the NAP.

Further details on the role each critical stakeholder is expected to play in the NAP development process and, where applicable, its later implementation are included in Annex 'A'.

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The proposed process for the development of Jamaica's NAP has been developed using the experience of several other countries. Currently, progress has already been achieved in relation to research, policy alignment, focus areas/thematic pillars and multistakeholder coordination mechanisms. The following is the proposed approach:

- a. Research and Policy Alignment. Review relevant national and international policy frameworks, including Jamaica's security and gender policy instruments, the WPS resolutions, and relevant lessons from comparative NAP processes.

- b. Internal Priorities and Focus Areas. Confirm the key thematic areas or pillars that will guide the Jamaican NAP, ensuring that they are grounded in national realities and aligned to the WPS framework.
- c. Approval and Formalisation. Prepare the required Terms of Reference, Cabinet Submission, and any associated approvals to formally establish the governance mechanism and advance the NAP development.
- d. Coordination Structures. Operationalise the Steering Committee and core group arrangements, clarify roles and responsibilities, and confirm consultation pathways across MDAs.
- e. Thematic Papers and Consultations. Develop short thematic papers to facilitate broad and inclusive consultations across government and with advisory stakeholders, using mechanisms such as the Gender Focal Points network as entry points where appropriate.
- f. Drafting, Commitments and Indicators. Develop strategic actions, institutional responsibilities, measurable indicators, and accountability arrangements, supported by iterative drafting and review.
- g. Implementation Planning and Resource Mobilisation. Define implementation modalities, technical support needs, and resource implications, including the possible use of partner assistance where appropriate.

The WPS National Action Plan development process is summarised in the diagram below.

Figure 1.



PROPOSED THEMATIC AREAS

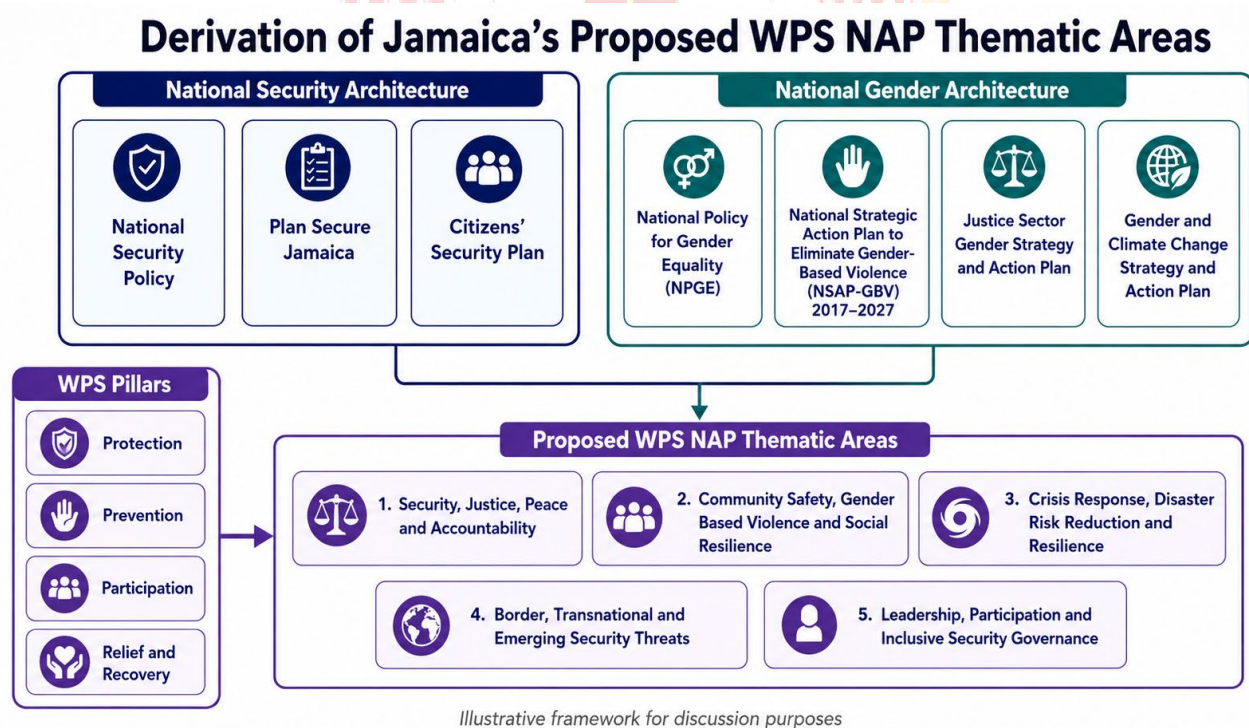
The thematic areas outlined below were proposed by the core working group and will continue to be refined throughout the wider consultation process. They are:

