

AFRICAN  
WOMEN  
Changing the  
Narrative

Handbook for Reporters on Women, Peace and Security:  
PRACTICING GENDER-RESPONSIVE  
REPORTING IN CONFLICT AFFECTED  
COUNTRIES IN AFRICA



African Union





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1. Rajaf Handover of Water, 6 December 2016, South Sudan. Project Photo: UNMISS

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1. 11 trainees of the National Guard beneficiaries of a 3 weeks joint EUCAP Sahel Mali-UNPOL MINUSMA training course on the Protection of High Personalities, 18 September 2015. Photo: United Nations Mission in Mali.
2. A radio presenter on Radio Guintan on World Radio Day 13 February 2016. The Public Information Office of MINUSMA pays tribute to all radios in Bamako through black and white images. 13 February 2016. Photo: Marco Dormino/MINUSMA.
3. Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council, in Juba to assess the progress in the implementation of the peace agreement, 30 October 2016. Photo: UNMISS / Isaac Billy.
4. Female photographer captures the celebration of UN International Day on 24 October under the theme: "Young People, Actors of Change", MINUSMA, in collaboration with the 17 UN agencies in Mali, organised a training called "Model of the United Nations in which a meeting of the Security Council was simulated, Bamako, Mali, 21 October 2016. Photo: Sylvain Liechti / MINUSMA.

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Handbook for Reporters on Women, Peace and Security:

# PRACTICING GENDER-RESPONSIVE REPORTING IN CONFLICT AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN AFRICA



**African Union**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ADA</b>	Australian Development Agency
<b>AGA</b>	African Governance Architecture
<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission in Somalia
<b>APSA</b>	African peace and security architecture
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AUC DWGD</b>	African Union Commission Directorate on Women, Gender and Development
<b>AU PSC</b>	African Union Peace and Security Council
<b>AU PSD</b>	AU Peace and Security Department
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CCR</b>	Centre for Conflict Resolution
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CODESA</b>	Convention for a Democratic South Africa
<b>CRF</b>	Continental Results Framework
<b>DDR</b>	Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EJN</b>	Ethical Journalism Network
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GBV</b>	Gender based violence
<b>GIMAC</b>	Gender is My Campaign
<b>GL</b>	Gender Links
<b>GMMP</b>	Global Media Monitoring Project
<b>GNWP</b>	Global Network for Women Peacebuilders
<b>ICG</b>	International Crisis Group
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>IWMF</b>	International Women's Media Foundation
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development



<b>OSE</b>	Office of the Special Envoy
<b>MINUSMA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Ma
<b>MISCA</b>	African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic
<b>MONUSCO</b>	United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>NAPs</b>	National Action Plans
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa'
<b>PSD</b>	Peace and Security Department
<b>RAPs</b>	Regional Action Plans
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>RMs</b>	Regional Mechanisms
<b>RUF</b>	Revolutionary United Front
<b>SDGEA</b>	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAMID</b>	African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Missions in South Sudan
<b>UN OSAA</b>	United Nations Office of Special Adviser on African Affairs
<b>UN OSAGI</b>	United Nations Office for Special Adviser on Gender Issues
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>URLS</b>	Uniform Resource Locators
<b>WA</b>	Women Action
<b>WACC</b>	World Association of Christian Communicators
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security





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This handbook is a product of the collaboration between the African Union Commission Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) on Women, Peace and Security and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). It is the result of many contributions and concerted efforts that went into the preparation and finalisation of this handbook. First, acknowledgements are directed at the African Union team, who include Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, Paschal Chem-Langhee, Semiha Abdulmelik as well as the UN Women colleagues, Reeta Haftner, Helen Yosef, Addis Mhiraf, Tiikkel Alemu and Brenda Bakwesegha. Both African Union and UN Women colleagues made poignant and significant inputs that strengthened the handbook's format, structure, content and overall flow.

Furthermore, the African Union and UN Women would like to thank the reporters who participated in the "Gender-Responsive Reporting in Conflict, Post-conflict and Fragile Settings in Africa" workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2016, and those who made presentations during the workshop. The training and the experiences shared during the workshop informed the preparation of this handbook. The partners would also like to thank Gender Links (GL), particularly Gender Links' Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Colleen Lowe Morna and Media Coordinator Tarisai Nyamweda who facilitated the workshop and compiled the first draft of the handbook, as well as Dr Martha Mutisi for finalising it.

## FOREWORD



The African Union (AU) has been at the forefront of advancing the agenda for the rights of women and girls, and for gender equality and has resoundingly acknowledged the critical and dynamic nexus between gender, development, peace and security. This is clearly articulated in Agenda 2063, which aims to achieve an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa for all, with a strong focus on women and youth. Importantly, Agenda 2063 centres its success on a number of factors, including communication and change of narratives on the role of women in the realisation of the flagship program of silencing the guns by 2020.

In line with this AU reinvigorated commitment to a people-centred agenda, I was appointed in 2014, as the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace, and Security, with the mandate to, “ensure that the voices of women and the vulnerable are heard much more clearly in peace-building and in conflict resolution.” Since my appointment, I have engaged with media practitioners, institutions and platforms as part of my advocacy and policy implementation endeavours.

Indeed, the media has a critical role to play in changing the narratives on women. Much has been said about the dual roles the media can play - as agents for peace or as spoilers and instigators of conflict. For far too long, conflict reporting has either been gender blind at best, or at worst, perpetuated stereotypes and harmful narratives. It is therefore important to mobilise partnerships with media by promoting gender responsive reporting to ensure that it contributes to the accurate portrayal



of women's lives in conflict and post-conflict contexts, highlighting the whole range of their roles and strengths as well as the impact of conflict in their lives. Transformation of media practice, at both individual and institutional levels can bring about the social change we seek.

It is for this reason, that my office, in partnership with UN Women, convened media practitioners from 16 African countries currently experiencing conflict, transitioning from conflict, or building systems to prevent conflicts, representing the breadth of media, including private and public local radio, print, broadcast, and new media, from the 18 to 19 October 2016 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss Gender-Responsive Reporting in Conflict, Post-Conflict, and Fragile Settings in Africa. The workshop concluded with the formation of a Network of Reporters on Women, Peace and Security, which was welcomed by the African Union Peace and Security Council during its 625<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is my hope that this Network represents the nucleus of an ever-expanding critical mass of media practitioners and institutions that are committed to changing the narrative on women, peace, and security in Africa and are themselves, agents of change.

The present manual serves to multiply the impact of the efforts initiated through the October 2016 workshop by reaching a wider audience and media constituency on the importance of gender-responsive reporting. It is intended as a practical and ready to use, tool. We hope to augment our advocacy and dialogue with the media through the development and provision of practical tools for media professionals to ensure more gender-responsive reporting on peace and conflict issues.

I would like to thank the governments of Norway and Spain, whose support to the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, was critical for the organisation of the workshop on gender-responsive reporting in conflict settings in Africa, the creation of a network of reporters on women, peace and security and the production and dissemination of this manual.

Our aspirations for the continent lie in joining hands and efforts with all key stakeholders. Together, we can transform.

**Bineta Diop**

Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security of the African Union Commission  
Chairperson



The African continent is facing a multitude of conflicts with disproportionate impact on the lives of women and girls. In these settings, women's human rights are violated in numerous ways not least withstanding the reality that their voices are often neither heard nor taken into account during decision-making processes on peace and conflict matters. At the same time, we have a strong set of global and continental commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the commitments that address matters of peace and security. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 as its blueprint is designed to prevent violence against women and girls, ensure their inclusion in decision-making, protect their human rights and ensure that their specific needs are met in conflict and post-conflict situations.

As a powerful channel of information and an agent of change to any given society, the media has an important role in advancing the WPS Agenda. Through knowledge dissemination, for instance, the media can create awareness on existing commitments, frameworks as well as gender inequalities in our societies. Media can hold states accountable for commitments by shedding light to them. The media can also offer an alternative space to stage public discourse to address issues plaguing society such as conflict and insecurities. The media has the power to change social norms and perceptions. It can, for instance, move beyond the traditional portrayal of women solely as victims of conflict and bring to the fore stories that highlight them in the multitude of leadership roles that they assume particularly in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The role of women in conflict prevention, social transformation, community engagement and in addressing issues of exclusion and structural violence is critical for the achievement of sustainable peace. UN Women recognises and understands the need for reformulation of narratives when telling African

stories on women, peace and security, especially the imperative by the media to documenting a diverse range of women's stories. Instead of focusing on stories that portray women as victims, we welcome coverage of stories of women's leadership and decision making in peace and security processes. Undoubtedly, women in Africa have been playing pivotal roles in peacebuilding, peacemaking and conflict resolution, and have been resolution and positive agents for social change at various levels.

Thus, UN Women considers the media as an important ally in our ambitions to change the proverbial narrative on African women. Through our regional project, *African Women Changing the Narrative: Our Story*, we endeavor to drive home the message that women are not mere bystanders to development; they are change agents and must be fully recognised in this capacity. Suffice it to say that this project, through the generous support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), aims to build a movement of Africans and global citizens who recognise African women as agents of change and promote their engagement and participation as key in achieving Africa's transformation and development. To this end, UN Women launched an online platform, <http://awctn.unwomen.org/en> in January 2017 to showcase African women in the multitude of roles that they play in shaping Africa's development within the 2063 and 2030 development agendas.

It is against this backdrop that UN Women, in collaboration with the Office of the AUC Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, engaged in an initiative to enhance the capacity of African reporters on gender-responsive reporting in conflict settings and to create a Network of Reporters on Women, Peace and Security committed to advancing women's rights and empowerment through their reporting in conflict and fragile contexts.

The aim of this handbook is to support the work of reporters in covering the variety of conflicts and fragile situations in Africa and beyond in ways that are both gender-transformative and conflict-sensitive. The handbook provides tools for challenging negative stereotypes of masculinity and femininity, portraying women's lives in conflict settings more accurately and ensuring greater accountability for Women, Peace and Security commitments in the continent. It seeks to contribute to the increase in quality coverage about and by women in Africa. The handbook addresses the specific challenges faced by women reporters when covering conflict settings, and seeks to promote the engaging of more women in reporting on peace and security issues. The goal is to encourage and support men reporters, as key partners to promoting the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment, to create more inclusive stories.

I would finally like to express my gratitude towards Mme. Bineta Diop, the Special Envoy of the AUC Chairperson on Women, Peace and Security and her staff for a dynamic and fruitful collaboration. I believe this initiative builds on our past efforts and takes us one step closer to making the commitments of the Women, Peace and Security agenda a reality. This handbook is one of the tools that we will use to ensure that the stories of women and girls living in conflict and fragile settings in Africa are told in a manner that is gender-transformative and conflictive-sensitive.

### **Letty Chiwara**

UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, African Union and Economic Commission for Africa





The youth and MINUSMA united for peace in Mali at an event organised by MINUSMA at Mamadou Konate Stadium, Bamako, Mali on 7 January 2016. Photo: Harandane Dicko.

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# INTRODUCTION

## The context of conflict in Africa

Africa has experienced several violent conflicts in the last five decades. Before the onset of independence, particularly in the early 1960s, most of the recorded cases of armed conflicts were in the form of nationalistic struggles for independence. Following the attainment of independence, Africa struggled with post-independent civil wars, military coups and counter coups. The current 21<sup>st</sup> Century has witnessed conflict shifting in terms of its nature and dynamics, as well as its complexity.

Since the end of the Cold War, conflict in Africa has shifted from being between states to conflict within states. The prominence of intra-state conflicts is attributed to several reasons including the decline of colonial politics among superpowers, the challenges confronting post-colonial states as well as the growing role of non-state actors. Today, conflict has become largely asymmetric and hybridised in nature, with non-state actors and atypical adversaries such as criminal gangs, rebel groups, insurgents and militia groups, playing bigger roles and often employing unconventional tactics of war. The asymmetric nature of conflict has had devastating impact on civilians, a scenario which requires interrogating ways in which conflict is affecting men, women, girls and boys.

## Gender Dimensions of Conflict

Conflict impacts men and women, girls and boys differently. While they might face similar phenomena during and after conflict, their experiences, responses and levels of vulnerability are often influenced by their gender. For example, armed conflict impacts women differently than men; direct violence tend to affect men more significantly than women, as men are more prone to take up arms, to

become combatants or to be forced into armed groups. The fact that men form the majority of combatants means that they are more likely to be killed in combat. Furthermore, men and young boys are also affected by conflict possibly through issues such as forcible conscription, incarceration, and injury. Most of the child soldiers for example tend to be boys.

However, women are more likely to be affected by the indirect forms of violence. Notably, the rise of protracted intra-state wars as well as other forms of violence and insecurity has had devastating consequences for civilians-and particularly women and children. Furthermore, women's socio-economic livelihoods are significantly transformed as a results of violent conflict, as they often find themselves in a vulnerable position with fewer resources to protect as a result of stripped assets and eroded livelihoods. Furthermore, women more likely to lose their earnings and to face the burden of caregiving for the family as a result of the conflict, which often tends to ends to reconfigure local economies while transforming vulnerabilities.<sup>1</sup>

Raven-Roberts (2013) argue that women often are left trying to navigate, negotiate and re-orient their disrupted livelihood systems in the aftermath of conflict as the burden of caregiving and caretaking of the family often falls on them.<sup>2</sup> This requires the media to be attuned to the unique experiences of women in the face of violence. Additionally, women are overall more negatively affected than men because of limited food and access to water, poor sanitation and hygiene, weak or collapsed health services, increased displacement, family dislocation, stress and gender violence.<sup>3</sup> Studies have shown that violent conflict transforms men and women's roles and power relations, including household burden and access to basic services

1 Raven-Roberts. 2013. "Women and the Political Economy of War." In *Women and Wars: Contested Histories Uncertain Futures*, edited by Carol Cohn, 36-53. Cambridge: Polity Press

2 Raven-Roberts. 2013. "Women and the Political Economy of War." In *Women and Wars: Contested Histories Uncertain Futures*, edited by Carol Cohn, 36-53. Cambridge: Polity Press

3 Thomas Plumber and Eric Neumayer, "The Unequal Burden of War: The Effect of Armed Conflict on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy," *International Organisation* 60 (3): 723-754 (2006).



Women, together with children, often constitute the majority of involuntarily displaced populations, namely internally displaced (IDPs) as well as refugees. In addition to being disproportionately represented among those who are forcibly displaced, women are also faced with the threat of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Women are more likely to experience rape and sexual assault during conflict, compared to men. Beyond being affected as victims in conflict, fragile and post-conflict situations, women also take up a variety of active roles in these settings, including as perpetrators or supporters of various armed groups, heads of households and the providers for the family.

However, conflict also presents opportunities for women to play active roles in peacemaking and peacebuilding, and rebuilding of their societies. In times of social strain and instability, women play critical roles in maintaining the social fabric, and in being breadwinners for their families. In addition, women are often undeterred in the face of conflict, as they continue to advocate for peace and participate in negotiation and mediation processes. Despite their strong role in peace movements and post-conflict recovery, women are almost entirely excluded from peace negotiations. Formal peace processes do not, however, always guarantee the cessation of hostilities. Meintjes (2001) argues that the levels of violence against women and children in fact tend to increase during this period, and that in fact, women often experience new forms of vulnerabilities in the post-conflict and peace implementation phases. Renewed vulnerabilities in the post-conflict period arise from several factors, including the destruction of the social fabric as well as the institutionalisation of a culture of violence.

## Gender, Conflict and Media Reporting

Women are often portrayed as victims in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in large part, they are. However, crises and post-conflict realities can facilitate societal transformation by breaking down social barriers and traditional patriarchal patterns, thus providing windows of opportunity for the reconstruction of a more just and equitable society. The conflict and post-conflict phase can compel societies to adopt more gender-transformative processes, where women's human rights are protected and gender equality is perpetuated. In fact, the post-conflict transition and recovery phase can prove to be a particularly critical period for positive transformation of gender relations, which can be characterised by a new and dynamic social construct which provides emerging opportunities that increase women's decision-making, income-earning opportunities, skills and overall empowerment.

While traditional perception of women in conflict and post-conflict situations is that of victims, increasingly, the active role women play in such situations is slowly starting to be recognised. The media plays a crucial role in shaping public attitudes, reactions and everyday decisions. It plays a key role in providing information and elevating the understanding of what is happening in conflict and post-conflict situations. The media can serve to highlight the lived experiences of those most affected by war by changing the narrative about the lives of women; to include both an analysis of how women are negatively affected by violence as well as their roles as active agents of positive change.

The media has a duty to ensure that women's voices and perspectives feature in the analysis of conflict, and that this is done in a balanced manner which acknowledges their several and complex roles. As noted by the Swedish-based Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation: ***"Despite the fact that conflicts affect whole populations, women are almost invisible in the reports. If they are present at all, they are often seen crying in the***

*background and are talked about – rather than listened to... Women, on the other hand, are rarely asked about their opinions regarding conflict in general, and if they are, it is usually from a woman's or the victim's perspective."*<sup>4</sup>

## Background to the development of the handbook

When the AU declared 2016 as the *"Year of Human Rights, with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women,"* the Special Envoy to the AUC Chairperson on Women, Peace and Security, Mme. Bineta Diop proposed to mobilise media in promoting priorities of women, peace and security. The Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) partnered with UN Women to create a network of Pan-African reporters for Women, Peace and Security to promote and support gender-responsive reporting of the situation of women in conflict and post-conflict settings in Africa.<sup>5</sup> The initiative brought together African reporters from different parts of the continent representing the breadth of media for a two-day capacity building workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2016. The workshop was followed by an Open Session of the African Union Peace and Security Council on *"The role of the media in enhancing accountability on women, peace and security commitments in Africa."* This handbook is a result of shared experiences that emerged during the workshop and the deliberations during the Open Session.

## Purpose of the handbook

The handbook aims to promote gender-responsive reporting that accurately portrays women's lives in conflict and post-conflict contexts—highlighting the whole range of their roles and strengths as well as the impact of conflict in their lives. This is done by providing background information, guidelines, quick facts and a variety of exercises that will keep the user engaged. It is envisaged that the media practitioners who use this handbook will be

prompted to go through processes of self-reflection and identify spaces and platforms to retool their practice and approach to reporting. By seeking to strengthen the reporters' skills in reporting, the handbook ultimately contribute to positive social change.

Instead of going into details in different themes of the WPS agenda, more resources are offered in the annotated bibliography provided in the annex. The bibliography will allow for the user to research deeper into themes on gender, peace and security most relevant to their work. With the intention to keep the handbook short and user-friendly, is structured as a "how to" manual with the aim to support media practitioners working with conflict-related issues and/or in conflict affected contexts to help them better integrate a gender-sensitive approach in reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations. By promoting more gender-responsive and transformative reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations, the handbook is ultimately a vehicle towards supporting the more effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa.

