Pathways and Processes: Multi-level Peace Processes

In this theme we examine how political/military elites and other social forces press claims of inclusion during peace processes. How is inclusion ‘navigated’ in the changing landscape of a peace process? In particular, how is the process of achieving a ‘deal’ between conflict parties, connected to the re-creation of a social contract?

Our research is conducted through our case studies and practice labs, and through quantitative and qualitative work drawing on a large-scale global database of peace agreements – The Peace Agreement Access Tool: PA-X. We consider in particular:

- How peace processes are structured and sequenced and the consequences of sequences for inclusion, focusing on key moments;
- How horizontal inclusion of the political and military actors at the heart of the conflict is provided for, through power-sharing and forms of territorial devolution of power;
- How vertical inclusion is provided for, addressing women, non-aligned minorities, and other social constituencies; and
- The trade-offs between vertical and horizontal inclusion and strategies for navigating them.

Research Questions:

- What new forms of inclusion and exclusion do peace processes establish?
- What are the trade-offs regarding inclusion of people and agendas for change, that occur in peace process? In particular, what trade-offs do these agreements include, with reference to the relationship between stability and inclusion?
- How do these trade-offs change through stages of negotiating, drafting and implementing peace agreements?
- In what ways are international actors involved in the negotiation processes; how and when do their agendas get incorporated into agreements?
- What are the post agreement entry points for strategies of change by marginalised groups in the space of formalized political unsettlement?

Projects:

- Constitution-making
- Northern Ireland
- Nepal
- Gender Studies
- Amnesty Database
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Practice Labs
- Peace Agreement Database (PA-X)

**Suggested Key Publications:**


