



GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING

CASE STUDY

The Role of Women in Peacebuilding: A Comparative Study of Gender Issues in Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Somalia conflicts

Task: In groups of 5, based on conflict analysis of Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Somalia discuss the gender issues that are present in these three conflicts.

Is there any gender-focused approach that might influence peacebuilding efforts?

Discuss the strategies that can be used by the women's representatives and their effectiveness. Reflect on the importance of women's participation and gender perspectives in peacebuilding.

Some key questions to consider:

How have norms relating to masculinity and femininity been shaped and changed by conflict?

How are men, women and SGMs and their roles affected by the conflict?

What roles are men, women and SGMs playing in the conflict?

What roles are men, women and SGMs playing in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict?

How do gender norms and behaviours shape how violence is used, by whom against whom?

Do norms relating to masculinity and femininity fuel conflict and insecurity in this context?

Are there also norms relating to masculinity and femininity which (could) help build peace?

Example of other conflict zones

The Role of Women in Peacebuilding: A Comparative Study of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace

Context: The Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace is a peace movement that played a pivotal role in ending the Second Liberian Civil War. This movement was started by women who were fed up with the destruction from the war and decided to take action.

NIWC: Formed in 1996, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition (NIWC) was a cross-community political party that played a crucial role in the Northern Ireland peace process. They advocated for women's rights, social justice, and human rights.

Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace: Led by Leymah Gbowee, this movement started in 2002 and was pivotal in ending the Second Liberian Civil War. The women used nonviolent protest to press for peace talks and later participated in the negotiations.

NIWC: The NIWC was unique as it brought together women from both sides of the community divide. They succeeded in getting elected to the Multi-Party Talks, where they ensured that women's rights and perspectives were included in the Good Friday Agreement.

Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace: The women used methods like sit-ins, mass rallies, and a sex strike to pressure the warring factions into peace talks. They also staged a sit-in at the peace negotiations in Ghana, influencing the outcome of the talks.