- Understand the meaning, concept and scope of gender, including the evolution of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa;
- Strengthen skills in peace journalism, conflict-sensitive and gender-transformative reporting which gives space and voice to women's experiences;
- Recognise and draw from effective approaches and strategies for reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations; and
- Develop and utilise a gender perspective, including peace journalism in reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations.

4 Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation Gender and Conflict Sensitive Journalism Handbook. (2015) Available online at: <http://kvinnatillkvinna.se/wp-content/uploads/qbank/b7b70189b9698f6213f2799fb12925e2.pdf>

5 African Union. Concept note on Capacity building workshop and a policy dialogue on gender-responsive reporting in conflict, post-conflict and fragile settings in Africa, 2016.

## Who is this handbook for?

The handbook primarily targets reporters representing the breadth of media, including private and public local radio, print, broadcast, and new media, and it serves as a tool to strengthen the undertaking of gender-transformative reporting of conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations. Thus, it can also be used by journalism and media studies students, editors, academics and civil society to get a grasp on key gender and media issues in reporting peace and conflict, and it can be used as background materials for workshops on gender-responsive reporting in conflict settings.


## Structure of the handbook

The handbook is structured around key relevant themes including:

- Gender, media, peace and security;
- Peace journalism and gender-sensitive reporting;
- Gender, ethics and security protocols for reporting on conflict;
- Social media, gender, peace and security.

The handbook is interactive as it is designed to draw on the user's own experiences; to ask questions rather than proffer solutions; to ask the user to apply knowledge to their specific contexts; to be as current and relevant as possible. The handbook includes quotes and activities which can create a platform for good discussions and much needed debate. It focuses on concrete matters that reporters confront when reporting in conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations, e.g. reporting on cases or survivors of violence as well as how to use online and new media. Each chapter of the handbook provides platforms to engage in discussions and activities on key gender questions in conflict and fragile situations.

The symbols used throughout the text are highlighted in the table below:

	<p><b>Activities/Exercises:</b> The reader will be asked to engage in a number of exercises. For examples, they might be presented with hypothetical but relevant scenarios to test possible options and approaches. The objectives of the exercises are to get the readers to reflect on how they might approach an issue.</p>
	<p><b>Case study:</b> The best learning builds on actual experiences of reporters. To this end, this handbook will include some excerpts from examples of actual media articles that were published. While these case studies are included in the handbook, readers are also encouraged to find their own case studies or examples of articles to review, and reflect upon.</p>
	<p><b>Discussion:</b> Whether in the newsroom, a training class or alone, solutions and insights come through discussion. There is no wrong or right way, but there are certainly better and worse ways of doing things. Discussion leads to better solutions.</p>
	<p><b>Debate:</b> The media's agenda setting role includes listening to all sides of the story. Conflict resolution is about give and take of all those involved: men, boys, women and girls. Debates help reporters to see the different sides of the story and report in greater depth.</p>
	<p><b>Reflect:</b> Reflection is one of the most powerful tools of learning. Conflict reporters have already learned many lessons. Reflecting will help to hone these skills.</p>
	<p><b>Quick facts:</b> This handbook comprises of facts that can easily be looked up by the reader as and when needed. These quick facts where these help to explain current realities and prompt us to think about how we can approach things differently.</p>
	<p><b>Questions:</b> This is an action-oriented handbook that has questions to help apply the learning. After engaging with the material in the handbook, the reader is asked to reflect upon some questions and to respond to them individually or collectively.</p>





Fatima Askira, Executive Director at the Bornu Women Development Initiative (BOWDI), an NGO based in North East Nigeria, speaks at the African Union Inter-generational Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security on 25 January 2017. photo: Paschal Chem-Langhee

## CHAPTER ONE:

# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: A BACKGROUND



## Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This chapter provides an overview of the global women, peace and security agenda and examines the key instruments at the international and continental levels that advances the WPS agenda. The specific objectives and learning outcomes of the chapter are as follows:

- Provide a historical overview of the development and evolution of the women, peace and security agenda
- Analyse key global and continental instruments that are critical for advancing the WPS agenda
- Set the context and tone for how reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations is supported by critical and seminal developments in the WPS agenda

## The Global women, peace and security agenda

In recognition of the gendered dimensions of conflict, the international community has created an extensive international normative framework on women, peace and security (WPS) to address the impacts of conflict on women and girls, and to strengthen women's participation at all levels of peace processes. In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) made history by passing Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security which acknowledges the differential and

sometimes unique impact of armed conflict on women.

UNSCR 1325 is regarded as a landmark Resolution because it is a political framework that demonstrates how adoption of a gender perspective is imperative for the achievement of sustainable peace. The Resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction. The watershed Resolution stresses the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and highlights the imperative of all parties taking special measures for protecting women from human rights violations and gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, especially in situations of armed conflict. The Resolution also urges all parties to ensure that women have access to justice and services during conflict as well as in undertaking relief and recovery efforts.

Apart from Resolution 1325, the global WPS agenda also includes other normative frameworks that reiterate and further advance the key messages from this historical Resolution. As of February 2017, the Security Council had passed a total of eight resolutions on WPS (including UNSCR 1325).

Table 1: United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security

UN Security Council Resolutions on WPS	
<b>UNSCR 1325 (2000)</b>	Is structured under four pillars: prevention; participation; protection; and relief and recovery.
<b>UNSCR 1820 (2008)</b>	Is the first Security Council resolution to recognise conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of warfare that requires a peacekeeping, justice, services and peace negotiation response
<b>UNSCR 1888 (2009)</b>	Strengthens implementation of resolution 1820 including high-level leadership, judicial response expertise, service provision and ensuring more systematic reporting on sexual violence in armed conflict. Member States are encouraged to deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping operations.
<b>UNSCR 1889 (2009)</b>	Strengthens women in decision-making in conflict resolution, indicators and monitoring.
<b>UNSCR 1960 (2010)</b>	Provides an accountability system for addressing conflict-related sexual violence including by listing perpetrators and establishing monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements.
<b>UNSCR 2106 (2013)</b>	Affirms that sexual violence can exacerbate and prolong situations of armed conflict and impede restoration of peace and security; highlights women's participation in prevention, protection and response; and the importance of comprehensive transitional justice.
<b>UNSCR 2122 (2013)</b>	Calls for stronger measures to increase women's participation in decision-making in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery and requires gender expertise in UN mediation teams.
<b>UNSCR 2242 (2015)</b>	Places the WPS agenda at the centre of global challenges, including rising violent extremism and counter-terrorism, climate change, illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons and displacement. It links women's participation and sustainable peace, and urges funding for women's organisations.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 remains the seminal normative framework that comprehensively addresses the women, peace and security agenda. UNSCR 1325 is mainly described in terms of the four pillars<sup>6</sup>, which are highlighted as follows:

- **Prevention focuses on preventing all forms of violence against women and girls in peacetimes, conflict and post-conflict situations**, and involves various measures including creating prosecutions for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence, addressing impunity, increasing surveillance for women's security and safety and challenging discriminatory gender norms, attitudes and behaviours. This includes prevention of all forms of violent conflict and violence against women through the promotion of women's rights, accountability as well as inclusion of gender issues in security and law enforcement. It includes a focus on ensuring that perpetrators of sexual violence are held accountable to their actions, and requires coordination among stakeholders involved in addressing sexual violence in peacetime, conflict and post-conflict situations.
- **Protection seeks to ensure that women and girls' rights are protected and promoted in conflict-affected situations or other humanitarian crises**, including protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual violence. This pillar also refers to the need to provide leadership and coordination in the response to sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, protection pillar emphasises the imperative to ensure that governments, regional organisations, continental bodies, peace support operations and humanitarian missions establish infrastructures that protect women from sexual and gender-based violence, and that provide holistic care to victims of sexual

violence- physical, psycho-social, legal and institutional support. These centres should be able to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and to adequately respond to the needs of victims and survivors.

- **Participation aims to ensure women's equal participation and influence and the promotion of gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local and international levels**. The participation pillar affirms the importance of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. Participation aims to ensure that women are represented at all levels of decision-making, including at local, national, regional and international levels; as well as promotion of gender equality in peace and security. The participation pillar requires for member states and regional bodies to adopt and implement institutional reforms that advance women's empowerment and active participation in processes that pursue sustainable peace.
- **Relief and Recovery seeks to ensure that women and girl's specific relief needs are met, especially in conflict and post-conflict contexts**. This is achieved by specifically addressing the needs of women and girls and strengthening their capacities to act as agents in post-conflict relief and recovery processes. The women's needs for relief and recovery should receive special attention in processes such as humanitarian assistance disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes (DDR), repatriation and resettlement as well as economic development processes in the post-conflict agenda.

The following Table illustrates the four main pillars of UNSCR 1325.

6 The wording of the four pillars comes from the UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security, 2011-2020 [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic\\_Framework\\_2011-2020.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic_Framework_2011-2020.pdf).

Table 2: The Four Pillars of UNSCR 1325

UNSCR 1325			
1. Prevention	2. Participation	3. Protection	4. Relief and Recovery

In October 2015, the Security Council convened a High-level Review to assess progress in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at global, regional and national levels since its adoption 15 years earlier. The UN Secretary-General commissioned a Global Study on the implementation and recommendations on women, peace and security.<sup>7</sup> Titled, *“Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace,”* the Global Study recognises the challenges posed to the WPS framework by the changing nature of conflict and the evolving meanings of ‘peace’, ‘security’ and ‘justice’. The study identified several successes since 2000. These include the adoption of a comprehensive international normative framework for addressing sexual violence in conflict; increase in references to women in peace agreements since the adoption of UNSCR 1325; rise in the number of women in senior leadership positions within the United Nations; and quadrupling of bilateral aid to fragile states on gender equality in the last decade.

However, the study points to the persisting and numerous obstacles and challenges hindering the full implementation of the WPS agenda. These include, among others, the very low number of actual prosecutions on conflict-related sexual violence crimes; the painfully slow progress in women’s meaningful participation in peace and security, including formal peace negotiations, as well as UN peacekeeping missions and the low number of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the resolution at the national level. The report also cites lack of budget allocations for implementation and the low amounts of earmarked aid on women, peace and security.

Furthermore, the impact of the rise of violent extremisms on women’s rights in many parts of the world is also highlighted.

### The Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa

In the past decades, Africa has built strong continental instruments on Women, Peace and Security. The AU’s commitment to gender equality, and women, peace and security agenda in enshrined in several normative frameworks and processes of the continental body. For example, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which was adopted in 2002, commits to the need for ensuring gender is a cross-cutting issues in AU processes.

Furthermore, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) takes a holistic approach to gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, with a view to integrating these concepts into the continent’s development programmes and processes. Specifically, NEPAD established the Fund for African Women, which forms part of the Gender Architecture of the AU.

Similarly, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Additional Protocol to the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)<sup>8</sup> cumulatively provide testimony of the AU’s commitment to protecting women’s rights through raising public awareness, supporting the enacting of progressive laws, promoting inclusive development and supporting women’s roles in peace processes, among other things. The Maputo Protocol provides for wide-ranging substantive human rights for women, including civil and political, economic, social and cultural as

7 UN Women (2015). Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2015), New York: United Nations. Available at <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf?v=1&d=20160323T192435>

8 See more on the implementation of the WPS commitments in the Maputo Protocol in the Institute for Security Studies Paper 295 (2016) at <https://issafrica.s3.amazonaws.com/site/uploads/Paper295.pdf>

well as environmental rights.

Furthermore, the AU further adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in 2004, reflecting that the continental body was moving forward with the agenda of pursuing gender equality, calling for the mainstreaming of gender at continental, regional and national levels, and the ratification of the Maputo Protocol. Additionally, the AU Gender Policy (2009) provides a guideline on the institutionalisation of gender issues at the AU Commission (AUC) and commits the AUC to mainstream gender across several sectors, including peace and security.<sup>9</sup> Following the adoption of the AU Gender Policy in 2009, African leaders launched the African Women's Decade 2010-2020 and the Fund for African Women to accelerate the implementation of all commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment on the continent. The Fund seeks to empower African women with financial resources and technical expertise to unlock their economic potential, fight poverty and generate wealth.

Additionally, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063, the continent's 50 year strategic framework for socio-economic transformation and structural transformation, which aims to attain sustainable development and achieve an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa for all, with a strong focus on women and youth. Importantly, Agenda 2063 places gender equality at the centre of Africa's development and commits to end all forms of oppression and gender-based discrimination. The Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 is committed to full gender equality and the significant empowerment of African women. Overall, Agenda 2063 calls for Africa to work towards full gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life, at national, regional and continental levels. In further recognition of the important role of women and girls in driving the achievement of the goals of Agenda 2063, the 24<sup>th</sup> AU Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2015 declared

2015, "*The Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.*"

The AU gender equality frameworks are intertwined with the African peace and security architecture (APSA) as well as the African governance architecture. Both African peace and security architecture and the African governance architecture take into account men's and women's experiences and potentialities in building secure, stable and democratic societies. For example, gender equality is incorporated in the AU's Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative, which recognises that the quest for sustainable peace in the continent cannot be effectively realised without the active involvement of women in peacebuilding, peacekeeping and peacemaking processes.

The AU gender architecture has paved the way for a number of positive developments at the Commission as well as in the member states. Notably, there has been an increase in the number of women in senior level position within the Commission, including the nomination of women Special Representatives in countries in conflict or emerging from conflict as well as the appointment of female Special Envoys and women mediators. Additionally, in 2014, the AUC Chairperson appointed a Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, whose mission is to promote the protection and advancement of the rights of women and children, in particular those affected by violent conflicts, and to ensure the gender mainstreaming and equal participation of women in peace processes, including in conflict prevention, management, resolution and peacebuilding.

The AUC has been embarking on several processes and initiatives to support the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States in the implementation of the WPS commitments in Africa. The AUC Office of the Special Envoy on women, peace and security is developing a Continental Results Framework for monitoring and reporting on the women, peace and security agenda. The CRF is designed as a

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9 African Union Gender Policy (2009) [http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/gender\\_policy\\_2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/gender_policy_2009.pdf)

tool that will promote effective monitoring and reporting pivotal for greater accountability by the AU, Regional and Economic Communities (RECs) and AU member states. Through the CRF, the AU will be able to measure progress on

implementation of the WPS commitments at national, regional and continental levels.

The following Table reflects key Women, Peace, and Security instruments at continental levels

Table 3: Key African Union women, peace and security instruments and commitments

Continental Instruments promoting Gender, Peace and Security (adopted in 2002)	Main Provisions
AU Constitutive Act	Promotes gender equality as one of its founding principles, and pays attention to the need for ensuring gender is a cross-cutting issues in AU processes
African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1998)	Supports the enacting of progressive laws, promoting inclusive development and supporting women's roles in peace processes, among other things
African Women's Decade (2010-2020)	Declared during the 12 <sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union, the aim to advance renewed efforts to accelerate the implementation of gender equality and women empowerment commitments made over the last decade to African women, including those made through t
Additional Protocol to the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa- Maputo Protocol (2003)	Acknowledges the imperative for protecting the rights of women and girls, through raising public awareness
AU Gender Parity Principle (2002)	Adopted by the African Union Summit in Durban, it calls for a 50-50 representation in decision-making processes and structures at the AU
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)	Acknowledges the special needs for women and for a women-centered human rights regime
Durban Declaration on Gender and Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in the African Union (2003)	Calls for a 50-50 representation of men and women in all levels of decision –making in AU member states.
AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004)	Provides Member States an opportunity to ensure that women actively participate in peace and development processes.
AU Framework for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (2006)	Places emphasis on the need to ensure that women are involved in the design and implementation of post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes.
African Union Gender Policy (2009)	Provides a guideline on the institutionalisation of gender issues at the AU Commission
African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009)	Acknowledges that women are more affected by displacement and calls for measures to protect women who are internally displaced.
AU Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform (2011)	Underlines the need to take special cognisance of women and men's security needs during Security Sector Reform processes.
Agenda 2063; (Adopted in 2013)	Places gender equality at the centre of Africa's developed, for example, by committing to end all forms of oppression and gender-based discrimination and pushing for women's equal right to own land and property, to occupy at least 50 percent decision making positions in public office, politics and private sector.





Women in Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near El Fasher, North Darfur, attend English classes conducted by volunteer teachers and facilitated by the police component of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), 18 February 2014. Photo: Albert González Farran.

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

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# **GENDER, PEACE JOURNALISM AND CONFLICT-SENSITIVE REPORTING**

There is an increasing consensus on the need to bring a gender lens into analysis of conflict and its resolution. This approach recognises that men, women, girls and boys experience conflict differently and have differential expectations, needs, resources, social networks, acumen and approaches towards conflict resolution. It also seeks to move beyond stereotypical portrayals of the roles of women and men in conflict settings that see men as perpetrators and women as victims. It recognises that while women are often victims of violence, they can also be involved in inflicting it. At the same time, they often take up other active roles in conflict and post-conflict settings in providing for their families, building social cohesion and making calls for peace.

As key actors in analysing conflicts, reporters who adopt a gender-responsive approach to reporting have the potential to become agents of change in the attainment of a holistic vision of the notion of “peace,” which essentially broadens the understanding of security and underscores that peace is much more than the absence of direct forms of violence. The handbook on gender-responsive reporting enables reporters to effectively cover issues that threaten human insecurity, including war as well as other inimical socio-economic practices in society that curtail human advancement.

There is an ongoing debate about the role of the media in society. Increasingly, it is acknowledged that the media should not simply focus on reflecting on the way things are, but should seek to play an agenda setting role. The media should not be gender-blind, but should seek a more transformative role in society. In fact “gender-blind” reporting that relies solely on stereotypes can actually fail to report accurately on the situation for instance by ignoring and missing out the different initiatives and actions for peace that women are engaged in at the local level. This debate is especially pertinent in the coverage of gender, peace and security. Since the media has a role to play in promoting peace, it follows that it has a role to play in

challenging gender stereotypes, and making sure that the views and voices of women and men, boys and girls are equally and fairly reflected in media coverage. Undoubtedly, the media plays an important role in shaping the way society perceives and portrays women in conflict, post conflict and fragile situations.

This chapter of the handbook provides a platform to reflect on the following questions:

- Where are women in the media – in its decision-making structures, as well as in platforms where the news is created, packaged and disseminated?
- Does this make a difference to media coverage of peace and security?
- How are women and men represented in this topic in the mainstream media?
- How can we progress from gender blind to gender sensitive reporting?
- How will this enhance the quality of reporting, as well as the gender, peace and security agenda?

