

# **WOMENsPEACE: Gender Equality, Peace and Security in Nepal and Myanmar**

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## **1. Relevance to the call for proposals**

This project will study 1) the demobilization and reintegration of female and male ex-combatants in Nepal and Myanmar with a focus on their post-conflict political participation and 2) the implications of this for post-conflict gender equality, men's and women's social inclusion, and women's rights. The research will thus generate new knowledge on the potential effects of peace and security processes on post-war gender equality. It is also designed to encourage cross-case learning and comparisons between the cases of Nepal and Myanmar, anticipating that lessons from Nepal can be of value for the recently initiated peace processes in Myanmar's ethnic areas. We have already carried out research on the reintegration and political participation of female fighters in Guatemala (Hauge 2008) and women's empowerment in post-conflict Nepal (Upreti, Shreshta and Kolås 2015). Building on earlier studies, this project will compare gendered reintegration processes in armed conflicts with different types of fault lines (ideological in Nepal and ethnic in Myanmar), and within different political frameworks for addressing group and identity-based rights.

The NORGLOBAL call on 'Womens Rights and Gender Equality' presents us with a valuable opportunity to pursue this research further in two of the prioritized countries; Nepal and Myanmar. The proposal is particularly relevant to two of the thematic priorities in the call: 1) Women's participation in the security sector and in peacebuilding efforts, and combating sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations; and 2) Evidence for and assessment of successful and unsuccessful initiatives to promote women's full participation in political, economic and social life (sustainable gender empowerment). The results of this project will also provide an important contribution to two areas of key significance for Norwegian policymakers: gender mainstreaming in Norwegian foreign and development focus areas (peacebuilding) and efforts to strengthen girls' and women's rights in global normative processes.

This is also an opportunity to contribute towards filling a vital research gap, recognising the current need for more comprehensive fieldwork-based case studies and South-South collaboration on policy-relevant gender research. The project brings a new perspective to gender research by comparing gendered demobilization and reintegration processes taking into account two dimensions. Firstly, Nepal and Myanmar are countries with different political systems and frameworks for addressing group and identity-based rights, and secondly, these countries are emerging from armed conflict with different types of fault lines: primarily ideological in Nepal and ethnic in Myanmar. This will move the frontiers of knowledge on women, peace and security in particular and post-conflict transformation in general.

## **2. Aspects relating to the research project**

### **2.1. Background and status of knowledge**

In the study of gender and conflict, Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) and peacebuilding processes are viewed as potential sites for women to advance their rights and take on a greater role in governance and politics. Increased representation of women in decision-making and mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution are also key objectives of the

United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.<sup>1</sup> It has been recognized that female ex-combatants can play an important role in processes of change and peacebuilding – if and when they are allowed to. However, research has revealed that even women who have had important positions in armed struggles are often ‘reintegrated back into the kitchen’ when the war is over (Skjelsbæk 1997).

The body of literature on armed conflict and gender is rich, but most of it focuses on the role of women in conflict prevention, in warfare and in peace processes (for detailed reviews, see Hauge 2008, Upreti, Shreshta and Kolås 2015). While there are many studies of DDR ‘best practices’, the gender dimension of DDR programming has only received attention since the late 1990s (Colekessian 2009). Few studies have so far focused specifically on the role of female ex-combatants in post-conflict social and political activism and politics, with the exception of some studies that discuss gender within the transformation of guerrilla movements into political parties (e.g. Luciak 2001). A central question in these studies is to what extent gender is subordinated to the revolutionary cause, and how female (ex-) combatants choose to fight for their emancipation and political participation – within the party or outside it, in social movements and women’s organizations. This is also a key question of the RCN-funded project ‘Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia’ led by Åshild Kolås.

One of the conclusions of the studies of the gender dimension in DDR processes is that education is crucial for the social and political participation of female ex-combatants in post-conflict peacebuilding. Sørensen (1998) and Hauge (2008) argue that one of the main problems faced by female ex-combatants is lack of skills, education and resources required to engage in income-generating activities. A second issue is that most DDR processes and post-conflict peacebuilding reintegration projects have failed to address the particular needs of women (Barth 2002). Hauge (2008) also points to the need to pay more attention to the issue of group identity in DDR processes, as many combatants have been recruited at a young age and have spent most of their formative years in the guerrilla. Female as well as male ex-combatants will carry this identity with them into their post-conflict lives, and to what degree this issue is taken into consideration during the DDR process is vital for their post-conflict social and political participation.

