

Women and Peace Agreement (PA-X Women) Database: Background, Methodology and Acknowledgements



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Nov. 2015

Introduction

The **Women and Peace Agreement Database (PA-X Women)** is a part of what has been a long-term project to construct a peace agreement database that would provide both a quantitative and qualitative tool through which to analyse peace agreements. The purpose of this project is to better understand peace processes and how issues of inclusion, equality and human rights in particular are addressed.

Background

The current database had its origins in Christine Bell, *Peace Agreements and Human Rights* (OUP, 2000), which had a list of peace agreements in the appendix (research assistance provided by Elizabeth Craig). This work was developed and extended as presented in the appendix of Christine Bell, *On the Law of Peace: Peace Agreements and the New Lex Pacificatoria* (OUP, 2008) (research assistance provided by Catherine O'Rourke). This last appendix was developed into a pilot database which provided coded summaries of how peace agreements dealt with a range of issues.

A new database with new extended categories, capturing and presenting actual text from peace agreements is now under construction. This will be called PA-X – a peace agreement access tool, and will provide information on the 1200 or so documents we believe to exist from 1990 to date, in around 100 conflicts. PA-X is due for public release in 2017.

This **Women and Peace Agreements Database (PA-X Women)** is a sub-database of all the agreements which mention women, girls, or gender in some capacity (currently around 250).

Methodology

The database uses a coding methodology which involves the coders (see below) and the Project Director (Professor Christine Bell) addressing and resolving coding dilemmas as a team, and through a computer question and answer mechanism. The aim is to have fully replicable coding decisions. A form of double coding has taken place on the Women Peace Agreement Database which has involved categories being checked by a number of analysts.



Peace Agreement Collection

The peace agreement collection has been built up by Christine Bell over a 25 year period, from research of peace agreement databases, contact with governments and armed actors involved in peace agreements, other web searches, and contact with mediators in particular processes. The final version of PA-X will have links to all the sources, and provide a peace agreement portal which links to all the other databases on peace agreements.

Funding Acknowledgements

The current database is an output of the Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) www.politicalsettlements.org, funded by the Department of International Development (DFID, UK Aid). It has also received some funding from UN Women, to feed into the Global Study and UN Secretary General's Report on the fifteen year review of UNSCR 1325, and from funding from the College of Arts and Humanities, Knowledge Transfer Fund, of the University of Edinburgh.

The pilot phases of the project were funded at different times by: the Nuffield Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research Board of the British Academy.

Research Acknowledgements

The database has been conceived of and designed by Professor Christine Bell. Nascent versions of the project linked to the monographs above benefited from research by Jonathon Doak, Johanna Keenan and Catherine O'Rourke. Catherine O'Rourke undertook the bulk of the coding for an earlier incarnation of a similar database which informed the development of the current database, still available at: <http://www.peaceagreements.ulster.ac.uk/>.

The permanent researchers and peace agreement analysts responsible for the research on a daily basis are: Rachel Anderson, Robert Forster, Astrid Jamar, and Laura Wise. Sahla Aroussi, Cindy Daase, Jan Pospisil and Alex Schwartz have an advisory role on the PA-X project.

A large number of agreements were translated into English from the following languages by the following translators: Rachel Anderson (Russian, French), Haneef Aurangzeb (Urdu), William Da Rosa (Portuguese), Marian Craig (French), Robert Forster (Arabic), Elena Granina (Russian), Matilda Karçanaj (Albanian), Daniel Kelly Herrera (Arabic), James Kelly (Spanish), Will Mitchell (Chinese), James Walker (French, Spanish), Imogen Westfield (Arabic), Laura Wise (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian).

The current phase of the database benefited from initial coding of provisions on women by a team of coders comprising: Celia Davies, Meg King, Laura Martin, Sissela Matzner, Laura Murdoch, Anna Ross, Jenna Sapiano, and Susan Thomson.

In addition coding analysis was contributed by University of Edinburgh students on work-based and summer placements: Jack Barton, Lewis Dunne, Helia Farahnoosh, Vanessa Utley and Matthew Wilmore.

The programming technology behind the database has been produced by the University of Edinburgh Information Services, in particular, John Allison and Bill Lee.

This document is an output from the Political Settlements Research Programme which is funded by UK Aid from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. The information and views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of DFID. Neither DFID nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