### **Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

This chapter presents key concepts on sex, gender, peace journalism and conflict sensitive reporting. It also makes the link between gender and conflict sensitive reporting. This chapter provides ideas for reporters on how to construct stories that effectively portray the varied, nuanced and often complex roles of women in conflict, fragile situations as well as peace times. It focuses on a variety of issues during the conflict cycle, including women’s participation in peace negotiations, peace support operations as well as political participation, among other things.

The chapter has the following objectives and learning outcomes:

- To examine the concepts of sex and gender, and identify the distinctions
- To enable the understanding of gender

as a spectrum which is characterised by intersectionality with other social identities

- To enable the identification of the linkages between gender and power relations
- To introduce the concept of conflict and highlight its connections and differences with violence
- To enable an understanding of how conflict is gendered, and how men and women have differential experiences of conflict and violence
- To provide suggestions and strategies for gender-transformative reporting in conflict, posit conflict and fragile situations

## Sex and gender

In order to practice gender-responsive reporting, it is important that reporters understand the key concepts, including the difference of sex and gender, and are able to identify the difference between physiological and socially constructed roles of men and women. Sex refers to the physical and biological characteristics that distinguish males and females. Sex is a biological state which describes the biological and physiological differences between men and women, girls and boys. For example, the role of women in giving birth to and breastfeeding children is biologically determined. Similarly, men's role in fathering children is also biologically determined.

While sex is about the physiological, physical and biological differences between men and women, gender on the other hand refers to the social construction and reconstruction of masculinity and femininity, i.e. the behaviours which are deemed as being appropriate for men and women. Therefore, the concept of gender includes an analysis of norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. Gender is not a biological construct, but it is influenced and fashioned by social, economic, political and cultural factors. While most people are either born as either male or

female, the construction of gender norms and behaviours happens over time through processes of ***socialisation and social learning***. Gender is not static but dynamic. The construction of gender norms, roles and relationships varies from society to society and can be changed over time. Gender reflects a system of power relations and dynamics, and it often influences access to resources, power, privileges and status in society. Gender influences how we conceptualise reality, frame social situations and develop our worldviews.

The Table below shows the distinction between physiologically and socially determined roles of men and women. It highlights the roles of women and men that are due to their sex, and also underscores the roles that they are expected to play as a result of the gender.

Table 4: Reproductive and Socially Constructed Roles of Men and Women

	WOMEN		MEN	
<b>REPRODUCTIVE ROLE</b>	Gives birth to and breastfeeds children.	Biologically determined.	Fathers children.	Biologically determined.
<b>EXAMPLES OF SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED ROLES</b>				
<b>IN THE HOME</b>	Care, nurture children	Socially determined- limits women's role to the home; unremunerated.	Protect, provide.	Socially determined; limits men's caring and nurturing role.
<b>IN THE WORK PLACE</b>	Care work-domestic workers, secretaries, nurses, primary school teachers.	Extension of role in the home; limits women's management and leadership roles; more poorly paid jobs	Leadership and management roles- in politics, business; security (police, defence, foreign affairs)	Extension of social construction; exacerbates gender imbalance in power, economic clout
<b>IN THE PERSONAL SPACE</b>	Humble, submissive, listening, emotional, caring.	Limits ability to be assertive, break into new roles	Talkative, decision-making, ambitious, aggressive	Limits ability to be humane and caring; to express emotion

## Diversity, intersectionality and complexity

Gender is to be understood from the basis of intersectionality and inter-connectedness.<sup>10</sup> In essence, this means that gender profoundly interacts with other forms of social classification such as age, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and other social statuses to different experiences in each context. The experiences of young women, rural women, urban women, educated women or women of colour are likely to be different even when experiencing the same phenomenon. However, generally, in almost all societies, the roles, functions and characteristics attributed to men have tended to be accorded greater value than those of women leading to gender inequality and discrimination. Gender inequality creates power imbalances in society and limits the human potential of both men and women.

Women are not homogenous, just as men are also not all the same. Various factors intersect with gender, resulting in a broad range of

experiences. These include age, race, ethnicity, class, poverty, urban/rural divides and disability. Even where women come from similar backgrounds, their responses will not all be the same. Women in conflict are not one blanket mass of suffering. They are unique individuals with unique fears, hopes, experiences and aspirations.



### Activity

Write the following roles on cards (and any others you might associate with conflict): Soldier; growing a beard; general; guerilla; breast feeding; pilot; peacemaker; combatant; refugee; displaced person; mediator; leader; firefighter; doctor; nurse; politician; aid worker; ambulance driver; reporter; rape survivor; mother; father; giving birth; menstruating; fighter; suicide bomber; cook; messenger; spy; expert; politician; civil society activist.

10 Shields, Stephanie A.2008. Gender: An Intersectional Perspective, *Sex Roles* Vol 59:301–311

Roles associated with women/girls	Either or	Roles associated with men/boys
		

Pin up three headings on the wall – boys/men; girls/women; and either or. Pin up each card where it fits best. Look at the cards under each category.

1. Is that where they fit? Can or should they be moved? Why?
2. Which roles are strictly associated with women or men? Why
3. Which is the largest category in the end? Why?
4. Why do we struggle to envision women in certain roles and men in others?

## Defining and Conceptualising Conflict

This section introduces the concept of conflict and provides some definitions. The section also analyses the structure and nature of conflict, while fighting the differences between conflict and violence. According to Howard (2009)<sup>11</sup>, the changing landscape of conflict necessitates an understanding of conflict by reporters. Traditional journalism training and skills development processes are often characterised by a focus on the science and art or journalism with limited attention towards how best to cover violent conflict. However, the reality is that understanding of violent conflict not only as a social process, but as a dynamic and complex phenomenon is critical for more informed reporting. Reporters who understand

the nuances and complexity of conflict are more likely to adopt a conflict-sensitive and gender-transformative approach in their reporting.

Conflict is an inevitable and necessary part of all human social relationships, which is ubiquitous at all levels of human social system, i.e. the interpersonal, intragroup, intergroup, international and international levels. Wilmot and Hocker (2011) note that conflict is characterised by a relationship between interdependent parties, i.e. individuals or groups, who perceive that they have incompatible goals or competing means of achieving the same goals or interference from others in achieving their goals.

The idea of conflict as an expressed struggle is useful because it acknowledges that conflict involves multiple elements including the parties involved, their respective goals, behaviour, as well as issues of competition and incompatibility of objectives or interest. Conflict is an inevitable aspect of social change, and an expression of heterogeneity of interests, values and beliefs that generated by social change and environmental constraints.

Conflict also affects women and men differently and often it alters the dynamics of social interaction by changing the roles that men and women play and how they relate to each other in society. As discussed earlier in the

11 Howard, Ross. 2009. *Conflict Sensitive Reporting: State of Art: A Course for Journalists*, Paris: UNESCO  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001869/186986e.pdf>



handbook, conflict can also create opportunities for men and women to play positive roles especially towards promoting peace. Exploring and understanding these differences is critical because it allows for the identification of strategies of how to respond to the differential needs of these groups.

It is important to underscore that conflict is not synonymous with violence. Violence is just one of the means through which escalated conflict is manifested or expressed. However, not all conflicts become violent. Some conflicts are

expressed constructively, which means that conflict does not necessarily have to become destructive and violent. Some conflicts are expressed through non-violent means such as dialogue and problem-solving. While conflict is a necessary and inevitable part of life, violence is not necessary and is not inevitable, meaning that violence can be prevented.

The Table below<sup>12</sup> provides an outline of the summary of the differences between conflict and violence:

Table 5: Conflict and Violence: The Differences

Conflict	Violence
Conflict is a normal part of human communication.	Violence is not a normal way of communicating and interacting.
Conflict is an inevitable aspect of social reality and human interaction.	Violence is not inevitable. It can be prevented or avoided.
The goal of conflict is to communicate disagreement and competing interests and objectives.	The goal of violence is humiliation and injury of the other party.
Conflict can be resolved by collaboration, problem-solving and compromise. It is possible to find win-win and integrative solutions to conflict, which will satisfy the mutual interests of parties	When violence is used, a win-win outcome is not possible. Usually, one party wins and the other party loses (zero-sum outcome).
Although conflict relationships differ from context to context and they can involve inequitable power relations, it is possible for conflict to happen in the context of equal balance of power between parties.	One of the most significant signs of the violence is unequal balance of the power between actors or conflict parties.
Conflict can have positive outcomes.	Violence is always accompanied by some destruction.
Conflict is characterised by different stages, levels and causes which might not necessarily result in direct forms of confrontation.	While violence has stages, levels and causes, it tends to be characterised by repetitive negative behaviour which is not constructive in nature.

Source: Adapted from Mutisi, M and Smith, R. 2017. Training Manual on the UNDP Guidance Note for Supporting Insider Mediation, EU/UN Project on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention (Unpublished)

12 Mutisi, M and Smith, R. 2017. Training Manual on the UNDP Guidance Note for Supporting Insider Mediation, EU/UN Project on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention (Unpublished).

## Causes of conflict

It is important for reporters to understand and effectively analyse the causes of conflict so that in their reporting, they avoid simplification of issues and sensationalisation of the developments in the conflict landscape. Causes of conflict are the factors that underpin the occurrence of conflict. These causes can exist at the systemic, structural and personal level, and they often contribute to the manifestation and escalation of conflict. Identifying the originating factors of a conflict is fundamental in choosing the right tools for prevention and intervention. Furthermore, for reporters, recognising the causes of conflict enables for the effective determination of what levels and when it is possible to act, in order to influence the direction of the conflict. Causes of conflict can be divided into the following categories with examples provided in the table below:

- **Structural causes** are also known as root causes of the conflict or underlying causes of conflict, and they are found in social, economic and political institutions. Usually, structural causes are factors that are inherited from the past and cannot be changed in the short term. However, it is important to note that through determined efforts aimed at transformation, these structural factors underpinning conflict can be addressed.
- **Proximate causes or manifestations** are the factors that are closest to the conflict, which are likely to contribute to a climate which is conducive to violent conflict or its further escalation. Often, proximate causes are symptomatic of bigger, deeper, more systemic and underlying issues.
- **Triggers:** Conflict triggers are within the immediacy of the escalation period. These are events or developments which help to facilitate the outward manifestation of the conflict and the increasing intensification of such conflict. They are also known as accelerators of conflict, and they are less predictable.

Conflict can be explained by various reasons, including competition over access to resources, political exclusion, the quest for power as well as feelings of marginalisation by certain groups of conflict. The reasons for conflict can be found in a spectrum of economic, social, political, psychological as well as ideological factors. It is important not to simplify the analysis of conflict and reduce it to single narratives or causes, as often conflict reflects the complexities of our social realities.



## Questions

Take a moment to reflect on the conflicts in your community or region, and respond to the following questions:

- What are the conflicts or potential conflicts taking place in your country or region?
- What are the causes of these conflicts?
- How useful is the framework that categorises causes of conflict into structural, proximate causes as well as triggers in analysing the diverse causes of the conflicts?
- To what extent does gender inequality contribute to these conflicts?
- Is increasing gender inequality a consequence of these conflicts?

The following Table provides an outline of the various causes of conflict, including the examples as well as the gender dimensions that can be observed at each level:

Table 6: Categories of the Causes of Conflict: Examples and Gender -dimensions

Cause of conflict	Examples	Gender dimensions
Structural factors	Systemic political exclusion; demographic shifts; economic inequalities; economic decline; ecological degradation	Gender relations, however profoundly unequal or unjust, are rarely the root cause of violent social conflict.
Proximate causes or manifestations	Surface explanations; means by which conflict is pursued.	Gender-based injustices figure as one of the most significant manifestations of conflict. The systematic use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as a means of prosecuting war has been observed in many conflicts, notably the Balkans, in Rwanda and Burundi, in Darfur, Sudan and the Eastern DRC
Catalysts or triggers	Assassinations; military coups; election fraud; corruption scandals; human rights violations	Gender-based injustices against women and men, on the other hand, can sometimes be a catalyst for conflict. For example, systemic abuse of women by men of a rival class, race or ethnic group can trigger violent defensive reaction.

Source: Adapted from *Gender and Conflict Analysis, Policy Briefing Paper, October 2012*

## The dangers of simplifying conflict



### Activity

Look up the blog post “Why do we continually misunderstand conflict in Africa?” written by Dr. Lucy Hovil,<sup>13</sup> and answer the questions that follow. The blog highlights that violent conflict in Africa is often framed as ethnic or tribal war and sometimes as sectarian. Examples of this portrayal are prevalent in describing the outbreak of violence in Rwanda as ethnic genocide of the Tutsis by Hutus; in South Sudan as ethnic violence of Nuer against Dinka and fighting in the Central African Republic (CAR) as sectarian between Christians against Muslims. Hovil argues that this is an oversimplification of issues. In conclusion, she argues that argues that:

*“By reducing conflict to ethnic antagonism, (with its dangerous bedfellow, genocide, lurking just*

*around the corner) there is an assumption that people position themselves in one-dimensional categories. This approach ignores local realities in which people create and maintain multiple forms of belonging not least in order to ensure multiple forms of legitimacy and access to resources. While not denying that people might identify themselves along ethnic and/or sectarian lines – just as they identify themselves, for instance, along gender or economic lines – in a context of multiple forms and expressions of belonging, the reduction of conflict to simple binaries inevitably falls wide of the mark.”<sup>14</sup>*

13 Lucy Hovil, Why do we continually misunderstand conflict in Africa? 10 February 2014. Available online at: <http://africanarguments.org/2014/02/10/why-do-we-continually-misunderstand-conflict-in-africa-by-lucy-hovil/#comments>, (Date Accessed on 22 December 2016)

14 Lucy Hovil, Why do we continually misunderstand conflict in Africa? 10 February 2014. Available online at: <http://africanarguments.org/2014/02/10/why-do-we-continually-misunderstand-conflict-in-africa-by-lucy-hovil/#comments>, (Date accessed: 22 December 2016)



## Questions

1. Do you agree with the assertion that “violence in Africa seems particularly prone to the scourge of one-dimensional descriptions?”
2. Is this particular to the Western media, or is the African media also guilty of over simplifying the causes of conflict on the continent?
3. Think of a conflict you have been covering. What factors may lead you or others to over simplify the causes of the conflict?
4. How does over simplification of the causes affect coverage of complex social issues that run through conflict such as its gender dimensions?

## Gender Stereotypes

Often, gender issues are clouded in stereotypes, which are generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by men and women. Stereotypes are often widely held, and they denote what community members think should be the roles for women and men. Gender stereotypes are generalisations about the roles of each gender, and in most cases they are inaccurate generalisations of the male and female attributes.

These stereotypes are socially constructed beliefs and are mostly transmitted through society’s institutions, including religion, educational institutions, political institutions and the media, among others. Furthermore, gender stereotypes are transmitted through organisational cultures and processes, economic structures, as well as through the processes we go through in life such as rites of passage. The following are examples of gender stereotypes.

Table 7: Examples of Gender Stereotypes

Examples of Stereotypes about women	Examples of Stereotypes about men
A good woman should be quiet and should not speak out	A good man should speak out and be heard
Women are emotional beings who cry	Men are not emotional, and they cannot cry
Women are weak	Men are strong
Women are peaceful and non-violent	Men are aggressive and violent



## Activity

Go to Google images and look up “war in Africa,” and reflect on the following questions:

- What are the top five images that come up, and what messages do these convey about the role of men and women in war?
- To what extent are these messages grounded in reality? To what extent are they limiting? What effect does this have on the conflict resolution efforts?
- In what ways are women’s voices usually represented in media reports?
- What gender stereotypes are often reflected in these media articles? How do these gender stereotypes perpetuate conflict? In what ways do gender stereotypes negatively affect the efforts towards building sustainable peace?
- Why is it important to ensure that women are also interviewed in the processes of constructing reports about conflict?
- What measures should a reporter take to ensure that diverse sources, including women and those who most affected are equitably presented and interviewed?





## Quick Facts

Stereotypes are usually widely held, though not necessarily views about people, processes and events. However, the reality is that no individual is a single instance of a characteristic. It is possible for men to raise children, and for women to lead nations. It is also possible for women to be caring and to be ambitious; to be emotional and to be strong. Since gender is socially constructed it can also be socially deconstructed and new way of defining individual roles of women and men can be recreated. Gender roles are products of the society's conceptualisation of reality, as well as emerging needs and priorities. In other words, gender roles are not statistic, but are determined by cultural, economic, social and political developments in society.

In most conflict and post-conflict reporting, women are generally portrayed in a limited number of roles: as victims of violence and homemakers. Although the stereotypes of women as care-givers (such as the selfless mother) have more positive connotations, they are nevertheless stereotypes, which do not fully reflect women's complex experiences and aspirations. Sexualised images of women are rife, and women tend to be defined in terms of their physical appearance rather than abilities.

Limiting the roles of women to victims and caregivers in conflict without examining their nuanced experiences as combatants, fighters, peacemakers and advocates for dialogue not only fosters inequality but also ultimately presents an inadequate assessment of the conflict situations, which likely leads to interventions that are not context-driven. Since the media plays a role in the social construction of the ideas of masculinity and femininity, reporting that relies on gender stereotypes reproduces and reinforces negative forms of

masculinity among men. For example, boys are often confronted with media images of aggressive, violent men affecting their idea of being a man.

However, the media is also a powerful tool to challenge and transform harmful stereotypes and unequal gender roles. For instance, the media can expose boys and men to constructive forms of masculinity and portray women in a more holistic and nuanced way depicting their agency and capabilities. The media has a role to play is re-writing the ill-conceived and exploitative notions of masculinity, and in countering inequitable portrayal of men and women. The media's role is to highlight how inimical cultural attitudes, especially the sense of superiority towards women works against both men and women, and ultimately burdens society by debilitating the efforts towards sustainable peace and development.

## Gender-sensitive reporting around the conflict cycle

Conflicts and insecurities affect women and men differently. While women have traditionally been portrayed as passive victims of a conflict, in reality, women often play multiple and complex roles including those of combatants, supporters of conflict, victims and survivors of violence, female heads of households, peacemakers, activists and advocates for peace. Due to gender biases discussed in the previous chapters, however, the multiplicity of the roles are often not reflected in conflict reporting.

## Women's participation in peace processes

Despite their strong role in peace movements and post-conflict recovery, women are almost entirely excluded from peace negotiations.<sup>15</sup> A study by UN Women (2012) analyses the official peace negotiations that were undertaken between 1992 and 2011 reveals that women made up just two percent of mediators and nine

15 <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security>

percent of negotiators.<sup>16</sup>

The *UN Women's Global Study on Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325* (2015) concludes that failure to incorporate women's perspectives in peace and security leads to fragile peace.