A dimension that has attracted little attention is the importance of the type of war – or the type of fault-lines in the war – and its implications for gender dynamics. Studies of DDR processes and post-conflict political participation in Central American countries, where fault-lines have been mainly ideological, point to a tendency towards more gender equality than in cases in which fault-lines are mainly ethnic or religious (Hauge 2008). This project will give us a chance to explore this question further, by studying differences between the conflict in Nepal, which was mainly ideological, and Myanmar, which has multiple ethnic conflicts.

In Nepal, Maoist revolutionaries promoted women’s empowerment by involving women in all aspects of their armed struggle as well as parallel state-building efforts. There were vast changes in gender roles during the decade-long civil war. Women not only carried the burden of household responsibilities, they also replaced men in the workforce, and participated in the armed struggle in large numbers. After ten years of civil war ended in 2006, the international community agenda points on UNSC Resolution 1325 also coalesced around attempts to increase women’s political participation. The Interim Constitution established by the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement

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<sup>1</sup> During the subsequent decade, UNSC reaffirmed its commitment to the protection and empowerment of women in conflict with resolutions 1674 (2006), 1820 (2008), 1882 (2009), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), while the UN has enhanced its architecture for women, peace and security by appointing Special Representatives and Special Envoys, and establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

thus guaranteed 33% women's representation in the Constituent Assembly (CA). Grassroots 'empowerment' programs by international organizations have since competed in providing new opportunities especially to lower caste people, women and youth (Miklian, Lidén and Kolås 2011). After the peace agreement, cantonments were set up for ex-combatants, and the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) verified about 19,600 as former combatants while more than 4,000 were found to be under-aged or joined after the ceasefire. In 2012, almost six years later, the cantonments were finally closed and over 3,000 weapons were taken over by the Nepal Army. The DDR process in Nepal took a long time and met with many difficulties, but some still regard it as a success story.

The situation in Myanmar is quite different. The civil war in the country has mainly been fought between the Burmese army, Tatmadaw and ethnic minority-based organizations. The leadership of the ethnic armed groups has been almost exclusively male, but some of them have had a women's branch attached to their armed wing. In the period up to 2008 cease-fire agreements had been agreed with up to 25 non-state armed groups, in closed talks with minimum input from civil society, although more recent talks forming part of the ongoing peace process have been conducted largely in the open (Lahtaw 2012, Hedström 2013). As a part of this, five of the cease-fire agreements explicitly refer to the rights of armed groups to consult with the public or with the media on the process. On the government side, the level of civil society participation has been restricted, but some of the ethnic guerrilla groups have actively been seeking input from NGOs in their communities, such as women's groups. In spite of this, women have been excluded from participating in the cease-fire negotiations. Among twelve preliminary agreements signed, women have been included as official representatives in only three peace teams: those of the Karen National Union (KNU), the Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP) and the Chin National Front (CNF) (Hedström 2013). The focus of this project will be on Karenni and Chin organizations. It is also important to note that women's organizations such as the Women's League of Burma (WLB) have made efforts to influence the peace process. WLB has established a peace mission in an effort to inject a gender perspective into the peace process, but faces great challenges (WLB 2013).

The differences between Nepal and Myanmar along the gender dimension of conflict and peace processes are considerable, and this project seeks to investigate why, as both countries are low-income countries and have much of the same socio-economic and development problems to struggle with. In spite of this, conflicts in Myanmar primarily follow ethnic lines, whereas the main fault-lines in Nepal are socio-economic. It thus remains to be seen how important historical, cultural and religious factors are for the gender dynamics of the two countries emerging from conflict.

