

31st August 2025

The Hon. Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Wong,

Re: Australia's Progress on UNSC Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security)

Zonta International, of which **Zonta Australia** is a proud part, is a global service organisation with members in over 60 countries working together to advance the status of women and girls through advocacy and service.

In partnership with agencies of the **United Nations**, including UN Women and UNICEF, Zonta has long supported initiatives that promote gender equality, end violence against women and strengthen women's participation in decision-making at all levels.

On behalf of Zonta Australia, I write to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**, to be marked in **October 2025**. This landmark resolution recognises the critical role of women in peace and security and set the foundation for advancing women's participation, protection and leadership in conflict prevention and resolution.

This milestone provides a timely opportunity to reflect on Australia's contributions to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, as well as the challenges that remain. We commend the Albanese Government's strong commitment to gender equality, including through the **International Gender Equality Strategy** and Australia's ongoing engagement with the **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2021-2031)**.

In this anniversary year, Zonta Australia respectfully seeks an update from your office on:

1. **Australia's key achievements** in implementing UNSCR 1325 since 2000, both domestically and through international engagement.
2. **Progress under the current National Action Plan**, particularly across the four WPS pillars: prevention, protection, participation and recovery.

3. **Ongoing challenges and areas requiring greater focus**, in light of current global instability and threats to women's rights.
4. **Australia's forward-looking priorities** for strengthening the WPS agenda beyond this 25th anniversary.

Such an update will assist Zonta Australia in continuing to advocate effectively and in partnership with government to advance this vital agenda. We would also welcome any opportunities for dialogue with your office or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We thank you for your leadership in championing women's participation in peace and security and look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

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