Women's participation in peace processes has largely been under-reported. Yet there are examples that demonstrate how the efforts of women transformed the conflict landscape. These include the South African peace processes in the 1980s and 1990s, which witnesses participation of women in the negotiations to end apartheid. Women's participation in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations ensured that gender equality was enshrined in the new Constitution of the post-apartheid government and transformed the narrative for peace. Women's participation in the CODESA ensured that they were guaranteed spaces and platforms to play active roles in post-conflict South Africa.



### Activity

- Reflect for a moment on what you think the peace movement and the women's movement have in common 1) theoretically and ideologically and 2) in practice, in your country or region.
- With reference to selected examples, identify what positive changes have been brought about by the women's movements towards the attainment of peace.
- In your reflection, and based on lessons and insights from the case studies that you have considered, examine how women's participation in peace processes can be further strengthened.

### Conflict opening new spaces for women

Following the reaching of a settlement or signing of a peace agreement, it is important to examine whether institutions, structures and processes to implement peace are gendered. For reporters, a gender analysis of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction processes would be crucial in ensuring that local perspectives are built into the processes of consolidating sustainable peace. Gender inclusive peace is likely to be more durable.

Much as violent conflict often has devastating effects on women, it may also open new opportunities, through shattering social norms and stereotypes. Indeed, conflict transfigures and challenges existing gender norms and stereotypes and presents platforms for women to play more active roles in leadership, decision-making, peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction. A variety of gender-inclusive and affirmative action mechanisms can be used to help women overcome the obstacles that prevent them from entering politics in the same way as their male colleagues, or even more clearly ensure the election of women to legislative office, such as reserved seats, quotas within parliament or for party candidate selection, and other affirmative action inducements or requirements. These include voluntary political party quotas and constitutional and legislative quotas.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> This is based on a study of 31 peace processes between 1992 and 2011. For details, see: UN Women, 2012, "Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence," October 2012, p3.

<sup>17</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes, (2007). [www.peace-buildinginitiative.org](http://www.peace-buildinginitiative.org) (Date Accessed; 15 May 2017).

## Women's representation in peacekeeping missions



AMISOM Women Peacekeepers address the African Union Peace and Security Council on, "The role of women in protecting lives in challenging security environments in Africa" on 16 February, 2017. photo: Paschal Chem-Langhee

Peacekeeping has evolved over time, and has become multidimensional and complex. Peacekeepers now include not just military personnel, but also people who can help build new state institutions – for example judiciary and police which incorporates former rebels – as well as human rights monitors, economists, electoral observers, de-miners, legal experts and humanitarian workers.. To this end, peacekeeping is no longer concerned about the peacekeeping force being a buffer between two warring factions, but now includes a focus on peacebuilding activities. When reporting on peacekeeping, it is important for gender-transformative media coverage not only to examine the activities that peacekeepers are undertaking to bring peace. It is equally important to spotlight the gender issues, especially the quantitative and qualitative representation of women in peace support operations and peacekeeping missions.

## Women combatants coming back home

When reporting on women combatant's returning home, the first step is to accept that women combatants are not a homogeneous group. The category of women combatants includes wives, widows, child soldiers and female orphans of borne by combatants. The return of women from playing a combatant role is often met with challenges, including rejection by their families, lack of employment opportunities for women as well as post-traumatic stress. Mazurana and Carlson (2008) highlight that in Sierra Leone, women and girls made up a large part of rebel forces, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).<sup>18</sup>

During the conflict in Sierra Leone, female combatants sometimes experienced challenges such as sexual violence and rape. However, women in Sierra Leone played a huge role in the reintegration process of ex-combatants, particularly those excluded from official programs. Women from the community provided guidance and helped facilitate their skills training, apart from being role models for many of the female ex-combatants.<sup>19</sup> When reporting about returnees, it is crucial to be sensitive to the gender notions and relations, and examine how these influence DDR programmes and policies. For example, non-fighting or civilian women normally receive greater attention than female combatants during post-conflict reconstruction because they correspond to the image of peace-loving women.

The following table provides a summary of areas of focus for reporters as well as specific questions to address when engaging on reporting on various peace and security issues around the conflict cycle:

<sup>18</sup> Mazurana, D. and Carlson, 2008. From Combat to Community: Women and Girls of Sierra Leone, *Feminist Review* (April 2008), Volume 88, Issue , pp 54–73

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

Table 8: Focus areas for reporters in the conflict spectrum and the gender-considerations

<b>Fragile situations, building up of tensions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories of women-led initiatives on conflict prevention and social cohesion.</li> <li>• Role of women in countering violent and extremist rhetoric.</li> </ul>
<b>Conflict situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has the impact of the conflict been on gender roles: has there been an increase in female heads of households?</li> <li>• Are women particularly affected by the violence? What are their main concerns?</li> <li>• Are there women mediating for peace at different levels (local, national, regional etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Women's political participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the roles of women in politics in conflict, fragile and post-conflict societies?</li> <li>• What opportunities exist for women to play more meaningful roles in decision making in politics?</li> <li>• What is the proportion of women in politics in countries with quotas compared to countries which do not have quotas?</li> </ul>
<b>Peace negotiations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the roles of women peace processes?</li> <li>• How women are represented in negotiation and mediation processes?</li> <li>• What strategies are women adopting to ensure that their issues, concerns and perspectives are incorporated in dialogues and negotiations for peace?</li> <li>• What are the gains that women have made as a result of the settlement of the conflict?</li> </ul>
<b>Post-conflict situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the leadership roles that women are playing in post conflict situations?</li> <li>• Does the post conflict situation address gendered needs including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women combatants?</li> <li>• Are new spaces being opened for women's political and economic participation?</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention and countering violent extremism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the roles that women are playing in early warning and prevention of violent extremism?</li> <li>• How are women engaging with radicalised youths in their communities?</li> <li>• What strategies are women using to counter violent extremist narratives?</li> <li>• What are the various roles of women in the countering of violent extremism?</li> </ul>
<b>Peacekeeping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the proportion of women in a particular peacekeeping missions?</li> <li>• Gender-responsiveness of the peacekeeping activities.</li> </ul>



<b>Elections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the proportion of women participating in elections as candidates, voters and party agents?</li> <li>• How are women being affected by political violence?</li> <li>• What are the opportunities and entry points that women are using to advance and strengthen their leadership roles in politics?</li> </ul>
<b>Displacement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the percentage of women who are affected by displacement?</li> <li>• What are the experiences of women in IDP camps?</li> <li>• What are the specific needs and concerns being raised by women in IDP camps?</li> <li>• How are women demonstrating leadership and resilience even under adverse situations of displacement?</li> </ul>
<b>Peace Agreements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are women's issues presented in peace agreements?</li> <li>• Do peace agreements take into cognisance women's concerns, including their right to political participation?</li> <li>• Are peace agreements written in gender-sensitive and transformative language, making provisions to address women's gendered needs?</li> </ul>

## Media: Part of the problem or part of the solution?



### Debate

- What is the media's role in conflict situations? Is the media's role to be a neutral conveyor of the facts, to explore the deeper structural causes, and or to try to bring peace?
- Is it to convey the views and voices of the warring factions and their mediators? Or the views and voices of those affected?
- Has the media in Africa failed its citizens in conflict zones, or helped to amplify their voices?
- With reference to a conflict situation you are familiar with, have a debate in your newsroom or with your peers on this topic. Which side presents the more convincing evidence?

## Peace journalism

Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) posit that peace journalism is "when editors and reporters make choices of what stories to report and how to report them that create opportunities for society at large to consider and value non-violent responses to conflict."<sup>20</sup> It encompasses a process whereby reporters actively and reflexively make conscious decisions about the stories they cover, and the angles from which they cover them, by specifically harnessing their journalism skills to further positive societal goals. Peace journalism acknowledges that reporters not only have the mandate to present the conflict as it is, but that they should also consciously examine the causes and the diverse manifestations of the conflict.

When reporting about conflict, peace journalism underscores the importance of setting the context, which means that reporters should give as much background about the conflict as

20 Lynch, Jake and A. McGoldrick. (2005) *Peace Journalism*, Stroud: Hawthorn Press

possible. Peace Journalism uses transformative conflict analysis frameworks to report on conflict and peace initiatives. Coverage extends from traditional topics of conflict reporting to peace initiatives, non-violent mass actions and the peace movement. Furthermore, focus is placed on the connection and linkage between the way stories are reported and their impact on human interactions, relations and achievement of sustainable peace. Reporters adopting peace journalism as a framework and approach will endeavour give voice to all parties in the conflict, and to ensure that their audiences a fair coverage of non-violent approaches to conflict.

Peace journalism stems from the belief that *“the choices journalists make when they are reporting about conflicts affect not only our understanding of the conflict – but also what we perceive to be the solution.”*<sup>21</sup> Howard (2004) argues that, peace journalism does not necessarily reduce conflict but that it seeks to go beyond an obsession with violence towards increased focus on peace-promoting processes and initiatives. Howard (2004) notes that *“the objective of peace journalism is to present accurate and impartial news, with the intention of reducing and resolving the conflict is.”*<sup>22</sup>

Galtung and Lynch (2010)<sup>23</sup> underscore that peace journalism explores the backgrounds and contexts of conflict formation, enabling for the understanding of the history and causes of the conflict. Furthermore, peace journalism seeks to give voice to the views of all rival parties, from all levels and engages a diverse range of actors. In addition, peace journalism provides options to the conflict parties and offers creative ideas for conflict resolution, peacemaking and peacekeeping. Peace journalism is not

necessarily synonymous with being bling to transgression and violations. It exposes inequities, lies and cover-ups as well as culprits on all sides. It also reveals excesses committed by all parties including the suffering inflicted on civilians. A key feature of peace journalism is its focus on the resolution of conflict, and therefore it pays attention to peace stories and post-war developments.”<sup>24</sup>

The following Table provide an outline of what the media can do to promote peace, and the kinds of gendered questions that can be asked in efforts to implement peace journalisms:

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21 Kvinna till Kvinna, Peace journalism, How media reporting affects wars and conflicts (Goteborg, 2013) available online at: <http://kvinna-tillkvinna.se/en/files/qbank/b139aeda1c2914e3b579aafd3ceeb1bd.pdf>

22 Galtung, Johan and Lynch (2010). *Reporting Conflict: New Directions in Peace Journalism*, Queensland: University of Queensland Press.

23 <https://www.transcend.org/tms/about-peace-journalism/1-what-is-peace-journalism/>

24 Howard Ross, Conflict Sensitive Journalism, A handbook, International Media Support & Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society, (Denmark, 2004) available online at: <https://www.mediasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ims-csj-handbook-2004.pdf>

Table 9: Media's Role in Promoting Peace

What the media can do to promote peace	Key gender questions
<b>1. Channelling communication:</b>	
The news media is often the most important channel of communication that exists between the different sides of the conflict. Sometimes the media is used by one side to broadcast their view of the situation or even intimidating messages. However, other times, the parties speak to each other through the media, in some cases even through specific journalists.	Does the media provide different parties opportunities to express their opinions? Are women's views and concerns reflected and projected in this process? Does the media provide both men and women with opportunities to express their views? Does the media provide different analytical lens to the conflict?
<b>2. Educating:</b>	
Each side needs to know about the other side's difficulty in moving towards reconciliation. Journalism which explores each side's particular difficulties, such as its politics or powerful interests can help educate the other side to avoid demands for simplistic and immediate solutions.	Where do women stand on peace building and reconciliation? Are their views and voices heard? What are the challenges and dilemmas that women confront in peacemaking and conflict resolution processes?
<b>3. Confidence-building:</b>	
Lack of trust is a major factor contributing to conflict. The media can reduce suspicion by digging into hot issues and revealing them so there are no secrets to fear. Good journalism can also present news that shows resolution is possible by giving examples from other places and by explaining local efforts at reconciliation.	Can women play a role in building trust where it has broken down? What role can the media play in building confidence between men and women in society, in pursuit of peace? How can the media play a role in highlighting success stories of local efforts at reconciliation?
<b>4. Correcting misperceptions:</b>	
By examining and reporting on the two sides' misperceptions of each other, the media encourages disputing sides to revise their views and move closer to reducing conflict.	How can the media play an educational role, especially to demystify misperceptions regarding men and women's roles and experiences in conflict? Where do women stand in the conflict? What are the differences in perspectives and opinions between men and women regarding a conflict? Are there any issues that women agree upon? What are opportunities or entry points that the media can use to encourage disputing sides to have similar opinions towards the need to reduce conflict?
<b>5. Making the other human:</b>	
Getting to know the other side, giving them names and faces, is an essential step. This is why negotiators put the two sides in the same room. Good journalism also does this by putting real people in the story and describing how the issue affects them.	How can the media go beyond reporting on conflict towards humanising the people who experience the conflict? How are the women and children who are often those most affected by conflict presenting their perspectives? Are their views and voices heard? How can journalism ensure that the issues of real people affected by conflict are effectively incorporated in their story?
<b>6. Identifying underlying interests:</b>	

In a conflict both sides need to understand the bottom-line interests of the other. Good reporting does this by asking tough questions and seeking out the real meaning of what leaders say. Good reporting also looks beyond the leaders' interests and seeks the larger groups' interest.	Does the conflict provide an opportunity to address some of the underlying inequalities, i.e. enhancing women's access to decision-making and resources in the peace agreement? How does the media reporting present an opportunity to highlight existing inequalities in society, especially with regards to decision-making in peace processes? What are the underlying interests of leaders and conflict parties?
<b>7. Emotional outlet:</b>	
In conflict resolution, there must be outlets for each side to express their grievances or anger or they will explode in frustration and make things worse. The media can provide important outlets by allowing both sides to speak. Many disputes can be fought out in the media, instead of in the streets, and the conflict can be addressed before it turns violent.	What are the potential platforms and outlets for conflict parties to express their grievances in a non-violent manner? How can the media provide nonviolent platforms for parties to air their grievances without necessarily fuelling the conflict? Are women's views and voices reflected in this process?
<b>8. Framing the conflict:</b>	
In a conflict, describing the problem in a different way can reduce tension and launch negotiations. In good journalism, editors and reporters are always looking for a different angle, an alternative view, a new insight and can help reframe conflicts for the conflict parties. Reframing refers to changing the way an issue is articulated, or the way a problem is presented.	How can raising gender questions help to reframe the story? How can reporters present the issues regarding the conflict, while erasing the polarising and emotional language? How can reporters present issues regarding a conflict in an open-minded, constructive manner?
<b>9. Face-saving, consensus-building:</b>	
When conflict parties try to resolve a conflict they must calm the fears of their supporters. By reporting what they say, the media allows leaders in a conflict to conduct face-saving and consensus-building, even reaching to refugees and exiles in far-away places.	How can women be part of the consensus-building?
<b>10. Solution-building:</b>	
In a conflict, the conflict parties must eventually present specific proposals to respond to grievances. On a daily basis, good reporting does this by asking the disputing parties for their solutions instead of just repeating their rhetoric of grievances. Good journalism is a constant process of seeking solutions.	How can the media, through its reporting provide a platform to seek solutions to the conflict? Given the complexity of conflict, how can good reporting ensure that women are presented as being part of the solution? What stories can the media present to demonstrate the agency of women in addressing conflict? Does the media seek for solutions to the conflict from men and women?
<b>11. Encouraging a balance of power:</b>	
Conflicting groups, regardless of inequalities, have to believe they will be given attention if they meet the other side in negotiations. Good journalism encourages negotiation because the reporting is impartial and balanced. It gives attention to all sides. It encourages a balance of power for the purpose of hearing grievances and seeking solutions.	Are women given a seat at the negotiating table? Where women are not effectively represented in peace processes, how can the media spotlight this and bring it to the attention of conflict parties and mediators?

Source: Adapted from Howard (2004). *Conflict Sensitive Journalism Handbook*



## Peace journalism and the women's movement



### Activity

#### Activity

Assess the extent to which the needs, views and voices of women and men, boys and girls have been taken into account **in any article you have written**. You can also refer to any article that you have read which covers conflict to assess the extent to which it takes into accounts the needs of women, men, boys and girls.



### Quick Facts

According to the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, "Peace journalism and the women's movement share criticism of the prevailing conventions for conflict reporting and have both criticised the disparate gender balance within the media. Feminists have been talking for a long time about how the media's gender imbalance connects with peace and sustainable development. In 1995, the UN Conference on women's rights in Beijing established that the media is one of the twelve most important areas in need of review in order to work towards achieving global gender equality. 189 countries out of the 193 members in the UN signed an agreement to work to promote more female journalists and to resist gender stereotypes in the media."<sup>25</sup>

## Checklist for peace journalism<sup>26</sup>

The above section has highlighted what peace journalism entails and what its objectives and goals are. The section below provides a much more practical approach to peace journalism, and seeks to encourage reporters to think through a list of checklist that they need to

consider in order to be effectively undertaking peace journalism. This checklist is adapted from the article written by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (2015).<sup>27</sup>



### Questions

- "Report all sides of the story – not just the two sides in the conflict. Find the missing voices.
- Go beyond the elites – find what "ordinary people" – women, men, boys and girls are saying.
- Don't only report on what divides. Ask what unites?
- Avoid being one sided in coverage of suffering. Treat all suffering as newsworthy.
- Be careful in the choice and use of words such as "devastated", "tragedy" and "terrorist", "extremist" or "fanatic". Use these loaded words only if they are part of a quote.
- Avoid emotional and imprecise words such as massacre, assassination and genocide.
- Draw the line between facts and opinions.
- Avoid waiting for leaders to come up with solutions. Seek out solutions from all sources and put them to leaders. Help "set the agenda".

<sup>25</sup> Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation Gender and Conflict Sensitive Journalism Handbook. (2015) Available online at: <http://kvinnaatillkvinna.se/wp-content/uploads/qbank/b7b70189b9698f6213f2799fb12925e2.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation Gender and Conflict Sensitive Journalism Handbook. (2015) Available online at: <http://kvinnaatillkvinna.se/wp-content/uploads/qbank/b7b70189b9698f6213f2799fb12925e2.pdf>



Monitoring the media during the workshop in 2016 that informed this handbook. From left Emrakeb Asefa, Rosebell Kagumire and Prince Charles Dickson, 19 October 2016. Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

## CHAPTER THREE:

# GENDER, MEDIA, PEACE AND SECURITY

## Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This chapter looks into the representation of women in conflict reporting, and seeks to identify the patterns in the portrayal of issues and experiences affecting women in conflict and fragile situations. By undertaking a reflection on the portrayal and representation of women in reporting, this chapter will support the reader in thinking through and undertaking courses of actions to ensure that their reporting will be more attuned to gendered disparities in peace and conflict situations.