- a. Security, Justice, Peace and Accountability
- b. Community Safety, Gender-Based Violence and Social Resilience
- c. Crisis Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
- d. Border, Transnational and Emerging Security Threats
- e. Leadership, Participation and Inclusive Security Governance

These thematic areas will later be supported by short thematic papers to facilitate broader stakeholder engagement.

The derivation process used to develop the thematic areas is outlined in the diagram below.

Figure 2.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The development and implementation of Jamaica's WPS NAP is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- a. Strengthened policies, institutions, and coordination mechanisms for gender-responsive security governance.
- b. Improved prevention of, protection from, and response to gender-based violence and related insecurity.
- c. Enhanced collaboration among MDAs, civil society, and international partners in advancing the WPS Agenda.
- d. Strengthened Jamaican engagement in regional and international WPS-related cooperation and policy forums.

CONCLUSION

The development of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is an important step in strengthening gender-responsive security governance in Jamaica. The evolving discussion has demonstrated that Jamaica already has relevant policy instruments, institutional mechanisms, expertise, and partnerships that can support the development of a credible and nationally grounded NAP.

With continued whole-of-government coordination, broad consultation, and targeted technical support, the NAP can provide Jamaica with a practical framework to better prevent insecurity, protect vulnerable groups, promote inclusive participation, and strengthen resilience in the face of both traditional and emerging security threats.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS
NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The following entities are expected to play central roles in the NAP development process and, where applicable, its later implementation:

- a. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT). Co-chairing the Steering Committee, serving as Secretariat, and ensuring alignment with Jamaica's international commitments and diplomatic engagement.
- b. Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Defence Division². Co-chairing the Steering Committee, providing high-level policy alignment and support for cross-government coordination and national oversight.
- c. Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport/Bureau of Gender Affairs (MCGES/BGA). Co-chairing the process and supporting gender mainstreaming, policy coherence, and consultation mechanisms such as the Gender Focal Points network.
- d. Jamaica Defence Force (MOD/JDF). Technical contributor on WPS and document drafting, contributing security and defence perspectives, operational insight, and technical engagement with external defence partners.
- e. Ministry of National Security and Peace (MNSP). Contributing policy leadership and national oversight on citizen security, violence reduction, crime prevention, and broader public safety priorities.
- f. Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). Contributing strategic and operational policing perspectives and practical experience in law enforcement, community policing, violence reduction, and public safety implementation.
- g. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Supporting access to justice, legal reform, accountability, and justice-sector alignment.
- h. Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW). Contributing expertise on health-system responses, psychosocial support, and survivor-centred services relevant to violence, crisis response, and recovery.

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- i. Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). Contributing expertise on disaster risk reduction, emergency coordination, resilience, and recovery planning.
- j. Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). Contributing development-planning, policy-coherence, and monitoring perspectives to support integration of the NAP into national development priorities.
- k. Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA). Contributing strategic analysis, inter-agency coordination support, and alignment with Jamaica's national security architecture.
- l. Civil society organisations and academia. Contributing technical expertise, research, advocacy, community perspectives, and support for inclusive consultations and accountability.

