

Strong women: Who protects them?

GLOSSARY

Conflict is an interaction between two or more parties in which at least one of these experiences a difference in perception, feeling, thinking and/or wishing and feels limited by the other (Friedrich Glasl).

Conflict analysis defines the practice-oriented analysis of the actors, causes and dynamics of a conflict as well as the identification of (possible) entry points for peaceful conflict resolution and transformation.

Conflict transformation is the process of addressing the key driving factors of destructive conflict with actions to transform institutions and discourses that justify and reproduce direct, cultural and structural violence at the global, national and local levels. The desired result of combining all of these aspects is conflict transformation.

Cultural violence is the justification for the systematic discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion of groups, through attitudes and beliefs. An example of cultural violence is the belief held by religious extremists that non-believers and believers of other faiths can be insulted and/or killed.

Destructive or violent conflict is when there are inadequate channels for dialogue and disagreement, because: 1. dissenting voices and deeply held grievances cannot be heard and addressed; 2. there is instability; and/or 3. there is injustice and fear in the wider community and society. The use or threat of violence is leading to the destruction of social relationships and a host of negative personal and social changes, including an escalation of violence, fear and distrust.

Direct violence is literally the physical violence one experiences, for example the killing of civilians during civil war; and/or the threat of violence, for example the fear of activists to hold a demonstration, because (based on past experience) they know that the police will shoot them.

Do No Harm or Local Capacities For Peace is an assessment and programming method (including practice-oriented tools) for analysing the effects of specific International Cooperation interventions on a conflict situation and generating options for modifying the interventions towards conflict sensitivity. Do No Harm analyses whether project elements unintentionally support factors contributing to tensions (dividers) or factors reducing conflicts (connectors). It allows to develop change options for not sustaining or strengthening conflicts and whenever possible for contributing to their de-escalation (Mary Anderson).

Empowerment is the process of gaining control over the self, the own ideology and the resources which determine power.

Female leadership had a twofold meaning. It means that women are in decision-making positions and it refers to a certain kind of leadership by women, often described as more considerate and transformative than male leadership.

Fragile state has many different interpretations. In the Dutch National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, a state is considered fragile when the central government does not exert effective control over its own territory and is unable or unwilling to assure the provision of vital services, such as safety, security and education, to significant parts of its territory. The government has weak or no legitimacy and violent conflict is a reality or great risk or the state is emerging from conflict or is in postconflict transition and suffering from similar problems with service delivery and legitimacy.

Gender refers to the socially constructed and assigned characteristics, roles and responsibilities of men and women in any given culture and to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between men and women and boys and girls, as well as the relations among men and boys and among women and girls. These characteristics, attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and assigned on the basis of sex combined with other factors, such as age, religion and national, ethnic and social origin. They are learnt and changeable rather than static, gender responds to changes in the social, political and cultural environment. Sex exclusively refers to the biologically determined physical differences between males and females.

Gender analysis is the systematic gathering and examination of information on gender differences and social relations in order to identify, understand and redress inequities based on gender. A gender analysis should be integrated into all assessments or situational analyses to ensure that humanitarian interventions do not exacerbate gender-based injustices and inequalities and, where possible, promote greater equality and justice in gender relations.

Gender balance refers to equal participation of women and men within an activity or organisation, both in numbers and in the degree to which their participation and influence is valued and taken into account. Examples are representation in committees or in decision-making structures.

Gender-based violence refers to violence directed against a man, simply because he is a man, or against a woman, simply because she is a woman.

Gender disaggregated data is the collection of data on males and females separately in relation to all aspects of their functioning, such as ethnicity, class, caste, age and location. Sex disaggregated data exclusively gives the numbers of males and females in a specific population.

Gender equality refers to the situation in which men and women enjoy the same status, treatment and valuation and have equal conditions, responsibilities and opportunities for realising their full human rights and potential and can benefit equally from the results, regardless of being born male or female. Gender equality exists when individual rights and opportunities are independent of sex. It encompasses equality in social relations and equal access to, and control over, resources by men and women. Thus when there is gender equality, women's interests, needs and concerns shape political, social and economic decisions as much as those of men.

Gender equality programming is an umbrella term encompassing all strategies to achieve gender equality. Examples include gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, prevention and response to gender-based violence, promotion and protection of human rights, gender empowerment and gender balance in the workplace (Oxfam).

Gender equity is considered part of the process achieving gender equality and refers to fairness of treatment for men and women according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment, or different treatment that is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities.