The role of gender in societies undergoing significant political transformation has received increasing attention in recent decades. Scholars, development practitioners and policymakers see it as a priority to understand the gendered nature of war and its implications for the prevention and resolution of future wars (Moser 2007). As demonstrated by Cynthia Enloe (Harris 2011: 3), gender is fundamental to politics, and thus it is inseparable from conflict, political participation and decision-making. The heightened interest in the gendered nature of war stresses the equal involvement of women in all aspects of society as a pre-requisite for building an increasingly peaceful world. Peacebuilding processes and related transitions have thus been viewed as potential sites for women to advance their rights and take on a greater role in governance and politics, especially by way of constitutional revisions. Peacebuilding is perceived as a unique opportunity for enhancing women's empowerment in post-conflict reconstruction.

In this project we explore women's participation during war, women's agency as ex-combatants and activists, and the role of women in post-conflict politics with a focus on

peacebuilding, reintegration of ex-combatants and the return to ‘normality’. As argued here, the post-conflict fate of female ex-combatants is not only important in its own right, but has important implications for post-conflict gender politics and a potential shift towards greater gender equality.

## **2.2. Approaches and choice of method**

Taking conflict and militarization as socially constructed and employing a ‘gender lens’ to this construction (see Cockburn 2005, Enloe 1993), our approach opens up for an analysis of the transformation of gendered power relations through armed conflict, to show how conflict can empower as well as disempower, depending on factors related to the context as well as the actors.

The primary objective of this project is to generate new policy-relevant knowledge on the effects gendered war experiences and of post-conflict reintegration of female ex-combatants with a focus on their political participation. The secondary objective is to synthesize lessons learned about the effects of gendered peace and security processes on post-war gender equality and the political participation of women in post-conflict society in general. The research is designed to encourage cross-case learning and comparisons between the cases of Nepal and Myanmar. The project compares gendered war time experiences and reintegration processes in countries with different political frameworks for addressing group and identity-based rights, and different types of fault lines of conflict, primarily ideological in Nepal and ethnic in Myanmar.

Researchers will carry out fieldwork in Nepal and Myanmar, adopting fieldwork strategies with comparability as well as uniqueness in mind. First, we will carry out in-depth and semi-structured interviews to collect data on female and male (ex-)combatants with a focus on their experiences of the gender discourses and practices of their respective armed organizations during the war. In doing this, we will also include some in-depth interviews with life histories (case analysis) for each case.

The methodology used in the initial phase will be structured focused comparison. Alexander George (1979) named this method ‘structured focused comparison’ particularly to underline the importance of being selective and focused in the treatment of cases. For this task, he recommended asking a series of standardized, general questions for each case, which ‘must be carefully developed to reflect adequately the research objectives and theoretical focus of the inquiry. These questions must be of general nature, not couched in overly specific terms relevant to only one or another case but applicable to all cases within the class of events in question.’ (1979: 62). The initial phase will thus focus on the completely comparable aspects of the two country cases.

Structured, focused comparison questions for the two cases (Nepal and Myanmar):

1. What are the experiences of female and male ex-combatants from Nepal and Myanmar with regard to the practice of gender equality during the war in their respective armed organizations?
2. How does/did their armed organization’s ideology, discourse and program reflect the need for gender equality and women’s rights?
3. How is/was the relationship between the armed organization’s ideals and its war-time practices on this issue?

In the second phase of the project, the methodology goes deeper into the specificities of each case. With regard to the Nepal case, we will look at the DDR process and its implications for the future participation of particularly the female ex-combatants in Nepalese political life. This case study thus also includes questions about their activities in the cantonments (transition camps), such as type of

training or education provided, how well this was adapted to their particular needs, how and by whom reintegration was planned, what kind of support was provided for receiving communities, economic resources made available to ex-combatants, and how reintegration was conducted, whether individually or into a co-operative. Our interviews will further address the impact of reintegration on the post-conflict political participation of female ex-combatants, how and for what purposes female ex-combatants are politically active, and the broader implications of this for post-conflict gender equality and women's rights in Nepal. An important part of this will be to investigate the former combatants' interactions with the local communities into which they reintegrate in terms of the promotion of gender equality and women's rights there.

With regard to the Myanmar case, we will in particular look into activities and expressions from non-state armed groups that have influenced the gender debate and gender equality policies in the country. In addition we will take a closer look at the peace negotiations in Myanmar and how gender issues have been handled there, including the aspect of female representation at the negotiating tables, and how this may have influenced the larger debate on gendered politics in Myanmar and outside the country (in political and academic circles that follow the developments).

