



Navigating Inclusion: Exclusion amid Inclusion

Our research is centrally focused on how peace processes attempt to revise political settlements to make them more inclusive, so as to end violent conflict. How do they navigate inclusion? What types of trade-offs between different forms of inclusion do they encounter? How do and should they approach these trade-offs? What strategies do they use? How can pacts to end conflict, be broadened into more widely inclusive social contracts?

In particular we are interested in two forms of inclusion:

- Forms of ‘horizontal’ inclusion between political and military leader who have been former opponents, and
- Form of ‘vertical’ inclusion between rulers and the ruled.

A tension often exists between an elite bargain necessary to ending violent conflict (horizontal inclusion), and a broader social contract capable of providing for good government (vertical inclusion). Through a series of projects the research team comprised of a North-South Consortium of five organisations are using mixed methodologies to explore how actors within conflict societies and international interveners navigate through this tension.

Research Questions:

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

Projects:

- [Navigating Inclusion](#)
- [Practice Labs](#)

Suggested Key Publications:

Pospisil, J. (2019). *Peace in political unsettlement*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Yousuf, Z. (2018). *Navigating Inclusion in Peace Transitions: Beyond Elite Bargains* (PSRP Report). London: Conciliation Resources.

Bell, C., & Pospisil, J. (2017). Navigating Inclusion in Transitions from Conflict: The Formalised. *Journal of International Development*, 25(9).

Bell, C. (2015). *What we talk about when we talk about political settlements: Towards Inclusive and Open Political Settlements in an Era of Disillusionment* (PSRP Working Paper No. 1). Edinburgh: Global Justice Academy, University of Edinburgh.

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.