The chapter has the following specific objectives and learning outcomes:

- To examine the representation of women and men in the media;
- To analyse how women are generally portrayed and represented in the media, and especially identify the patterns of gender inequality and discrimination
- To reflect on ways in which the media can adopt a gender-transformative approach towards representing men and women in conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations

## Where are women and men in the media?

Reflecting on the gendered representation of men and women in peace and conflict is an important endeavour. Not only does this allow for an examination of patterns of inequality and discrimination but also it compels the undertaking of policy and practical measures to address these resultant inequalities.



### Activity

Read the following statement and reflect on the questions that follow:

*“War is often considered a male topic. It deals predominantly with male politicians and male soldiers – and male correspondents report about it. In war, military and masculinity also traditionally share the same stereotypical concepts, such as strength, aggression and physical stamina”*<sup>28</sup> (Schiesser (2002: 48)

- Do you agree with the statement? To what extent are these stereotypes of war, the military and masculinity in your own newsroom? How do you deal with these stereotypes?



### Activity / Exercise

Study the table below on women in the media from the International Media Women’s Foundation (IWMF) findings of women and men in 15 African countries.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Gender, media and military. The construction of female stereotypes in the representation of female soldiers in the print media of the German Bundeswehr (pp. 47-61). In *Contributions to feminist theory and practice*. Special edition: Women in the media.

<sup>29</sup> The 15 countries are Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe



Table 10: Women and men in Sub-Saharan Africa newsrooms in 2011

	Women	Men	Total	% women	% men
<b>Occupational level</b>					
Governance	111	282	393	28	72
Top level management	64	202	266	24	76
Senior management	811	698	1509	5	46
Middle management	98	225	323	30	70
Senior level professional	716	1585	2301	31	69
Junior level professional	655	1390	2045	32	68
Production and design	3876	4555	8431	46	54
Technical professional	1621	1711	3332	49	51
Sales, Finance & administration	504	1221	1725	29	71
Other	759	1006	1765	43	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>9215</b>	<b>12875</b>	<b>22090</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Terms of employment</b>					
Full time regular	5680	8655	14335	40	60
Part time regular	142	673	815	17	83
Full time contract	536	712	1248	43	57
Part time contract	105	188	293	36	64
Freelance	180	435	615	29	71
Other	1941	2382	4323	45	55

Source: Global Report of Women in the News Media 2011



## Questions

- What are the gender gaps in the newsrooms in this sample? Where are women most and least predominant in the media? Where are women and men in your media house?
- Does your media house have a gender policy? Does it cover the work place and editorial content?
- Is the work environment equally conducive to women and men?
- When cases of sexual harassment are reported in the newsroom, how are they addressed?

In general, the gender gaps in media are caused by various factors, including the limited access to training opportunities for female researchers as well as the challenges faced by female reporters in the conduct of their work, which

include sexual harassment and discrimination, among others. The media itself remains male dominated, which also explains why the voices and perspectives of women experiencing conflict and fragility is underwhelming. The status of women in the media requires some positive shift to enable a more inclusive portrayal of the conflict and post-conflict landscape.



## Debate and reflection

In your newsroom or with peer group, debate the topic: "it makes no difference to the coverage of war and peace whether reports are women or men." Do women and men see the world differently? Do they bring their perceptions to their job as reporters? Are there circumstances in which women or men are better placed to cover conflict stories? Is it important for women reporters to be equally represented in this beat?





## Quick Facts

As in the rest of the world generally, the media in many African countries is a heavily male dominated arena. A report by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) in 2011 on women in the media workforce shows that women are grossly under-represented in the media. There is a gendered division of labour in media houses which dictates news practices. Women often cover soft news beats compared to hard news beats covered by men. This affects what is reported and whose opinion is consulted on as research shows that women journalists are likely to interview more female sources. It also affects portrayal of women in the media. This is also exacerbated in reporting conflict. Historically women have been sidelined from conflict reporting. Frohlich (2015), cited in Boller (2016) notes that "female war correspondents are still the exception rather than the rule."<sup>30</sup>

Having more women in newsrooms does not necessarily translate into a higher proportion of women's views and voices being consulted. This depends not only on where women are located in the decision-making structures, but also on the vision, values and editorial policies of the media house as well as the capacity and understanding of the women reporters' on gender roles and inequalities

However, having more women reporters covering war and unstable zones could assist in getting more women talking in the media about their lived experiences and change the narrative of war being told from a male perspective. Hamann (2010), (cited in Boller (2016) argues that, "female war correspondents do not write differently, but that they potentially write different stories. Hamman further notes it is

important for women to also report about war so that they can bring in a different perspective. She adds that having more female reporters in war zones could promote more peace journalism by allowing for a gendered approach to the impact of the violence. Furthermore, Barnett (2012) argues that in some conflict affected Muslim countries that have strict cultural and religious regulations about who people engage with, it is possible to find that women and children only feel comfortable opening up to women reporters as they are not allowed to be seen talking to men outside of their families.<sup>31</sup>

## Gender in news content



### Activity / Exercise

#### *Finding women and men in the news*

Make use of newspapers you have at hand and count the number of images of women and men that appear and take note of the different roles they are portrayed in. Include group photos if you are able to determine the gender of those depicted. Include advertisements, and make a note of whether there is any difference in the proportion and roles of women in adverts as opposed to news content. Using the table below, make a special note of any images in stories on conflict. How do the results for this topic differ from other news topics?

30 Boller, Eva, (2016). "There are no Women. The war in Libya in TV news" in Berit von der Lippe and Rune Ottosen (Eds). *Gendering War and Peace Reporting. Some insights – Some missing links*, Goteborg :University of Gothenburg.

31 "The unique advantage of female war reporters in Muslim countries," by Emma Barnett, *The Telegraph*, 2 November 2012 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/9692810/The-unique-advantage-of-female-war-reporters-in-Muslim-countries.html> (Date Accessed, 2 June 2017)

Table 11: Finding Women in the News

Publication	No of images women	No of images men	Total	% women	% men	Roles of women	Roles of men
<b>Total</b>							
<b>Conflict stories</b>							
<b>Total</b>							

The proportion of women to men news sources in media is comparatively low. According to The Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP, 2015), in Africa, only 22% of the people heard or read about in the news are women (compared to 24% globally).<sup>32</sup> This suggests that the news is predominantly told from a male perspective since an overwhelming majority of news sources are men.

Table 12: Women sources in Africa

	2015
<b>No of countries participating</b>	32
<b>% women in the news</b>	22%
<b>% women sources in politics and government</b>	16%
<b>% women sources Economy</b>	19%
<b>% Women sources sciences and health</b>	37%
<b>% women sources social and legal</b>	26%
<b>% women sources crime and violence</b>	28%
<b>% women sources celebrity, Arts, Media and Sports</b>	15%
<b>% women sources other</b>	22%
<b>Women are reporters</b>	35%
<b>Women as presenters</b>	50%

Source: Global Media Monitoring Project 2015. *Who Makes the News?*

32 Macharia, Sarah (2015). *Who Makes the News*, London: The Global Media Monitoring Project. [http://cdn.agilitycms.com/who-makes-the-news/Imported/reports\\_2015/global/gmmp\\_global\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://cdn.agilitycms.com/who-makes-the-news/Imported/reports_2015/global/gmmp_global_report_en.pdf) (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

Certain categories of women receive even less attention in the media, such as elderly women, and women from minority ethnicities and religious groups, women with disabilities, working class women, and young women, among others.<sup>33</sup> Women are seldom portrayed as politicians, newsmakers, experts, business leaders, and a host of other roles in which men regularly feature - even where women have broken into non-traditional jobs and social roles. Likewise, the presentation of African women in images associated with conflict reporting is based on stereotypes often reinforcing and recreating stereotypes about women and men in society. Women are often seen as the victims who are passive and weak and/or as caregivers. In contrast, men are mostly portrayed in more active roles such as in the frontlines of war and as aggressive, strong and authoritative.

Progress toward equality in the representation of men and women in the news media has ground to a halt, according to results from the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP, 2015). The GMMP conducted research in more than one hundred countries over a period of two decades, which revealed continued severe disparity between representation of women and men in news media, indicating that the portrayal of women in day-to-day journalism does not reflect their contribution to society. Women's relative invisibility in traditional news media has also crossed over into digital news delivery platforms. The same study by GMMP notes that only 26% of the people in internet news stories and media news "tweets" combined are women.

Similarly, a review undertaken by the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security (2015) also concludes that women are virtually invisible in news reporting on peace and security, except in cases where they are being portrayed as victims of conflict. The limited presence of women in the media, and the failure of reporters to quote them or seek their perspectives and opinions

is often reflective of the social, cultural and political power imbalances in society, and the expectations that women's opinions are not significant. Furthermore, there is a tendency to believe that security and conflict issues fall within the masculine field and require the perspectives of male experts and voices. The silencing of women's voices in the media has the unfortunate outcome of negating the unique and important perspective of more than half of the world's population in issues that affect them.



## Questions

With reference to the media articles that you have written or that you have analysed, reflect on the following questions:

- In what ways does the media contribute to making women invisible in peace and security coverage?
- What is the effect of this on our understanding of the issues, and efforts to bring about peace?
- What can be done to bring about greater gender awareness and sensitivity in coverage?



## Debate and reflection

In your newsroom or peer groups, debate the topic, ***"women are naturally less likely to resort to violence than men."*** What is the evidence for or against this statement? In case you think it is true, what are the causes of it and how can women's consensus building skills be harnessed to advance peace?

A simplistic view of conflict is that which reduces the analysis into a binary perspective, the most common one being that men cause and fight the wars, and women and children are the victims. Such a reductionist approach limits our understanding of the complex causes and

33 Meena Shivdas (2000). Alternative Assessment of Women and Media based on NGO Reviews of Section J, Beijing Platform of Action, Washington DC: Women Action. <http://www.womenaction.org/csw44/altrepeng.htm> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

consequences of conflict. Christian Dietich and Clodagh Quain (2014) argue that:

*"Just as men can be more than combatants, women can be more than victims. In conflict, they can be civilians, breadwinners, peace builders and at times combatants... A focus on gender enables an analysis not just of different roles, but also different opportunities that women and men have in a given social setting. Inequality may well be a cause for conflict, but conflict also amplifies inequality. Yet such instability does not necessarily aggravate gender inequality per se. In fact its transformative impulse can provide room for those disadvantaged by gender roles to renegotiate their identities."*<sup>34</sup>



## Gender-responsive reporting

According to the Gender Links Media and Progress Study in Southern Africa (2015), *gender-responsive reporting gives voice and space to issues affecting women, and men. Instead of perpetuating stereotypes, gender-sensitive reporting accords women agency and highlights what they offer towards resolving conflicts and contributing to peace*<sup>35</sup> Gender-responsive reporting must thus go further and extend the breadth and depth of the story and to understand the differential impact of the story on men and women.

Gender-transformative reporting will ensure that women are portrayed in the media, in a balanced and fair manner. When reporting on conflict, it is important to ensure that there is a gender balance of sources, voices and perspectives. Additionally, reporters should use simple, accessible and gender-sensitive language, and should ensure that their language does not denigrate either men or women. Gender-sensitive stories are those that demonstrate an awareness of the differential impact of conflict on boys, girls, women and men. Furthermore, authors fair in the manner in which they present men, women, boys and girls in their reports, and should use their articles as platforms to challenge rather than reinforce gender stereotypes. Additionally, gender-sensitive reporting will be characterised by efforts to make use of gender disaggregated data.

The Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2015) highlights the role that the media can play a key role in advancing the WPS agenda, especially by providing comprehensive narratives on gender and

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<sup>34</sup> European Institute of Security Studies, Gender in Conflict, (November 2014). Available online at: [http://www.iss.europa.eu/uploads/me-](http://www.iss.europa.eu/uploads/media/Brief_33_Gender_in_conflict.pdf)  
[dia/Brief\\_33\\_Gender\\_in\\_conflict.pdf](http://www.iss.europa.eu/uploads/media/Brief_33_Gender_in_conflict.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Morna, Lowe Colleen, 2015. Whose News, Whose Views? Gender and Media Progress Study Southern Africa, Johannesburg: Gender Links.

women's lives in conflict and post-conflict settings; and importantly, holding states accountable.<sup>36</sup> Although more media stories are increasingly going beyond stereotypical portrayal of women solely as victims in conflict, the underrepresentation of women as subjects in peace and security reporting still remains a challenge. However, the Global Study notes that the coverage of sexual violence in conflict has contributed to galvanising international attention and the creation of international legal frameworks addressing conflict-related sexual violence. This is attributed to the increasing role of women and community-led media channels, such as the MAMA FM of Uganda, which have an important role in raising awareness on

gender equality and at the same time enabling the creation and strengthening of women's networks for peace and decision-making. The Global Study outlines therefore calls upon media outlets to commit to accurately portray women and men in all their diverse roles in conflict and post-conflict settings, including as agents of conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding. In addition, the study calls for an increase in women's representation and voice in newsrooms, in decision-making and leadership roles.

The table below gives a description of what consists gender responsive reporting versus gender blind reporting:

Table 13: Gender Sensitive Reporting versus Gender-Blind reporting

<b>Gender aware reporting</b>	<b>Gender blind/ gender biased reporting</b>
Gender balance of sources (voices), i.e. ensuring that the reporter interviews women, men, boys and girls and also recognising the diversity among groups, according to age, class, education, ethnicity etc.	Lack of gender balance in sources (voices). The article will be based only on interviews from one sex, i.e. only men, or only women. Gender blindness can also denote the failure to recognise the heterogeneity within the same group, i.e. interviewing only men of a certain age and class.
Gender neutral language (for example, chairperson n rather than chairman)	Gender biased language which denigrates women or men
Awareness of differential impact of conflict on men, women, girls and boys, including a recognition of the complexity and intersectionality of issues, e.g. paying attention to diversity of groups within a group, e.g. refugee women, female combatants, female child soldiers, survivors of sexual violence	Lack of awareness of gender dynamics, i.e. limited awareness of how conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations have differential impact on men, women, girls and boys of different classes and social situations,

36 UN Women (2015). Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2015), New York: United Nations. Available at <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf?v=1&d=20160323T192435>



Fairness in approach to issue No moralising, i.e. not judging No prejudice No ridicule No placing of blame	Biased coverage of issue Moralising for instance being judgmental Open prejudice for instance by stating women have weaker leadership skills for being women. Ridicule Placing blame for instance on rape survivors for what they were wearing at the time of the assault.
Challenges stereotypes	Reproduces and reinforces stereotypes
Gender-disaggregated data , i.e. information or data will be broken down into specific units that account for the experiences, roles and perspectives of women, men, girls and boys	Aggregated data, i.e. data regarding men, women, boys and girls will be combined or lumped together in the analysis such that it is hard to identify the experiences of men, women, girls and boys.

## Checklist for gender responsive reporting<sup>37</sup>

### “Who speaks?

- Are women’s views and voices equally sought? Are male and female subjects treated equally?
- Are a variety of sources, representing a broad spectrum of views consulted?
- Does the coverage raise critical questions as to why women are not appearing?
- To the extent some women are difficult to reach, is sufficient effort and investigative journalism seek why?

### How the story is told?

- Does the coverage reflect a holistic and realistic view of women?
- Does the story challenge or reinforce stereotypes? Are these stereotypes blatant or subtle?
- Does the story apportion blame? Does the story exonerate the perpetrator?

- Are all subjects treated with dignity? Are the experiences and concerns of women belittled?
- Is your story fair, accurate and balanced? Is there adequate context and balance and analysis, which includes going beyond the event to raise the underlying issues?

### Language

- Does the article contain language that is inclusive of men and women? For instance, are gender-neutral terms used instead of gender-biased terms?
- Are the adjectives that are used objective and relevant, and do they convey any biases or stereotypes? Does the language shun stigma and discrimination?
- Is relevant gender disaggregated data provided?
- Are women portrayed as survivors or victims? Are women portrayed as active or passive?
- Is physical description relevant to the story? Does it apply equally to men and women?

<sup>37</sup> Adapted from the Gender and Media Checklist used by Gender Links in its Centres of Excellence for Gender in the Media. For details, see: Lowe, Morna, Colleen, 2010. Gender in Media Training: A Southern African Tool Kit, Johannesburg: Gender Links

### ***Visual representation of women in the media***

- Are women and men equally represented?
- Over time, does the range of images portray women in all their diversity?
- Do images emphasise/ exaggerate physical or sexual aspects?
- Would using a different image convey a better sense of the gender relations, roles and responsibilities of men and women during the conflict and post-conflict situations?
- Does the image degrade the dignity of women?

### ***Who tells the story?***

- Do only women report on gender and women's issues in your newsroom?
- Is gender awareness and sensitivity built into all reporting requirements?
- Is gender recognised as an important factor, and is it understood to include both women's and men's concerns?
- Are sub-editors sensitised to gender as regards editorial issues?



Josiane Kouagheu, a Cameroonian journalist, covering the fight against Boko Haram, interviews a member of a vigilante group in Kerawa, a small village in the Far North region of Cameroon on the border with Nigeria, in March 2016. photo: Josiane Kouagheu

## **CHAPTER FOUR:**

# **GENDER, MEDIA ETHICS AND SECURITY IN COVERAGE OF CONFLICT**

Journalism, just like other professions, is guided by ethical principles. With the multitude of sensitivities surrounding conflict reporting, gender-sensitive ethical guidelines are essential to reporting this topic. This chapter explores what is meant by media ethics and their gender dimensions and guides the user in assessing stories and images using these principles. It also discusses the rights of journalists, especially women journalists, covering conflict.

### Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The chapter of the handbook defines media ethics, and provides an outline of the key principles of journalism, including examples of ethical guidelines that should be applied when covering stories in conflict, post-conflict and fragile environments. It also includes a checklist of things that a reporter should consider before covering a story. By the end of the chapter, the reader should be able to:

- Define media ethics and provide examples of the ethical guidelines and principles which are crucial in reporting on conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations;
- Identify and apply the gender dimensions of media ethics when undertaking their work;
- Identify ways of addressing ethical dilemmas and challenges that might confront them in the process of reporting on conflict;
- Strategise on ways to ensure that their coverage of stories in conflict, post –conflict and fragile environments protect the sources; and
- Understand the sources of risk when covering conflict zones, including identifying ways of mitigating and preventing risks during the period of covering stories in unstable environments.