In both cases – Nepal and Myanmar – we will use a mixed-method approach including semi-structured and in-depth interviews, and a range of largely field-based methods including participant observation and focus group discussions. We will also include studies of official documents, political programs, documents issued by the armed organizations such as resolutions and programs, and newspaper articles and television and radio programs. In addition to interviews with combatants and ex-combatants, we will also conduct interviews with politicians, military officers, civil society actors, and particularly members of women's organizations and female activists not formally in organizations.

Particular questions for the Nepal case:

1. How have female and male ex-combatants experienced the process of demobilization and reintegration with regard to:
  - a) adaptation to particular needs with regard to gender? b) adaptation to particular needs with regard to socio-economic background and education? c) reintegration alternatives?
2. Have receiving local communities been affected by the presence of ex-combatants in terms of changes in discourse or practices related to gender equality and women's rights?
3. How have the participation of ex-combatants in Nepalese politics post-conflict been gender wise and how has it affected the development of gender equality and women's rights?

Particular questions for the Myanmar case:

1. How have the activities of non-state armed groups influenced gender equality and women's rights in:
  - a) public debates and national media? b) affected local communities? c) international media?
2. Has there been female representation at peace negotiation tables, and in which capacities?
3. To what extent have gender issues been discussed in such negotiations and if so, who has tabled them and what has been the outcome?

The structured, focused comparison will allow us to identify the similarities as well as the differences in the internal gender dynamics of the armed organizations in the two different countries. The second phase of the project will help identify the best lessons learned from the DDR process in Nepal, and provide enough insight into the peace process and context of Myanmar to be

able to answer which of these lessons may be applicable to future peace processes in Myanmar. In addition we will be able to compare the larger gender dynamics in these two different societies and to extract the implications of war and post-conflict peacebuilding and reintegration processes for gender equality and women's rights in the two different cases.

### **2.3. The project plan, project management, organisation and cooperation**

The project will be led by Dr. Wenche Hauge, Senior Researcher. The PRIO team further includes Research Professor Åshild Kolås.

**Wenche Hauge**, PhD in Political Science is a senior researcher at PRIO. Her 2002 thesis was entitled 'Causes and Dynamics of Conflict Escalation: The Role of Economic Development and Environmental Change. A Comparative Study of Haiti, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Senegal, Madagascar and Tunisia'. She has been involved in several projects on peace processes and peacebuilding – her most recent project dealing with local models of conflict prevention in Haiti. Hauge is co-author of the 'The State of War and Peace Atlas' (Penguin Books), author of numerous scholarly articles and reports, and contributor to several edited volumes including 'The Paradoxes of Peacebuilding Post-9/11' (Baranyii 2006).

**Åshild Kolås**, PhD in Social Anthropology is a PRIO research professor and has worked on identity and cultural representation, minority issues, and conflict in Tibet, India and Nepal. She has also written several articles on Myanmar. Since 2005 she has coordinated an institutional cooperation with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in Delhi, involving extensive exchange with Indian researchers on non-traditional security issues, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in India. Her current research is on militancy in hill areas of Northeast India. She is also the project leader for the RCN-funded 'Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia'.

Partners in this project are Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research (NCCR) based in Nepal and Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS) in Myanmar. Two researchers will be assigned to the project by each partner institution. In addition we will recruit one PhD candidate from Nepal. This will comprise a project team of altogether seven people. NCCR and YSPS will each be responsible for organizing one target group workshop. PRIO will organize an international conference and maintain the project website. Edited volumes will be co-edited by PRIO researchers and researchers from each of the partner institutions. Policy briefs will also be co-authored by PRIO researchers and the partners in each case country. At least one scholarly article or book chapter will be produced by each of the researchers, including the PhD candidate.

Our key local partner in Nepal is the **Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research (NCCR)**, where we will work with the director, **Bishnu Raj Upreti**. NCCR is a non-profit research organization duly registered with the government of Nepal and conducts research on contemporary issues within six clusters: (a) conflict, peace and human security (b) migration, mobility and development, (c) post-conflict state building and governance, (d) livelihoods and globalization processes (e) environmental and resource conflict-governance, and (f) agriculture, land and agrarian transformation. NCCR has been conducting a number of research projects in collaboration with renowned research institutions, including the collaborative project with PRIO 'Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia'.

