



# Practice Labs

---

## What?

This project introduced a 'practice-lab' model which explored the themes, ideas and assumptions relating to inclusion and peace processes that underpin our research, with people working in their local country context. We held some general practice labs and some specific gender practice labs (see below), some of which were designed to pave the way for a fuller case study. These labs looked at effective strategies employed by marginalised groups, or non-elite coalitions – including focusing on women and non-aligned minorities – with respect to inclusion of these actors and their agendas for change in peace talks, peace agreements, political legislation, and institutions.

## How?

The practice labs were active and participatory, involving a range of political and civil society stakeholders as well as international policy makers. They took place in four contexts, two of which overlapped with country case studies: Nepal, Colombia, Nigeria, and Bougainville. Workshops with participants from domestic political and civil society spheres reflected on the relationship between conflict, peace efforts and gender equality, and aimed to unpack (using a political settlement lens) the reasons for opportunities and continuing challenges. The work compared across contexts where there have been significant efforts to promote inclusion of women in peace agreements, and political structures with differentiated impact.

## Why?

It is important to understand and 'test' how actors within conflicts and peace processes understand political settlements to be operating, and explore how they can use the concept; and more widely, how they seek to bring about change in political settlements.

## Who?

Jonathan Cohen, Alexander Ramsbotham, Zahbia Yousuf (Conciliation Resources)

## Key Publications

- [Higazi, A., & Yousuf, Z. \(2017\). \*From cooperation to contention. Political unsettlement and farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Nigeria\* \(PSRP Briefing Paper No. 15\). London: Conciliation Resources.](#)
- [Neelakantan, A., & Ramsbotham, A. \(2016\). \*Peace, Power and inclusive change in Nepal: Political Settlements in Practice\* \(PSRP Report\). London: Conciliation Resources.](#)
- [Thapa, D., & Ramsbotham, A. \(2017\). \*Two steps forward, one step back The Nepal peace process\* \(PSRP Report\). London: Conciliation Resources.](#)
- [See more on our publications database.](#)