### What are media ethics?

Media ethics are a set of professional standards adopted by the media to guide its work, and they can be regarded as the minimum standards

which enable reporters not only to attain the highest professional standards but also to report responsibly. Media ethics reflect a genuine concern for the impact of journalism on the public and demonstrate the imperative for reporters not only to be quality conscious but also to consider the impact of news on sources, readers, communities and journalists themselves. Codes of Ethics may be regional, national, or specific to the institution.

The recognition that media reporting, no matter how well intentioned, can cause unanticipated harm to communities has spurred the adoption of ethical standards. Most ethical principles are informed by the value of respect for human dignity intrinsic value of human beings and the respect and consideration that they are due. The essence of this value is that it is unacceptable to treat individuals solely as means (mere objects or things) to an end. The welfare and integrity of the individual must take priority over all else. Media sources are generally presumed to have the ability to make voluntary and informed decisions and to have autonomy. This requires, among others, respecting every individual's ability to give or refuse their consent to participate in an interview or a news programme. The decision must be based on clear and accurate information about the foreseeable risks and potential benefits of the reporting and must not be coerced nor influenced.

According to Medie (2017), gender-sensitive and ethical peace journalism is characterised by that journalists exploring conflict transformation options, including the voices of all parties, portraying women in a diversity of roles, investigating and reporting on less visible forms of violence. Furthermore, ethical reporting recognises trauma, and takes precautions to avoid re-traumatising survivors. Journalists must provide a sensitive representation of victims, including girls and women, examine their needs and participation in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and reconstruction, and focus on the gendered structure and culture of society in their coverage.

## Five Core Principles of Journalism <sup>38</sup>

Below are some key standard ethical principles accepted in journalism practice, which have been adapted from the Ethical Journalism Network:

### Truth and Accuracy

Although journalists cannot always guarantee the 'truth', getting the facts right is the cardinal principle of journalism. Journalists need to strive for accuracy ensuring that all the relevant facts have been checked. If a reporter cannot corroborate information, they should mention this.

### Independence

Journalists must be independent voices; and should not act, formally or informally, on behalf of special interests whether political, corporate or cultural. Journalists should declare to our editors – or the audience – any of our political affiliations, financial arrangements or other personal information that might constitute a conflict of interest.

### Fairness and impartiality

Most stories have at least two sides. While there is no obligation to present every side in every piece, stories should be balanced and include context. Objectivity is not always possible, and may not always be desirable, for instance in the face of brutality or inhumanity. However, impartial reporting builds trust and confidence.

### Humanity

Journalists should do no harm, and should aim to ensure that what they publish or broadcast is not hurtful and detrimental to the lives of others.

### Accountability

The professional ethics of journalists requires that they should hold themselves accountable. When a reporter commits errors, they must correct them and our expressions of regret must be sincere not cynical.



## Debate and reflection

Reporters are often criticised for disrespecting victims and survivors of violence, sensationalising the news, choosing sides and failing to be objective in reporting news. In your newsroom or peer groups, debate the topic: *"The truth may*

*be compromised when reporters operate under pressure and uncertainty."* Is there any situation in which the failure to observe ethical standards can be justified? Why and with what effect?

## Gender dimensions of media ethics



Simulating conflict coverage during the Gender Responsive Reporting in Conflict, Post-Conflict and Fragile Settings workshop held in Addis Ababa from 18-19 October 2016. From left Fatma Ghandour, Farhia Mohamed Kheyre and Shahira Amin. Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna



## Activity

Imagine a situation in which a reporter is going to cover a conflict in an African context in which sexual assault has been used as a weapon of war, and reflect on the following questions:

- Who does the reporter go to for information?
- Assuming the survivors themselves are reluctant to talk, how does the reporter get the best first-hand account of what happened? How are the sources protected?
- What sorts of questions are asked? How appropriate are these questions?

<sup>38</sup> Ethical Journalism Network (2017), The Five Principles of Journalism. The Ethical Journalism Bulletin, London: The Ethical Journalism Network, <http://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/who-we-are/5-principles-of-journalism> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)



A useful framework for understanding what is meant by ethics is that developed by Bob Steele<sup>39</sup>, abridged in the table below. The Table below examines the different ethical

considerations and provides examples of questions to ask when analysing the gender dimensions of these ethics:

Table 14: Ethical Considerations and Gender Considerations

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	GENDER CONSIDERATIONS
<b>SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE</b>	
Inform yourself continuously.	Are you up to date on gender debates/issues? Are you well informed about how the issue affects men and women, and can you educate the public in a clear and compelling way.
Be honest, fair and courageous.	Can you be honest of your prejudices, reflect and overcome them? Can you be courageous in challenging dominant stereotypes?
Give voice to the voiceless.	Do you consciously seek out the voices of women from different levels, sectors and background? Are you ensuring that gender issues are considered together with other social markers such as age, ethnicity, nationality, class and educational background?
Hold the powerful accountable.	Do you draw attention to the differentiated impact of policy decisions on women and men? Do you address the issues of the marginalised and give voice to them?
<b>ACT INDEPENDENTLY</b>	
Guard the role of a free press in an open society.	Do you see giving equal voice to women and men as intrinsic to press freedom?
Seek out and disseminate competing perspectives.	Are you disseminating competing perspectives without being unduly influenced by those with power? Do you ensure that women are not treated as a homogenous group?
Refrain from associations and activities that may compromise your integrity or damage your credibility.	Do any of the associations you belong to exhibit or disavow sexist behaviour?
Individual responsibility/collaborative effort.	Are you willing and have you cultivated allies in your organisation for challenging gender biases in reporting?
<b>MINIMISE HARM</b>	
Demonstrate compassion for those affected by your actions.	Do you consider the impact of your reporting on the women whose stories you are covering? Do you discuss this with them?
Treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.	Do you treat women subjects/sources exactly as you would treat men subjects/sources?
Recognise that gathering and reporting information might cause harm and discomfort. Balance those negative by seeking alternatives that maximise the goal of truth telling.	Do you use a story on gender violence not just to highlight the plight of the individual concerned, but the underlying issues?

39 Steele, Bob. (2002). Guiding Principles for the Journalist, St Petersburg, Florida: The Poynter Institute, [http://www.poynter.org/content/content\\_view.asp?id=5609](http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=5609), (Date accessed, 21 June 2017)

## Gender, peace and media ethics

Gender and peace ethics are intertwined. When reporting in conflict affected settings, as in others, the cardinal principle of “do no harm” should be respected. Sources should not be exposed to any harm as a result of any interviews or the coverage.

### Questions

- Relatively speaking, between men and women, whose perspectives gets more coverage, and whose views are often interviewed stories related to peace and conflict?
- Why are women not interviewed in most stories of peace and conflict?
- When assessing media reports on conflict, are those most directly affected interviewed? If not, why not?
- What is missing from the stories and media reports on peace and conflict?
- What ethical standards, if any, are often overlooked by reporters on conflict?

## Ethical considerations when interviewing survivors of violence

Interviewing survivors of violence requires that a reporter pays particular attention to ethical issues, which include ensuring the safety and dignity of the source or the interviewee. It is of pivotal importance that in these cases reporters respect ethical standards, such as need for informed consent, privacy, confidentiality as well as the protection of the source, among others. Survivors of rape are a special category when it comes to media reporting, mostly because of the trauma that they most likely have suffered, as well as the potential risk for further re-traumatisation from the interview. Reporters should ensure that the conduct of such interview does not further expose the participant to risk and trauma.

According to the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (2013), “*Women who have suffered gender based violence are often doubly victimised: once by the perpetrator and secondly by insensitive reporting which sensationalises the violence.*”<sup>40</sup> It is the duty of the journalist to protect the survivors of gender based violence so that they do not suffer secondary victimisation at the hands of the media through gender insensitive questions and approaches, or being published without their consent.

In the digital era, telling the story in pictures is a powerful way of conveying the reality on the ground. However, pictures are not neutral, and most often they reflect certain ideological and value positions. Images can evoke emotions among those who look at them. Where these pictures are not sensitive, they might not only have detrimental effects on the viewers but can also negatively affect the understanding of situations and dignity of survivors of violence. When reporting on conflict, post conflict and fragile situations, journalists should be careful about the photos they choose, including how they are framed. Before selecting photos to accompany a report of conflict situations, reporters should first ask themselves whether these images only tell only stories of despair, but also of hope. Photography in conflict situations might play a positive role of allowing survivors to have a record of what happened during the conflict. However, photos might also have a negative impact if they tend to re-traumatise victims and survivors. Against this background, it is imperative for reporters to carefully choose their images and to ensure that they are appropriately captioned, and that subjects in the picture have willingly given their consent to have photos used.

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<sup>40</sup> Kvinna till Kvinna (2013). Peace journalism, How media reporting affects wars and conflicts, Johanneshov: Kvinna till Kvinna <http://kvinna-tillkvinna.se/en/files/qbank/b139aeda1c2914e3b579aafd3ceeb1bd.pdf> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)



## Activity

Think of a situation in which you had to compromise ethical principles because of a dangerous situation you found yourself in, and reflect on the following questions:

- Was this situation warranted? Would you have done things differently if you had a second chance?
- What factors should you have considered as a reporter when looking for the sources of information or stories on conflict?
- When interviewing survivors of violence, what steps should be taken to ensure that they are treated sensitively?
- How can reporters protect the survivors of violence and avoid the risk of their further traumatising?

## Keeping safe as Reporters

Ethical considerations have evolved to include reflections on security of reporters as well as sources. The adage, “*No story is worth dying for*”, reminds journalists to take care. Although both male and female journalists working in conflict situations face threats to their security, the risks on female journalists are often more. For instance, in many cases, female journalists are more exposed to the risks of being murdered, assaulted, threatened or defamed. Many female reporters face not only the challenges of reporting in a hostile environment, but they also confront cultural and social prejudices that silence women and prevent them from talking about their experiences of violence. Furthermore, female journalists reporting in locations that are unstable and in socio-political

turmoil also face the risk of becoming specific target of violence. There are at least four different ways in which violence against women journalists occurs.<sup>41</sup>

- During the course of reporting dangerous events such as wars and conflict zones where a woman journalist, much like a male journalist, simply finds herself in a dangerous context.
- While meted out on occasion to male journalists, this form of violence is preponderantly acted out against women. An example is sexual harassment.
- State-sponsored violence in the form of arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and torture of journalists, amongst whom number many women.
- Trolling and other forms of sexualised hate speech that women encounter on the internet

Given the hazards that women journalists face in covering conflict as reflected, it is important for reporters to be conscious and careful when covering volatile environments. According to the UNESCO Handbook for reporters in high-risk environments (2015), the primary responsibility for reporters’ safety rests upon the journalists themselves, either individually or collectively.<sup>42</sup> To this end, journalists have the responsibility of taking care of their security, including ensuring that they conduct prior research as much as possible about the place they intend to go and cover their story. This requires reporters to find out about things such as security and social, political and health conditions, as well as the climate, media freedom and infrastructure. Reporters have to familiarise themselves with the culture, customs and expected codes of dress and behaviour for the place they will be reporting from.

41 Sreberny, Annabelle (2014). “Violence against women journalists,” in *Media and gender: a scholarly agenda for the Global Alliance on Media and Gender*, Paris: UNESCO [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/publications/gamag\\_research\\_agenda\\_sreberny.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/publications/gamag_research_agenda_sreberny.pdf) (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

42 UNESCO. 2015. Safety Guide for Journalists: Handbook for reporters in high-risk environments, Paris: UNESCO <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002439/243986e.pdf> (Date Accessed: 2 June 2017)

This information can be sourced from journalists who have already been to such places, or from local contacts such as Diplomats or Country Representatives or UN contacts who live in that country. In addition, humanitarian workers, researchers, more experienced journalists as well as journalist associations can also provide useful and contextual information prior to the mission. Prior research about the place one is going facilitates more cohesive processes of integrating and fitting in. Furthermore, journalists should stay in safe places where they cannot be tracked by assailants or attacked.

When covering armed conflict in close range, sometimes journalists become 'embedded' within an armed group for the purposes of getting protection. This armed group can be the military unit or rebel group. However, this has the danger especially when this group is attacked by the other party.

### **Checklist on security for journalists**

The following questions will help journalists to ascertain their safety and the levels of precaution they need to take before embarking on coverage of particular conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations. This checklist of questions is adapted from the UNESCO Handbook for reporters in high-risk environments (2015):

- Does the reporters know enough the place that you are going to cover?
- Is the subject or issue worthy enough to justify the risks that will be taken?
- What are the potential risks and what measures are in place to address these risks?
- Is the reporter physically and psychologically ready to embark on this trip and cover this issue?
- Has the reporter undertaken some risk assessment and put in place some measures

to be able to contact their news desk, family and friend?

- Are the risk mitigation measures likely to be effective and successful?
- Are there alternative ways of getting the story, apart from making a trip to the risky area?
- Is the reporter aware of the laws and legal channels to follow, should they get into some challenges?
- Is the news desk/ newsroom or management aware of the anticipated risks, and are they sufficiently prepared to provide assistance should help be needed by the reporter?
- What other sources of support in the field can the reporter turn to, in case they are in danger?

### **Checklist on ethical reporting**

Journalists require guidelines to help them decide and ascertain whether they have engaged in ethical reporting. The following checklist was adapted from the Ethical Journalism Network,<sup>43</sup> and it provides a set of guidelines to help reporters improve the extent of ethical commitment in their reporting:

### **Deciding to publish or broadcast**

- Be conflict sensitive and ensure that the impact of publication will not be to incite violence.
- Avoid portraying any stereotypes
- Ask all the relevant and necessary questions, and be sensitive to their audience and temperate in use of language
- Ensure that there are diverse sources, including the voices of women, men, boys, girls and relevant minorities?

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<sup>43</sup> Adapted from Internews (2012). *Speak Up Speak Out: Toolkit for Reporting on Human Right Issues*, Washington DC: Internews. <https://www.internews.org/updates/speak-speak-out-toolkit-journalists-reporting-gender-and-human-rights-issues> (Date Accessed: 16 May 2017)

- Ensure that the article meets the standards set in editorial and ethical codes

## **Context and gender awareness**

- Deepen both the journalist's and the audience's understanding of the context (historical, social, political economic) of the story
- Consult the relevant legislation and policy frameworks related to the story?
- Avoid information which is perceived as reinforcing sexism in the media or which result in women being marginalised.
- Recognise and advance the advisory role of the media and its capacity to assist communities in understanding social and economic problems.
- Explore the link between gender and other issues: relations of power within the media have to be thought through within the paradigms of gender, but also of race, age and class.

## **Conducting sensitive interviews**

- Treat everyone with respect and communicate the message that you are trustworthy, honest, and non-threatening. Avoid being judgemental in your language, terminology and tone.
- Do not expose your subjects to the risk of undergoing further abuse, secondary victimisation
- Provide the bigger picture and contextualise your story to help the reader to understand the legal, social, economic and political factors at play.
- Examine the legal implications, and familiarise yourself with the national, regional and international protocols and legal frameworks on violence

- Use your story to highlight that violence against women is a broader societal problem which affects both genders, and requires women and men to collaboratively solve the problem
- Avoid stereotypes by portraying women and men in simplistic terms, e.g. women as passive victims and men as brutal perpetrators of violence
- Ensure that your story incorporates a diversity of voices and perspectives to tell the story, and not just focus on the voices and perspectives of the elite or the voices of those in power;

## **Choosing images**

- Ensure that the images you use to accompany the story are helpful towards addressing the issue
- Ensure that readers or viewers will not be offended by graphic images of the violence
- Ensure that the rape survivor does not suffer more because of the details and images that you choose
- Create and nurture a "visual language of tolerance, diversity and equality" in the media".





Day of the African Child; Inter-generational Dialogue at a Refugee Camp in Gambella, Ethiopia. Young people engaged with authorities on the theme, "Conflicts and crises in Africa: Protecting all children's rights", on 16 June, 2016. photo: Kameni Yannick

## **CHAPTER FIVE:**

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# **NEW MEDIA, GENDER, PEACE & SECURITY**

## Introduction

New media offers many possibilities for enhancing peace by giving greater voice to those affected, especially women, who can find safe spaces to express themselves on such platforms. New media has promoted the rise of citizen journalism, as ordinary people not only become generators of information, but also can be facilitators of public discourse. Socio-economic and political circumstances, especially the ones caused by exclusion, often mean that fewer women than men have access to these platforms. New media can also be a double-edged sword for women's rights. Much as women can claim this space to make their voice count, it is also a space that can be used to fuel violence, conflict and misogyny. This chapter explores how reporters can seek to maximise the benefits of new media for gender-sensitive conflict reporting, while helping to reduce the negative effects.

## Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This chapter provides an analysis of the growing role of social media in journalism, as well as the examination of how social media can be used to strengthen gender-transformative and conflict-sensitive reporting in conflict post-conflict and fragile situations. The chapter will fulfil the following objectives:

- Define the concept of social media, and outline its expansive nature;
- Provide an outline of the various sources and websites for social media news and updates
- Discuss the advantages, risks and dilemmas of using social media for reporting in conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations;
- Examine how women are represented in online media and social media spaces;

- Provide a platform for reporters to reflect on how social media affects their work;
- Provide tools and strategies, including checklists for using social media in the generation of reports during conflict, post-conflict and fragile situations



## Quick Facts

### Social media definition

Although there are definitional challenges due to the convoluted nature of the scholarship on this phenomenon and the massive types and forms of these emerging types of media, the concept of social media generally refers to digital technologies which emphasise user-generated content or interaction (Caleb and Hayes, 2014). Social media tools and technologies allow for the creating and sharing of information, ideas, interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks.<sup>44</sup> In general, social media facilitate digital communication, networking, collaboration and interaction. Howard and Parks (2012), in their definition of social media, posit that this type of media comprises of three elements, namely, *“the information infrastructure and tools used to produce and distribute content; the content that takes the digital form of personal messages, news, ideas and cultural products; and the people, organisations, and industries that produce and consume digital content”* (Howard and Parks, 2012, 362).<sup>45</sup> Some of the most popular social media websites or platforms include *Facebook, WhatsApp, Tumblr, Instagram, Twitter, Baidu Tieba, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Gab, Google, YouTube, Viber, Snapchat, Weibo and WeChat*, among several others. A key characteristic of social media is the capacity not only to promote interaction, but also to

44 Carr, Caleb, T and Hayes, Rebecca. (2014). Social Media: Defining, Developing, and Divining, *Atlantic Journal of Communication*. (April 2014), Vol 23 (1), 1-43.