A PhD researcher will be recruited by NCCR to work specifically on the reintegration of female ex-combatants in Nepal. He or she will have Bishnu Raj Upreti as supervisor and will take courses and obtain the degree from a university in Nepal. The PhD candidate will spend six months

at PRIO, working in close cooperation with the PRIO researchers. He or she will be included in all project activities and the PhD work will also inform the work of the other principal researchers in the project. In addition to the PhD candidate, two researchers will be assigned to the project in each case country.

In Myanmar we will collaborate with **Yangon School of Political Science (YSPS)**. Founded in November 2011 by a group of young, progressive Burmese intellectuals, YSPS is envisaged as a politically independent not-for-profit civil society initiative and aims to give political science knowledge and education to Myanmar's youth. Since it was founded, YSPS has trained more than 400 students in political science, transition studies and international relations in Yangon and Bago regions, and Rakhine, Shan, Kachin and Kayin states. YSPS has a twofold objective: to provide and facilitate the education of a younger, new generation of Burmese so that they will think and act democratically as citizens and scholars, and to make this educational initiative and political outreach accessible to as many communities as possible across different regions of the country. One of the co-founders of YSPS is **Zin Mar Aung**, a female advocate who will be our main contact at YSPS. Zin Mar Aung is also co-founder of the women's organization Rainfall.

The project will collaborate with **Search for Common Ground** offices in Kathmandu and Yangon, the Nepal Office of **UN Women**, and local women's organisations (especially Sankalpa in Nepal and Rainfall in Myanmar) to organize a target group workshop in Kathmandu and another in Yangon, in collaboration with main country partners. The target group workshops will bring together women's organization, female politicians and activists to share experiences with each other and with staff of UN Women and partner organizations on the role of women in conflict and peace processes. **Sankalpa** is a 'Women's Alliance for Peace, Justice, and Democracy' that brings together diverse women's organization and strives to give voice, genuine space, dignity and respect to Nepali women in the new constitution and the making of Nepal. Sankalpa is dedicated to ensure women's equal opportunity in the state making process irrespective of caste, ethnicity, religion, language, occupation, or degree of physical ability. Its objective is that diverse groups of women are visibly engaged at all levels of the Constituent Assembly and peace building processes. It has defined itself as "Mission 50/50", meaning proportionate and representative participation of women at all levels of the peace process and all state structures. **Rainfall** is a women's empowerment organization and gender study group recently formed by young Burmese women to promote women's participation in democracy-building and public life in Myanmar, and the study of feminism.

In 2018 we will organize an international conference in Bangkok. The conference will bring together all the project partners, inviting key people from NGOs, multilateral organizations and relevant Norwegian embassies as well as researchers working on women's empowerment in peace processes. The project's principal researchers will also present at other relevant conferences. To promote further sharing of research findings we will maintain contact throughout the project with interested academics and civil society in Norway, Asia and globally. NCCR and YSPS will each be responsible for organizing one workshop.

### **3. Perspectives and compliance with strategic documents**

#### **3.1. Compliance with strategic documents**

This project conforms to PRIO's sustained effort to build up a leading research group on gender, peace and conflict. It is also in compliance with the Norwegian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

### **3.2. Relevance to society**

This project will raise awareness about women's potential empowerment during DDR processes and their subsequent participation in governance and politics first of all in Nepal and Myanmar. However, this new knowledge will also be useful for other countries emerging from conflict. The research findings will thus be of direct relevance not only to academics and policy-makers, but also to the stakeholders in the peace processes in Nepal and Myanmar. In Nepal it will be especially relevant for the parliament, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, National Women's Rights Commission, Forum for Women, Law and Development, the police and army, political parties and organizations working on women's issues. In Myanmar, the project will furthermore provide researchers in Norway and Asia with an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and undertake a concerted, sustained and coordinated effort to enhance and further develop the study of gender equality and peacebuilding. In addition to this, the project will have a special relevance for Norwegian policymakers, embassies and NGOs, as Norway has been and is involved in the facilitation of several peace processes around the world. Consequently this project has relevance for the implementation of ensuing peace accords, with DDR at the core and gender implications as the key element and entry point into promoting women's greater political participation through peacebuilding.

