Gender: Women's Inclusion

In this theme we focus on the challenges and opportunities of formalised political unsettlement, for women's strategies for change. This theme is supported by our conceptual work on the 'blind spots' of political settlements analysis. We view women as a key category through which to explore the way in which an inclusion agenda that is not driven primarily by armed actors is enabled or disabled during peace processes with a priority of ending violence.

This cross-cutting theme brings together our work exploring when and how women are excluded from public life by violence and conflict, and the inclusions and exclusions that a peace process brings. We examine how forms of violence change through conflict, how the social standing and capacity of women changes. We examine the strategies used by women locally and transnationally to intervene and influence peace settlements; how international law is used by women internally to achieve change; and the difficulties of gender and institutional transformation.

Research Questions:

- How do women challenge and expand peace settlement frameworks in formal politics and through social movements and organised activism?
- How have gender inclusive processes, for peace agreements and constitutions and institutional reform, played out in practice?
- What role does violence against women play in political settlement bargaining processes?
- Given progressive international norm development (e.g. UNSC 1325 2000 on women, peace and security) to what extent do these standards give leverage to women in peace processes?

Projects:

- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Gender and Violence](#)
- [Gender Strategies](#)
- [Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)](#)
- [Colombia](#)
- [Practice Labs](#)

Suggested Key Publications:

[Gender Briefing Series](#)

Feminist Law Special Issue on Gender and Peace Processes

Doyle, J., & McWilliams, M. (2018). *Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies: Insights and Lessons from Northern Ireland* (PSRP Report). Edinburgh: Global Justice Academy, University of Edinburgh.

Swaine, A. (2018). *Conflict-Related Violence Against Women: Transforming Transition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

O'Rourke, C. (2017). Gendering Political Settlements: Challenges and Opportunities. *Journal of International Development*.

Ní Aoláin, F. (2016). The Relationship of Political Settlement Analysis to Peacebuilding from a Feminist Perspective. *Peacebuilding*, *4*(Legal Studies Research Paper Series Special Issue), 151–165.