

## NORDIC-BALTIC FOREIGN POLICY COOPERATION (NB8)

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NORDIC-BALTIC FOREIGN MINISTERS, OSLO 25  
AUGUST 2017

### **WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

The national coordinators for women, peace and security have agreed that the Nordic cooperation should be expanded to include a Nordic-Baltic component. A first Nordic-Baltic meeting at working level will take place in Copenhagen this autumn.

#### **Common message:**

The women, peace and security agenda has high priority globally. The international community has come to recognize that much more must be done to prevent conflicts, to seek political solutions and to enable inclusive processes that allow women and men alike their rightful influence in matters that concern their lives and future. We have learned that development requires female as well as male hands on deck, and that women's economic and political empowerment is essential for sustainable growth and resilience. This is no less true in war and conflict than in times of peace. Indeed, when societies are disintegrating and the very survival of men and women, communities and nations is at stake, it is even more vital to ensure that everyone is included, that the situation is properly analysed, and to build a broad sense of ownership of proposed solutions.

The Nordic and Baltic countries recognize that implementation of women, peace and security commitments is a matter of priority. We are working in various ways to take the agenda forward, sometimes in cooperation, sometimes side by side. To enhance the sharing of experience and lessons learned, to inspire and challenge each other to reach further and to enable better coordination and strategic dialogue, we have decided to initiate annual Nordic-Baltic meetings on women, peace and security. The first meeting will take place in Copenhagen this autumn (tentatively in November).