### **3.3. Environmental perspectives**

We do not foresee that project implementation and/or utilisation of project results will entail any significant environmental impacts (positive or negative). We will attend to any unforeseen environmental issues that might become apparent during the research process.

### **3.4. Ethical aspects**

The main ethical challenge in this project is to ensure that research activities do not in any way endanger respondents, especially in the event that they voice strong criticism of state agents or government policies. We are alert to possible negative reactions related to the political sensitivity of the research topic. We will address this by providing detailed information on the project, including a pamphlet that can be handed out freely during fieldwork to anyone who expresses an interest in the project. Interviews will be conducted on the condition of informed consent only. All research data collected will be stored with password protection. In addition, the researchers will ensure that interviews will be coded to provide anonymity to interviewees. By stringently following the above measures we will adhere to the ethical guidelines provided by the Norway's National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH) in Norway.

### **3.5. Gender equality and gender perspectives**

The project team will have equal gender representation and has a female project leader. The project takes an integrated approach to gender perspectives, meaning that the significance of gender and gendered differences will be considered throughout in the design of research techniques as the research progresses, as well as in the communication of research findings. We are acutely aware of how gender parity and perspectives can significantly alter political discourse and have profound impact on social institutions. In our research we will pay attention to how these and other gender issues are addressed in public debates as well as in organisational and institutional processes.

## **4. Communication with users and utilisation of results**



## 4.1 Communication with users

The users are in the following divided into three main groups, but all equally important. The first group of key users of this project are female and male combatants and ex-combatants in Nepal and Myanmar, together with the inhabitants of local communities that have received ex-combatants for reintegration. Important in this first key group of users are also the larger societies of these two countries, including state agents and institutions and civil society organizations, not least women's organizations. As the primary target group, the project team will not only collect data from ex-combatants, women and men in civil society, governance and peacebuilding, we will also share and discuss research findings with these target groups in workshops to be organized in Nepal and Myanmar. The second group of key users is Norwegian policymakers and embassies, and Norwegian NGOs. Both general findings and detailed results from case studies will be made accessible to policymakers, NGOs and the general public. In this group, we also want to include relevant UN organizations such as UN Women. The third key user group is the academic community. In addition to academic publishing and two policy briefs we will communicate with these users via the PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update. We will also create a project website to share information about the project and make findings more easily available to key users as well as academics and the general public. Media coverage will be sought for selected project activities.

## 4.2. Dissemination plan

The project will share and discuss research findings with the key user groups (including informants), but also in general with academics, policymakers and civil society worldwide. We will publish at least one policy brief for each case country, and disseminate findings and news on the project website and via the PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update, which is an electronic newsletter launched by PRIO's Gender Team aimed at the general public interested in issues related to UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions. Furthermore, research findings will be disseminated through a series of round table discussions and interviews by national televisions and FM radio stations in Nepal. The project team will also present their research at relevant international conferences. Dissemination of project results will include:

- Two edited volumes (one on each case country) on gender and political representation, women, peace and security processes, pre- and post-conflict legal frameworks to protect women's rights, and the agendas of women's movements in each country.
- A project website.
- Two PRIO policy briefs.
- One international conference.
- Two target group workshops in collaboration with UN Women and Search for Common Ground.
- A completed PhD thesis by a doctoral candidate from Nepal.
- Research papers and/or reports on the socio-political impact of reintegration of female ex-combatants.
- Publication of scholarly articles and/or book chapters on general findings and individual case studies. Articles will be submitted to international peer-reviewed journals, targeting journals like *Gender and Conflict*, *Global Change, Peace and Security*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Perspectives on Politics, Conflict, Security and Development*, and *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*.

At least one article or book chapter will be produced by each researcher affiliated with the project (i.e. two researchers in Norway, two in each case country, and one PhD candidate from Nepal) on

the key topic of research, including the broader implications of reintegration processes for post-conflict gender equality and women's rights. The project team will also present their research at relevant international seminars and conferences. The project topic is high on the international research agenda and draws considerable attention from policy makers. The project therefore adopts a dual publication strategy, where cutting edge academic publications are supplemented with timely and accessible policy output.

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