45 Howard, P. N., & Parks, M. R. (2012). Social media and political change: Capacity, constraint, and consequence. *Journal of Communication*, (August 2012), Vol 62 (1), 359-362



enable users to create and generate content and sometimes to provide feedback, usually in real-time. Caleb and Hayes (2014, p8) further proffer that “*social media are Internet-based, disentrained, and persistent channels of mass personal communication facilitating perceptions of interactions among users, deriving value primarily from user-generated content; and.... allow users to opportunistically interact and selectively self-present, either in real-time or asynchronously, with both broad and narrow audiences who derive value from user-generated content and the perception of interaction with others.*”

Key issues to note from the definition above is that social media are online-based, and occupy the broader realm of electronic and internet media, and are not necessarily confined to web-based application. Furthermore, social media are more moving away from web-browser based functions to other forms of real-time interaction and exchange of ideas. Such platforms that are not necessarily we-based include organisations’ intranet facilities and file transfer protocols (FTPs), which do not necessarily rely on world-wide web approaches to share information. Including these elements in social media is critical because it demonstrates how fluid and diverse these new media are.

### Where are women in online media?

The Global Media Monitoring Project 2015 included monitoring of online media. 32 African countries participated in the one-day monitoring exercise in 2015. Table 5.1 below summarises the key findings for online media in Africa.

Table 15: Women in online news in the 2015 GMMP

Parameter (Africa only)	Percentage women online	Percentage women mainstream
No of countries participating	32	32
Women are content producers	41%	35%
% women in the news	19%	22%
% women sources in politics and government	32%	16%
% women sources economy	9%	19%

Source: Global Media Monitoring Project 2015



### Questions

- The statistics show that there is a higher proportion of African women producing content online (41%) than in the mainstream media (35%). Why do you think this is so?
- Women constitute an even lower proportion of sources in news stories online (19%) than in mainstream news (22%) in Africa. Why do you think this is so?
- Women comprise a higher proportion of sources in online news stories on politics and government (32%) than mainstream media (16%) yet a lower proportion (9% compared to 19%) in stories on the economy. Why do you think this is so?
- How is new media affecting your way of working? Is it enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of your work? Does it pose any threats or dangers? How can new media in Africa be more effectively harnessed for peace journalism?

## Citizen journalism and mass mobilisation

Social media tend to be interactive, allowing instant responses and iterative participation of citizens in decision-making processes and public dialogues. This ultimately leads to vibrant and real-time forms of grassroots activism and citizen engagement. Complementing traditional forms of media, digital forms of media have amplified the voices of individuals and groups who were previously under-represented in political discourses. The interplay between new and mainstream media is reflected in the “Arab Spring” uprisings that arose independently and spread across the Arab world in 2011. The uprisings in support of democracy originated in Tunisia in December 2010 and quickly took hold in Egypt, Algeria, and Libya in North Africa before spreading to Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. In Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, social media such as Twitter, blogs and Facebook, were vehicles for spreading the flame of revolution during the ‘Arab Spring’. Mobile phones and Internet-based technologies were used to publicly state citizens’ demands, call for demonstrations, and to win support from the broader population. New media opened the public sphere to Arab women and made it easier and in some cases possible for them to participate in the uprising without being seen as breaking any of their society’s social codes.

## The downside of social media

Like the mainstream media, new media has the potential to be part of the solution as well as part of the problem. Although these new media have democratised the spaces for citizens to generate news and to access information quickly, the reality is that some new media sources are often difficult to authenticate. The fact that some of the new media often operate outside

mainstream media, can downgrade them as legitimate sources of confirmable knowledge. Ultimately, without much institutional regulation such as journalistic associations, the conduct of the new media is difficult to regulate when privileges are abused.

Furthermore, new media can be manipulated by oppressive governments to side-line alternative views and even trace journalists disseminating divergent views. Journalists’ efforts to report divergent views may be thwarted by online surveillance by governments and insurgent groups, leading to self-censorship. Female journalists using new media to report their stories tend to face dangers of stalking and harassment. A global study by the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) reports that 25 per cent of violence and the harassment of women in news media occurs in an online environment and this is usually through sexual harassment<sup>46</sup>.

The Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2015) notes that one of the challenges of social media relates to online harassment and cyberbullying. Modern media technologies are also used by extremist groups and cyberbullies to encourage violence against women and a rollback in women’s rights.

Overall, while new media offers opportunities for the democratisation of reporting, it is not always without challenges. As a result of the lack of rigorous application of journalistic ethical standards in new media, the tendency for this platform to be abused is high. Nonetheless, new media use must be accompanied by verification. Since most of it is uncontrolled it is easily abused. Not everything posted on social media sites is necessarily true. The world is battling a trend of “fake news”.

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46 Alana Barton and Hannah Storm, Women in the News Media: A global picture. (International Women’s Media Foundation, 2014). Available online at : <https://www.iwmf.org/our-research/journalist-safety/violence-and-harassment-against-women-in-the-news-media-a-global-picture/>



## Activity

Focusing on the “Arab Spring” which took place in the Middle East and North Africa from 2011, reflect on the following questions:

- How did new and mainstream media influence each other during the Arab Spring? What were the gains? What are the dangers?
- What challenges and opportunities are new media tools posing for reporters in your country?
- Do you think that social media is more a force for good or bad in conflict prevention and management in Africa?
- How can new media be leveraged to prevent violent conflict and encourage peace building?
- How can you as a reporter harness social media, either to gather more information for your stories, or to disseminate your stories more widely?

## Checklist for using social media <sup>47</sup>

- Use verified Facebook or Twitter accounts to get information. It is highly likely that they are authentic accounts.
- Use social media tools to cross check and verify the authenticity of information, images or videos. Tools such as TinEye or Google Image Search for example can help users clarify the time and dates a photo was taken as well as where else it has been published online.
- Check the Uniform Resource Locator (URLs) of online news sites and make sure they correspond with the title of the media house or their news page.

- Check news sources used in online news articles. Genuine news articles will usually have reachable news sources that you can research on.
- Limit the sharing of personal information on social media as this can be used to trace you.

## Concluding remarks on social media

This chapter has outlined the increasing role that social media plays in generating and defining news. While social media has been credited for democratising the media spaces and opening up the mainstream news to include perspectives of hitherto unheard voices, it remains critical for journalists to be wary of the potential pitfalls of this new media. Social media continues to evolve, thereby requiring reporters to keep up to date with the trends and developments, as well as continually critiquing the way they engage with it.

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<sup>47</sup> Claire Wardle, (2014). Verifying user generated content, in Verification Handbook: An ultimate source on digital age sourcing for emergency coverage (Maastricht Netherlands, 2014). Available online at: <http://verification-handbook.com/downloads/verification.handbook.pdf>



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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Conflict Analysis

Conflict analysis describes the practical process of examining and understanding the reality of the conflict from a variety of perspectives, while representing the relationship of all parties and stakeholders involved or connected to the issue. Conflict analysis is critical towards understanding conflict, its history, roots, causes and processes with a view to influencing resolution.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml> accessed on 2 January 2017

### Conflict prevention

Conflict prevention involves diplomatic measures to keep intra-state or inter-state tensions and disputes from escalating into violent conflict. It includes early warning, information gathering and a careful analysis of the factors driving the conflict. Conflict prevention activities may include the use of the Secretary-General's "good offices," preventive deployment of UN missions or conflict mediation led by the Department of Political Affairs.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml> accessed on 2 January 2017

### Gender

Gender refers to the social construction of roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with

being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialisation processes.

Source: UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and definitions, New York: UN Women  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

### **Gender division of labour**

This is an important concept in basic gender analysis that helps deepen understanding about social relations as an entry point to sustainable change through development. The division of labour refers to the way each society divides work among men and women, boys and girls, according to socially-established gender roles or what is considered suitable and valuable for each sex.

Source: UNESCO (2003). Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework (2002-2007): Paris: UNESCO  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf>

### **Gender analysis**

Gender analysis is a critical examination of how differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities, rights and entitlements that affect men, women, girls and boys in certain situation or contexts. Gender analysis examines the relationships between females and males and their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. A gender analysis should be integrated into all assessments or situational analyses to ensure that gender-based injustices and inequalities are not exacerbated by interventions, and that where possible, greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.

Source: UNESCO (2003). Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework (2002-2007): Paris: UNESCO  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf>

### **Gender blindness**

This term refers to the failure to recognise that the roles and responsibilities of men, boys, women and girls are assigned to them in specific social, cultural, economic, and political contexts and backgrounds. Projects, programs, policies and attitudes which are gender blind do not take into account these different roles and diverse needs. Gender blindness ignores the different experiences of men, women, boys and girls and tends to maintain the status quo. Gender blind reporting will not help transform the unequal structure of gender relations, and the contributory factors for unequal relations.

Source: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. "Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You".  
[https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E\\_learning\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E_learning_Brochure_Final.pdf)

### **Gender discrimination**

Gender discrimination is defined as: "Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Source: United Nations, 1979. 'Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women'. Article 1

### **Gender equality**

This refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognising the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully

engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development.

Source: UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and definitions  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

## Gender equity

The preferred terminology within the United Nations is gender equality, rather than gender equity. Gender equity denotes an element of interpretation of social justice, usually based on tradition, custom, religion or culture, which is most often to the detriment to women. Such use of equity in relation to the advancement of women has been determined to be unacceptable.

Sources: UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and definitions  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

## Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is the chosen approach of the United Nations system and international community toward realising progress on women's and girl's rights, as a sub-set of human rights to which the United Nations dedicates itself. It is not a goal or objective on its own. It is a strategy for implementing greater equality for women and girls in relation to men and boys. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a way to make women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

Sources: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. "Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You", ECOSOC agreed

conclusions 1997/2

[https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E\\_learning\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E_learning_Brochure_Final.pdf)

## Gender norms

Gender norms are ideas about how men and women should be and act. We internalise and learn these "rules" early in life. This sets-up a life-cycle of gender socialisation and stereotyping. Put another way, gender norms are the standards and expectations to which gender identity generally conforms, within a range that defines a particular society, culture and community at that point in time.

Source: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. "Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You: Gender Mainstreaming in the UN System."  
[https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E\\_learning\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E_learning_Brochure_Final.pdf)

## Gender roles

Gender roles refer to social and behavioural norms that, within a specific culture, are widely considered to be socially appropriate for individuals of a specific sex. These often determine the traditional responsibilities and tasks assigned to men, women, boys and girls (see gender division of labour). Gender-specific roles are often conditioned by household structure, access to resources, specific impacts of the global economy, occurrence of conflict or disaster, and other locally relevant factors such as ecological conditions. Like gender itself, gender roles can evolve over time, in particular through the empowerment of women and transformation of masculinities.

Source: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. "Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You: Gender Mainstreaming in the UN System."  
[https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E\\_learning\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E_learning_Brochure_Final.pdf)

## Gender stereotypes

A gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics

that are or ought to be possessed by, or the roles that are or should be performed by women and men. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women's and men's capacity to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and make choices about their lives and life plans. Harmful stereotypes can be both hostile/negative (e.g., women are irrational) or seemingly benign (e.g., women are nurturing). It is for example based on the stereotype that women are more nurturing that child rearing responsibilities often fall exclusively on them.

Source: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/GenderStereotypes.aspx> (Accessed 2 January 2017)

### Gender-based Violence (GBV)

GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between females and males. The nature and extent of specific types of GBV vary across cultures, countries and regions. Examples include sexual violence, including sexual exploitation/abuse and forced prostitution; domestic violence; trafficking; forced/early marriage; harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; honour killings; and widow inheritance. There are different kinds of violence, including (but not limited to) physical, verbal, sexual, psychological, and socioeconomic violence.

Source: UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and definitions, New York: UN Women <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

### Masculinity

Masculinity refers to the social meaning of manhood, which is constructed and defined socially, historically and politically, rather than being biologically driven. Masculinity defines socially constructed definitions for being a man and defines perceived notions and ideals about how men should or are expected to behave in a given setting. Definitions and portrayals of

masculinity are contextual, and can change over time and from place to place.

Source: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. "Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You: Gender Mainstreaming in the UN System." [https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E\\_learning\\_Brochure\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/E_learning_Brochure_Final.pdf)

### Patriarchy

This term refers to a traditional form of organising society which often lies at the root of gender inequality. According to this kind of social system, men, or what is considered masculine, is accorded more importance than women, or what is considered feminine. Traditionally, societies have been organised in such a way that property, residence, and descent, as well as decision-making regarding most areas of life, have been the domain of men.

Source: UN Women, OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and definitions, New York: UN Women <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

### Peace Processes

This describes various political process in which conflicts are resolved by peaceful means and includes the use of dialogue, negotiation and mediation. Peace processes include the participation of high-level political actors, elites, military people as well as middle level and grassroots level actors such as civil society and interest groups.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml> (Accessed on 2 January 2017)

### Peacemaking

Peacemaking generally includes measures to address conflicts in progress and usually involves diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement. Peacemaking involves the attempts to transform conflict from its destructive and protracted nature towards more cooperative and constructive approaches that mutually recognise and respect the other



parties. It is often applied after the conflict has manifested itself, and usually involves diplomatic efforts to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml> (Accessed on 2 January 2017)

## Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding aims to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. It is a complex, long-term process of creating the necessary conditions for sustainable peace. Peacebuilding measures address core issues that affect the functioning of society and the State, and seek to enhance the capacity of the State to effectively and legitimately carry out its core functions.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml> (Accessed on 2 January 2017)

## Sex

Sex refers to the physical and biological characteristics that distinguish males and females. Physiological differences between men and women include the fact that women get pregnant, while men produce sperm for reproduction. While these sets of biological characteristics are not mutually exclusive, they tend to differentiate humans as males and females.

Source: OCHA (2003). OCHA Gender Training Toolkit: Gender Definitions and Mandates, New York: United Nations [https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/GenderToolkit1\\_2\\_GenderDefinitionsandMandates.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/GenderToolkit1_2_GenderDefinitionsandMandates.pdf) (Accessed 21 June 2017)

## Sex-disaggregated data

Sex-disaggregated data is data that is cross-classified by sex, presenting information separately for men and women, boys and girls. Sex-disaggregated data reflect roles, real situations, general conditions of women and men, girls and boys in every aspect of society. For instance, the literacy rate, education levels,

business ownership, employment, wage differences, dependants, house and land ownership, loans and credit, debts, etc. When data is not disaggregated by sex, it is more difficult to identify real and potential inequalities. Sex-disaggregated data is necessary for effective gender analysis.

Source: UNESCO (2003). Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework (2002-2007): Paris: UNESCO <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf>

## Reintegration

This refers to the process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income. It is a political, social and economic process with an open time-frame, primarily taking place in communities at the local level.

Source: United Nations (2014). Operational Guidelines to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards, New York: United Nations <http://www.unddr.org/uploads/documents/Operational%20Guide.pdf>

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Fred. (2011). ***Journalism Ethics: A Casebook for Professional Conduct of the News Media*** (4<sup>th</sup> Edition), Society for Professional Journalists

<http://www.spj.org/ethicsbook.asp> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

This publication uses real-life case studies to demonstrate how journalism students and professionals can identify and reason through ethical dilemmas. The Casebook features a wide selection of case studies written by professional journalists, and it provides examples of thoughtful, powerful, and principled reporting. Cases where regrettable decisions have taught important lessons are also included, providing a new template for analysing moral predicaments.

**Clarke, Yaliwe. (2008). "Security Sector Reform in Africa: An opportunity to deconstruct militarised masculinities," *Feminist Africa* 10 (July 2008)**

[http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/ssr\\_africassrdeconstructmilitarisedmasc\\_clarke\\_2008\\_0.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/ssr_africassrdeconstructmilitarisedmasc_clarke_2008_0.pdf)

Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

Referring to several case studies, including Rwanda, DRC, Liberia and Sierra Leone, this article reviews the opportunities presented by post-conflict reconstruction situations for African women to advance their status in the public arena, with a focus on security sector reform. The article underlines that the military however remains one of the most contested societal institutions. The article notes the complexity of undertaking a deconstruction of masculinity because of several reasons such as the emphasis on aggressive forms of masculinity during the process of military training.

Clarke, Yaliwe and Scanlon, Helen. (2006). *Women and Peacebuilding in Africa: Assessing Six Years of UN Resolution 1325*, Cape Town: Centre for Conflict Resolution (April 2006)

[http://www.ccr.org.za/images/stories/Vol\\_9-WPA\\_Report\\_](http://www.ccr.org.za/images/stories/Vol_9-WPA_Report_)

[Final\\_Web-small.pdf](#) (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

This seminar report acknowledges the complex task of articulating women's issues in the challenging context of peace and security in Africa. It examines themes such as women's political participation as well women's engagement in peacebuilding, peacekeeping and peacemaking processes. The report identifies challenges that have resulted in the limited implementation of the peace and security agenda, including the dearth in political will as well as low levels of awareness on the linkages between gender inequality and the achievement of sustainable peace and development. The Report calls for a gender- transformative approach in all levels of the conflict spectrum.

**Fröhlich, R. Women, media, and war: The representation of women in German broadsheets between 1980 and 2000. In J. Seethaler et al (2013). *Selling war. The role of the mass media in hostile conflicts from World War I to the 'War on Terror'* (pp. 157–180). Chicago: University of Chicago Press**

This book is quoted by Howard (2004) and it discusses the influence of political and public relations on media coverage and on journalism specifically the roles that media play in the emergence or prevention, the escalation or de-escalation, the management, resolution, and reconciliation of violent conflict. It analyses the changing dynamics of conflict news content over time, and identifies the main contextual factors that influence the roles media play in conflict and peace building.

**Fröhlich, Romy. (2016). *Gender, media and security from: Handbook of Media, Conflict and Security* London: Routledge**

<https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/pdf/doi/10.4324/9781315850979.ch2>

The Handbook acknowledges the primacy of the media in not only shaping societal perspectives and discourse, but also influencing the way actors engage with conflict and attempt to resolve it. However, despite the importance of

the media's presentation of war, violent conflict and security policy, there are only very few empirical gender-sensitive studies on the topic. This explains why violence, conflict, war and security are topics that make it especially difficult to perceive women as agents or "*acting subjects*" (p26). The handbook provides tools for reporters to avoid gender-stereotypical media reports in their processes of covering war, conflict, defense policy and security.

**Galtung, Johan and Lynch. (2010). *Reporting Conflict: New Directions in Peace Journalism*, Queensland: University of Queensland Press.**

This publication provides an analysis of the trends and patterns for reporting and underscores the need for reporters to adopt a peace journalism lens. It also provides guidelines for reporting on conflict, including checklists for conflict-sensitive reporting.

