

NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue

Fact Sheet – Inclusive Security *Protection of Civilians (PoC)*



NATO Engages Event Aim: In July 2018, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division and its [partners](#) will host ‘[NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue](#)’ on the margins of the main NATO Summit in Brussels. The event will serve as an ideal platform to deepen and amplify the Summit’s core themes. It will do so by engaging a diverse range of opinion formers, policymakers, and multipliers, including younger audiences and digital influencers. The themes of the event seek to complement the main Summit agenda. One of the topics for the main plenary on-the-record sessions includes ‘Inclusive Security.’

Inclusive Security Aim: A topic of significant importance to the Alliance is that of Inclusive Security. All partners are keen to ensure that discussions on Women, Peace, and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, and the Protection of Civilians have a leading role in the ‘NATO Engages’ programme.

Inclusive Security Categories: The Inclusive Security collective includes Children and Armed Conflict, Cultural Property and Protection, Protection of Civilians, and Women, Peace, and Security including Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Each component has a bearing on the others.

NATO and PoC: At the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, heads of state and government endorsed a NATO Policy for the Protection of Civilians. This overarching policy aims to set out a coherent, consistent, and integrated approach to the protection of civilians in NATO and NATO-led operations, missions, and other mandated activities.

To operationalise this policy, NATO developed an action plan with clearly defined activities, ranging from the development of a concept to integrate the topic into training, doctrine, and exercises to planning and conduct of operations. To ensure a coherent approach, the Concept for the Protection of Civilian (approved by the Nations in June 2018) defines a framework that seeks to identify and understand threats to the civilian population. Threats to civilians during conflict manifest in many forms. This concept seeks to address the threats by mitigating physical harm, facilitating access to basic needs and contributing to establishing a safe and secure environment. These three lenses will contribute to a better understanding of the human environment, which will inform the military planning and conduct of operations.

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The NATO Concept for the Protection of Civilian provides an over-arching framework, which is operationally focused for cross-cutting topics such as Women Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Building Integrity and Cultural Property Protection.

Teamwork:

Addressing the threats to protect civilians requires a comprehensive and collaborative effort. NATO has worked extensively with other principal actors including International Organisations, nations and humanitarian agencies to identify the contribution that each can make.

Champions and Leaders:

Ms. Clare Hutchinson, Special Representative to Secretary General for Women Peace and Security

Major General William Hickman, Deputy Chief of Staff – Strategic Plans and Policy, Headquarters Supreme Allied Command Transformation

Lieutenant-General Hugues Delort-Laval, Vice Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

Milestone Events:

12 July 2018, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium, NATO ENGAGES: The Brussels Summit Dialogue <https://nato-engages.org/>

Publications:

[OPEN Publications](#), 2018, *Preparing to Protect: Advice on implementing NATO's PoC Policy*, Marla Keenan, and Tori Holt

OPEN Publications 2017, *Overcoming Protection of Civilian Failures*, Sara Williamson

Protection of Civilians Military Concept, June 2018

Protection of Civilians Action Plan, February 2017

NATO Protection of Civilians Policy, July 2015

Websites:

NATO Headquarters, www.nato.int

Allied Command Transformation, www.act.nato.int

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, www.shape.nato.int

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