

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Text and Context

Evaluating Peace Agreements for
their 'Gender Perspective'

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Report 1



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The programme is addressing three broad research questions relating to political settlements:

1. How do different types of political settlement emerge, and what are the actors, institutions, resources, and practices that shape them?
2. How can political settlements be improved by internally-driven initiatives, including the impact of gender-inclusive processes and rule of law institutions?
3. How, and with what interventions, can external actors change political settlements?

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Text and Context: Evaluating Peace Agreements for their Gender Perspective

Executive Summary

1. This report examines first of all what ‘a gender perspective’ in peace agreements might mean, suggesting that the term has not been fully enough considered.
2. It also produces data on when women have been specifically mentioned in peace agreements, between 1 January 1990 and 1 January 2015. That data, in summary shows that:
 - Peace agreement references to women have increased over time, apparently partly under the influence of UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security
 - Overall 18% of peace agreements reference ‘women’
 - However, before UNSC 1325, only 11% of peace agreements referenced women, while after UNSC 1325 27% of peace agreements referenced women
 - The increases have been greater in processes in which the UN was a signatory or declaratory to the peace agreements. Before UNSC 1325, 14% of agreements to which the UN was a signatory mentioned women, while after UNSC 1325 38% mentioned women.
 - However, often agreements with the most ‘holistic’ references to women are often highly internationalised agreements in which there is little real ‘agreement’ between the parties to the conflict, and where as a result there is a chronic implementation failure, both of the agreement and of its women provisions
 - That nonetheless some examples of good practice do exist
 - And that references to substantive measures on equality for women and sexual violence have improved over time

Recommendations

1. In conclusion the data and analysis lead us to make the following recommendations for how UNSC Resolution and its successors are now developed and taken forward:
2. It is important to re-enforce the need to keep implementing UNSC 1325. There is evidence that it is making a difference. Repeating exhortations to include women as mediators and parties to peace negotiations and to include a gender perspective in peace agreements, can create a feeling of failure. However, if progress is to be sustained and built, there is need to constantly renew commitments to equality of women, and to continue to mainstream these commitments through institutions engaged with peace-making and building.
3. It might be useful to further define a gender perspective in peace agreements to include three layered components:

- a. **the inclusion of women in peace process negotiations, and support to women to participate effectively**
 - b. **the inclusion of provisions designed to address the particular needs of women**
 - c. **an assessment of the implications for women and men of any provision in the peace agreement, including provision for legislation, policies or programmes in any area and at all levels, with a view to ensuring that men and women benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.**
4. Given the gendered nature of processes themselves, in addition to requiring the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and gender perspectives in peace agreements, new UNSC resolutions could usefully also require: **‘the establishment of multiple pathways to peace, to facilitate the inclusion of views of include actors beyond political and military elites, and capable of supplementing the change agenda beyond that of formal peace talks, to respond to a broader civic assessment of social needs.’**
5. Robust monitoring of peace agreement implementation needs to take place, and in particular monitoring and enforcement of provisions for women instituted. Where new institutions are established and gender equality has not been included in the peace agreement, international actors and donors should support initiatives that seek to ensure that new institutions will also provide for gender equality.
6. Further consideration should be given to the possibility of a trade-off between securing gender references in peace agreements modelled on good practice, and the need for gender references to be finely attuned to political bargaining processes that will continue to affect their implementation, if they are to be effective.