Morna, Colleen, Lowe. (2001). *Whose News? Whose Views? Southern African Gender in Media Handbook*

<http://genderlinks.org.za/programme-web-menu/publications/whose-news-whose-views-southern-africa-gender-in-media-handbook-2008-08-08/> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This handbook is primarily addressed to media institutions and provides a checklist on gender-sensitive reporting for various actors in the media including managers, owners of media institutions as well as reporters. It provides suggestions on gender mainstreaming in the media and also addresses government, regulatory authorities, civil society and media training institutions.

**Morna, Colleen, Lowe. (2010). *Gender in Media Training: A Southern African Tool Kit*, Johannesburg: Gender Links**

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/files/47269/12650028681Gender\\_in\\_Media\\_Training\\_A\\_southern\\_African\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://portal.unesco.org/en/files/47269/12650028681Gender_in_Media_Training_A_southern_African_Toolkit.pdf)

[Gender%2Bin%2BMedia%2BTraining%2BA%2Bsouth-ern%2BAfrican%2BToolkit.pdf](#) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This toolkit offers practical guides on how to mainstream gender issues in media reporting, and covers a variety of issues including gender and law, gender in the newsroom as well as gender, arts and culture. A key feature of the toolkit is its focus on newsroom management and leadership and critical issues that have a bearing on conflict such as elections and electoral violence. It also gives tips and on coverage on issues of democracy, governance and development.

**Gutman, Roy and David Rieff (Eds). (1999) *Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know*, New York: Norton and Company**

[www.crimesofwar.org](http://www.crimesofwar.org) (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

This book provides a concise guide to the broken rules of war, and remains unique and essential. Contributions in the book are from distinguished experts from the media, military, law, and human rights groups who examine conflicts in light of international humanitarian law. It spotlights various case studies including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, Bosnia and Iraq, among others. It includes explanations of what is legal and what is not.

Lucy Hovil, 2014. "Why Do we continually misunderstand Conflict in Africa?," Blog Post, February 2014)

<http://africanarguments.org/2014/02/10/why-do-we-continually-misunderstand-conflict-in-africa-by-lucy-hovil/#comments>. Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

The blog post authors argues that a narrow view of causes of conflict (diagnosis) is likely to lead to ineffective prognosis and interventions, and calls for a paradigm shift to move from one dimensional portrayal of conflict towards a more nuanced and comprehensive analysis of this complex phenomenon.

**Howard, Ross. (2004). *Conflict Sensitive Journalism: A handbook*, Vancouver: International Media Support and Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS)**

<https://www.mediasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ims-csj-handbook-2004.pdf> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

The handbook targets media practitioners and its goal is to strengthen their analysis of conflict and reporting of the same. It explores the concepts of conflict and violence, and also distinguishes these concepts. The handbook outlines the role of the journalist in reporting on conflict, especially by making the public far more well-informed about the conflict beneath the violence.

**Howard, Ross. (2009). Conflict Sensitive Reporting: State of Art: A Course for Reporters Paris: UNESCO**

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001869/186986e.pdf> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This curriculum targets reporters covering conflict, post conflict, fragile and violent situations and provides practical suggestions for reporting on conflicts. The objective to strengthen the capacity of media professionals to report in a well-researched, factual and non-biased way, and without contributing to conflict or exacerbating the conflict.

Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. (2015). Gender and Conflict Sensitive Journalism Handbook

<http://kvinnatillkvinna.se/wp-content/uploads/qbank/b7b70189b9698f6213f2799fb12925e2.pdf> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

The handbook notes that women are relatively absent from media reporting on conflict, and where they are covered, the media often tends to reinforce gender biases and stereotypes, often sensationalising their role as victims. It calls for journalists and others who report on war and peace strive to understand conflicts in a larger contexts, and outlines a 7-point action plan for conflict-sensitive journalism. The handbook provides practical suggestions for rebalancing the reporting of conflicts, countering the distorting influence of unexamined war journalism.

**International Crisis Group. (2006). Beyond Victimhood: Women's Peacebuilding in Sudan, Congo, and Uganda. IGD Report Number 112 (June 2006)**

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm> (Date Ac-

cessed: 7 June 2017)

Analysing case studies in sub-Saharan Africa, the article moves beyond the portrayal of women as victims of violence and acknowledges their key roles in promoting peace and security. The Report therefore devotes significant attention towards examining the role of a wide array of women's organisations and women leaders that are engaged in innovative and remarkable processes of building peace in Sudan, DRC and Uganda, despite the adverse circumstances in which they find themselves.

**Internews. (2012). Speak Up Speak Out: Toolkit for Reporting on Human Right Issues, Washington DC: Internews**

[https://www.internews.org/sites/default/files/resources/Internews\\_SpeakUpSpeakOut\\_Full.pdf](https://www.internews.org/sites/default/files/resources/Internews_SpeakUpSpeakOut_Full.pdf) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

The toolkit primarily targets journalists to improve their information-gathering and reporting skills, as well as their understanding of human rights. It emphasises that in order to tackle human rights issues, a basic knowledge of human rights is necessary. It provides an outline of what human rights are, including an analysis of human right policy frameworks, including the bills of rights for women.

**KOFF and Swisspeace. (2012). "Gender and Conflict Analysis," Handout, October 2012**

[http://koff.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/koff/Publications/GENDERAnalysis\\_of\\_Conflic\\_Handout.pdf](http://koff.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/koff/Publications/GENDERAnalysis_of_Conflic_Handout.pdf)

(Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This article calls for a gendered perspective in examining the impact of conflict on men, women, girls and boys, and acknowledges that while armed conflict and violence has a negative effect on the lives and life perspectives of males and females in society, men, women, boys and girls have differential access to socio-economic and political resources during conflict and therefore their conditions, experiences and roles as well as identities are unlikely to be similar. The article concludes by presenting a step-by-step guide on

how to engage in gender analysis.

**Liebling-Kalifani, Helen et al (2011). Women War Survivors of the 1989-2003 Conflict in Liberia: The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 12(1), 1-21 (January 2011).**

<http://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/vol12/iss1/1> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This article presents a summary of the qualitative data from research carried out in post-conflict Liberia, and it provides detailed analysis of women's experiences of conflict and reveals the existence of sexual violence and torture on women. These experiences had immense impact on women's physical and psychological health. It calls on stakeholders including government and international actors to ensure that women are actively involved in relief and recovery processes, including ensuring that they have access to justice and rehabilitation processes.

**Lowe Morna, Colleen (Ed). (2001). *Whose News? Whose Views? Southern African Gender in Media Handbook*, Johannesburg: Gender Links**

<http://genderlinks.org.za/programme-web-menu/publications/whose-news-whose-views-southern-africa-gender-in-media-handbook-2008-08-08/> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This handbook is primarily addressed to media institutions and provides a checklist on gender-sensitive reporting for various actors in the media including managers, owners of media institutions as well as reporters. However, realising the need to ensure that gender mainstreaming in the media only becomes effective when it occurs across a range of related institutions, the handbook also addresses government, regulatory authorities, civil society and media training institutions.

**Lowe Morna, Colleen (Ed). (2010). *Gender in Media Training: A Southern African Tool Kit*, Johannesburg: Gender Links**

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/files/47269/12650028681Gender\\_in\\_Media\\_Training\\_A\\_southern\\_African\\_Toolkit.pdf/](http://portal.unesco.org/en/files/47269/12650028681Gender_in_Media_Training_A_southern_African_Toolkit.pdf/)

[Gender%2Bin%2BMedia%2BTraining%2BA%2Bsouth-ern%2BAfrican%2BToolkit.pdf](#) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

Edited by Colleen Lowe Morna, this Toolkit offers practical guides on how to mainstream gender issues in media reporting, including the basics of gender-sensitive reporting, gender and law, gender in the newsroom, and gender, arts and culture. A key feature of the toolkit is its focus on newsroom management and leadership, and its nuanced attention to issues such as editing, sub-editing on critical issues that have a bearing on conflict such as elections and electoral violence. It also gives tips and on coverage on issues of democracy, governance and development.

**Macharia, Sarah. (2015). *The Global Media Monitoring Project: Who Makes the News?* London: World Association of Christian Communicators**

[http://cdn.agilitycms.com/who-makes-the-news/Imported/reports\\_2015/global/gmmp\\_global\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://cdn.agilitycms.com/who-makes-the-news/Imported/reports_2015/global/gmmp_global_report_en.pdf)

(Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This report makes the conclusion that although in the decade 1995 to 2005 there was a slow but steady increase in women's visibility in the news, the following decade of 2005 to 2015 has been one of stagnation. It argues that even the new digital media (Internet and Twitter news) offer little comfort for gender-transformative reporting. This period has witnessed unequal gender power relations being entrenched and validated, and gender stereotypes being replicated and reinforced by the world's news media. This is explained by several factors including the sidelining of media issues on the margins of most policy agendas for the promotion of gender equality.

Lynch, Jake and A. McGoldrick. (2005). *Peace Journalism*, Stroud: Hawthorn Press

The book begins by noting how most coverage of conflict unwittingly fuels further violence, and then further proposes workable options for constructive and conflict-sensitive reporting, which ultimately promotes peace. The



book provides cases studies that portray the challenges of reporting in conflict situations, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Mazurana, D. and Carlson, 2008. From Combat to Community: Women and Girls of Sierra Leone, *Feminist Review* (April 2008), Volume 88, Issue 1, pp 54–73**

This article looks at how the category of female fighters in the Sierra Leone civil war (1991–2002) was interpreted by the local population and by the international humanitarian community. The challenges the gendered stereotypes of 'woman the victim' and 'man the perpetrator,' by highlighting the several roles that women played during the war including being active combatants, instigators as well as unwilling recruits. The article examines the need for an approach to DDR which recognizes that women returnees are not a homogeneous group.

**Medie, Peace. (2017). "Media coverage on gender during conflict and peace building" In Audrey S. Gadzekpo (Ed). *Conflict-Sensitive Coverage for Journalists in West Africa*, Accra: University of Ghana, Legon & African Peacebuilding Network**

<http://forums.ssrc.org/kujenga-amani/files/2017/01/conflict-sensitive-coverage.pdf> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This chapter recognises that current media reporting in Africa does not respect the commitments made in UNSCR 1325, especially as the media is characterised by an over-simplification of conflict, neglect of women and reinforcement of gender stereotypes, among other challenges. When women are covered in the media, much of the coverage highlights their role as victims. The chapter expresses dissatisfaction with the over-emphasis on "extra-ordinary" violence, to the neglect of everyday forms of violence, which also have far-reaching consequences.

**Meintjes, Sheila, et al (Eds). (2001). *The Aftermath of Women in Post Conflict Transformation*. (London and New York: Zed Books**

This book notes that contrary to thinking, the post-conflict and reconstruction period does not necessarily and automatically bring positive gains for women, and neither does it transform patriarchal gender relations. Using various case studies including Eritrea, Haiti, Nigeria, Northern Namibia, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and former Yugoslavia, among others, the authors argue that the foundations for change and gender transformation must be built before and during conflict. The authors also acknowledge that the post-conflict situation presents real opportunities for social transformation, especially efforts towards institutional strengthening and community reconciliation.

**Peacebuilding Initiative, *Women, Gender and Peacebuilding Processes* (2009).**

[www.peacebuildinginitiative.org](http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This website contains an article that examines different dimensions of gender equality and peace and also provides a short history of the growing consideration of the meaning and role of gender and gender relations in peacebuilding processes. The article analyses the different global normative frameworks on gender, peace and security. It further reviews the experiences of women across the conflict spectrum, including their experiences of violence, as well as their agency in decision making, peacebuilding, peacemaking and socio-economic recovery.

**Plumper, Thomas and Eric Neumayer, "The Unequal Burden of War: The Effect of Armed Conflict on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy." *International Organisation* (April 2006) 60 (3): 723-754**

This article is based on a rigorous analysis of the impact of armed conflict on female life expectancy relative to that of males found that over the entire conflict period, interstate and civil wars on average affect women more adversely than men. The article argues that conflict situations increase the vulnerability of women and girls by decreasing their life expectancy and

exposing them to health risks as well as risks of sexual violence.

**Raven-Roberts. (2013). "Women and the Political Economy of War," In Carol Cohn (Ed), *Women and Wars: Contested Histories Uncertain Futures*, 36-53. Cambridge: Polity Press**

This chapter examines how gender inequalities are created and exacerbated during armed conflict and also analyses how women's access to power and resources may be affected as a result of violence. It highlights that women are not victims of violent conflict and wars, but that they are often located in a complex web of activities, playing the roles of combatants, instigators, protestors and survivors. The chapter underlines that despite the negative impact of conflict on their socio-economic and political resources, women still manage to sustain a livelihood for themselves and their families.

**Sreberny, Annabelle. (2014). "Violence against women journalists", in *Media and Gender: a scholarly agenda for the Global Alliance on Media and Gender*, Geneva: UNESCO**

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/publications/gamag\\_research\\_agenda\\_sreberny.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/publications/gamag_research_agenda_sreberny.pdf) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This chapter focuses on many forms of violence against female journalists. These include the risk of reporting in the context of war and insecurities, including risks such as sexual violence by their male counterparts or by the people they seek to get information from.

**Shields, Stephanie A. (2008). *Gender: An Intersectional Perspective, Sex Roles (January 2008), Vol 59:301-311***

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225716758\\_Gender\\_An\\_Intersectionality\\_Perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225716758_Gender_An_Intersectionality_Perspective) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

This journal article focuses on the intersectionality of gender with other social categories and markers, including age, ethnicity,

and class among others. It underscores how intersectionality is a fact of life, and how complex individual identities are. The intersectional perspective outlines how one's social identity influences their beliefs and experiences about gender.

Shivdas, Meena. (2000). *Alternative Assessment of Women and Media based on NGO Reviews of Section J, Beijing Platform of Action*, Vancouver: Women Action

<http://www.womenaction.org/csw44/altrepeng.htm> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

The report observes that five years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform of Action in 1995, the year 2000 was still characterised by a continued negative portrayal and representation of women that may be linked to the lack of implementation of national media codes and, in some cases, even the lack of existence of such codes. Further, women continue to have limited access and participation in decision-making in the media industries and governing authorities for the formulation and implementation of media policies. It outlines strategies to increase women's access to expression and decision making and makes proposals on how to bring in a more diverse and realistic portrayal of women's images.

**UNESCO (2003). *Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework (2002-2007): Paris: UNESCO***

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf> (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

The Framework emphasises that a gender perspective is that which addresses the distinct needs of both women and men. The Framework incorporates lessons learned from UNESCO's past experience in the advancement of gender equality since 1995 and reflects on good practices in the field. The Framework provides definitions of concepts, in addition to presenting some suggestions for gender mainstreaming tools, guidelines and resources and guiding principles for action to support gender

mainstreaming in UNESCO as well as in the UN system in general.

United Nations (2014). Operational Guidelines to the integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards, New York: United Nations

<http://www.unddr.org/uploads/documents/Operational%20Guide.pdf> (Date Accessed: 21 June 2017)

This publication provides direction and guidance to actors engaged in preparing, implementing and supporting disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes in peacekeeping contexts, as well as in conflict and post-conflict situations. It bring together knowledge, lessons and good practice on a wide range of issues from concepts, policies and strategies on DDR. The publication provides detailed guidance on key issues, such as women and gender, children and youth and health. The guidelines also address important issues such as reintegration in the context of challenges such as HIV/AIDS.

**United Nations (2015). *The Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325: Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice and Securing the Peace*, United Nations: New York**

<http://wps.unwomen.org/> (Date Accessed: 15 May 2017)

The Global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is the result of a year-long process managed and coordinated by UN Women, and its findings are based on consultations that were undertaken from January to June 2015 in all region of the world. It highlights good practice, gaps, challenges, emerging trends, and priorities for action for implementing the women, peace and security agenda. The Global Study reviews the challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and provide recommendations on how to build sustainable peace through participation, protection, justice, prevention. It concludes that women's equal participation in peace and security is critical for sustainable peace and development.

**Wardle, Claire. (2014). "Verifying user generated content," in Silverman, Craig and Steve Buttry. *Verification Handbook: An ultimate source on digital age sourcing for emergency coverage*, Maastricht Netherlands**

<http://verificationhandbook.com/downloads/verification.handbook.pdf>

This chapter acknowledges that increasingly, audiences of news are now turning to social media and other real-time reports of news. While acknowledging the role of citizens and "accidental journalists," in providing immense sources of information for journalists, the chapter provides suggestions on how reporters can still seek to verify and authenticate the information that are shared by people. The chapter provides specific suggestions on how to verify content, including checking the date stamp of the social media uploads, as well as looking for corroborating evidence. The author also advises journalists to cross check the authenticity of video and photo footage to ensure that there are not cropped or tampered with.

**White, Aidan. (2006). *Ethics in the News: EJN Guide to Reporting in the post-Truth Era*, Ethical Journalists Network**

<http://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/who-we-are/5-principles-of-journalism>

This publication outlines the key ethical issues to pay attention to when reporting in conflict, post conflict and fragile zones, and sheds light on the ethical challenges media faced in 2016. It provides an appraisal of examples of international laws governing armed conflict, which reporters should be aware of when undertaking coverage of war and conflict situations. The publication covers a range of issues including handling "fake news," avoiding hate speech, and establishing facts, among others. It also discusses the legal rights and responsibilities of reporters in conflict situations, as well as key principles of journalism.

**Wilmot, William and Hocker, Joyce. (2011). *Interpersonal Conflict*. (8th Ed). New York City, New York: McGraw Hill.**

This book focuses on the definition, components, dynamics, causes and dimensions of interpersonal conflict, and highlights that conflict is caused by incompatible goals. While it focuses on interpersonal conflict, the book examines the key principles of effective conflict management which can be applied in a wide variety of contexts. The book also focuses on variety of strategies of responding to conflict including negotiation and mediation.

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (2000). *Reporting on War and Disarmament: The Role of the Media in Building a Culture of Peace*, Washington DC: WILPF**

[http://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2000\\_Report\\_Media\\_Culture\\_Peace.pdf](http://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/2000_Report_Media_Culture_Peace.pdf) (Date Accessed: 7 June 2017)

Focusing on a variety of cases, including Vietnam, Bosnia and former Yugoslavia, the report provides recommendations on how reporters can engage in more gender-sensitive reporting of post-conflict processes. The Report acknowledges the challenges for reporters covering issues DDR, including the reluctance of government actors and other stakeholders to release the truth about such sensitive processes. It calls for reporters to become more investigative and innovative in securing information, including reaching out to alternative networks in order to emerge with more comprehensive information that highlights the complexity of such issues.







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