

Annex 3: Concept Note for an International Summer School on Gender Based Violence (ISS-GBV)

Increasingly International Humanitarian agencies have come to recognise the prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in every humanitarian context. This increasing recognition of prevalence has been coupled with an increasing awareness of the potentially life-threatening health consequences, and ongoing severe impacts of GBV on resilience of individuals and communities and to the peace and security of nation states. This leads us to recognise our obligation to implement strategies to respond, prevent and mitigate GBV across humanitarian actions, yet the humanitarian community do not necessarily have appropriate skills and capacities to build in adequate response, prevention and mitigation strategies.

Throughout the Irish Humanitarian Consultations Gender Based Violence was noted as a priority issue deserving significant attention at the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit, and one that the Irish Humanitarian Summit Steering Committee is committed to supporting greater attention on and investment in. Therefore we propose to build on this recognition of need, and acknowledgement of the imperative to respond and on the political will to engage on the issue of GBV by developing an International Summer School on Gender Based Violence (ISS-GBV).

The ISS-GBV aims to bring together key International stakeholders (especially academia and diaspora) to transform the approaches adopted to respond, prevent and mitigate GBV in societies under stress, by equipping humanitarian actors with the appropriate conceptual knowledge, skills and capacities to respond to GBV.

Objective and Envisaged Key Characteristics of ISS-GBV

The **overall objective** is to equip humanitarian actors with the competencies to analyse GBV risks, understand normative frameworks, and to design and implement interdisciplinary programs aimed at preventing GBV and mitigating its impacts in humanitarian contexts.

The envisaged key characteristics of the ISS-GBV include:

- The ISS-GBV will be delivered by a group of international experts from a range of relevant disciplines including: Women's equality and gender studies, law, public health, psychology, sociology and geopolitics.
- The ISS-GBV will be delivered to a range of humanitarian stakeholders including both theorists and practitioners, this combined approach will add to the richness of the school and support participants to challenge contemporary approaches and strategies and arrive at innovative GBV programming.
- Eligible participants will be encouraged to register for a postgraduate certificate. This certificate will be at level 9 (in the Irish system – level 7 in European Qualification Framework). The



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certificate can be given by UCD or, in the event that other Irish HEIs want to engage in the programme, as a joint certificate with a number of partner Irish HEIs.

- The programme will be at least one month in duration with additional exercises for participants wishing to receive accreditation.

Timeframe and preparatory activities.

It is envisaged that this would be an annual Summer School commencing in July 2017. In order to realise this project, a number of activities have been suggested to further develop the key characteristics of the ISS-GBV. There will be a pre-development phase from April 2016 – September 2016 when the programme will engage a current Master's student to assess the feasibility of the ISS-GBV, to interrogate the challenges to realise the above listed key characteristics of the ISS-GBV, and to develop a detailed programme proposal for the ISS-GBV at level 9 for ratification by Ireland's Higher Education Authority.

The feasibility study will;

- Assess the envisaged value of the ISS-GBV from the perspective of the broad humanitarian stakeholder base (UN, governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, diaspora).
- Identify the opportunities and threats to this venture in terms of length of the programme, cost of the programme, competitor programme, etc.
- Assess the current academic landscape across Ireland and internationally to identify relevant stakeholders.
- Identify the opportunities to engage members of Ireland's Consortium on GBV to develop appropriate and relevant case-studies that cross-cut key disciplinary fields, to support practitioner learning.
- Investigate appropriate methodologies to bring together agreed disciplines to make the programme truly inter-disciplinary.
- Make recommendations for ISS-GBV programme design and methodologies for delivery.