Gender justice is the goal of full equality and equity between men and women in all spheres of life, resulting in both men and women jointly and on an equal basis defining and shaping the policies, structures and decisions that affect their lives and society as a whole, based on their own interests and priorities. Gender justice commits to taking a gender perspective on the definition and application of civil, political, economic and social rights.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy that aims to bring about gender equality and advance of men's and women's rights by taking into account gender equality concerns and building gender capacity and accountability in all aspects of an organisation's policy and activities, including policy and programme development and implementation, advocacy, organisational culture and resource allocation, thereby contributing to a profound organisational transformation.

Gender needs are divided into practical and strategic gender needs. Practical needs are related to daily activities and responsibilities and are linked to helping men and women with roles they are given to them by society. Strategic needs are related to changing the relationships, roles and responsibilities of men and women in society. These are usually long-term and non-material, such as increased participation in decision-making and legislation for equal rights.

Gender-sensitive protection refers to differentiation in protection mechanisms between men and women, particularly regarding the unique security concerns confronting women human rights defenders. Women human rights defenders have emphasised the need to advance an integrated concept of security that takes into account the historical, cultural, political and social contexts in which they live. Gender-sensitive protection is thus a concept of protection that takes into account how women human rights defenders experience human rights violations differently, because of gender and other economic, social and cultural factors.

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. All people are equally entitled to human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible (United Nations).

Human rights defender is an individual, group or civil society institution engaged in promoting and protecting human rights.

Human security holds that a people-centred rather than state-centred view of security is necessary for national, regional and global stability and sustainable peace. Human security is a broad concept encompassing economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

Institutions are the formal and informal structured patterns of behaviour that regulate a society. Examples of formal institutions are the army, church, government and laws. Examples of informal institutions are the notions of family and marriage.

Key Driving Factor of Conflict can be defined as a factor of conflict that, if it would not exist, the conflict would change drastically or not even emerge.

Participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over initiatives, decisions and resources that affect them. The level and nature of participation varies from passive participation through to local initiatives. Passive participation means that the affected population is informed of what is going to happen. Local initiatives mean that the affected population conceives and runs its own initiatives (ALNAP).

Peacebuilding is a term for all kinds of mid- and long-term processes and activities aiming at preventing, mitigating and resolving violent conflicts and creating conditions for sustainable, peaceful and just development.

Peacekeeping is support of a third party to monitor peace agreements.

Peacemaking is the process to bring parties in a violent conflict together and let them agree on stopping the violence and on a process to address the issues and prevent new violent conflicts.

Protective accompaniment is a strategy pioneered by Peace Brigades International for protecting human rights defenders and their organisations and communities, whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. Three interrelated and mutually reinforcing techniques compile the strategy of protective accompaniment: 1. Physical international presence by volunteers of different nationalities who literally stand and travel side-by-side with human rights defenders; 2. Dialogue with national and local authorities and advocacy with the international community; 3. Worldwide information distribution. These three techniques together increase the visibility of the accompanied human rights defenders and their organisations and communities, thereby improving their security situation.

Responsibility to protect means that states must protect their populations from mass atrocity crimes, namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. The responsibility to protect has three foundation pillars: 1. A state has a responsibility to protect its population from mentioned atrocities; 2. The international community has a responsibility to assist the state to fulfil its primary responsibility; 3. If the state manifestly fails to protect its citizens from mentioned atrocities and peaceful measures have failed, the international community has the responsibility to intervene through coercive measures, such as (economic) sanctions. Military intervention is considered the last resort. The responsibility to protect is no law or obligation, but a norm.

Rule of law refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, both public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency (United Nations).

Security plan can be drawn after a security review and usually consists of a series of protective measures, contingency plans and safety rules that are useful as security guidelines.

Security review is a collaborative process used to identify and analyse security-related issues and determine the level of risk associated with these issues. A security review helps to make informed decisions about risk mitigation or acceptance.

Structural violence is the systematic discrimination, marginalisation, exclusion and neglect of groups that lead to grievances. For example, the structural marginalisation by the government of ethnic groups living in the periphery of a country can be an important factor for these populations to rebel. Structural violence is often referred to as the key driving factor of conflict.

SWOT(I) analysis or matrix is a structured planning method used to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats involved in a project and can be carried out for an individual, group or organisation. It involves specifying the objective of the project and identifying the internal and external factors favourable and unfavourable to achieve this objective. Identification of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats can reveal relative advantages and disadvantages and inform later steps in planning to achieve this objective. Issues form an important part of the analysis or matrix, since these make the connection between the internal and external analysis. A SWOT(I) analysis or matrix can lay the basis or starting point for an elaborated security plan.

Transformative leadership is a social change strategy that focuses on providing an enabling environment for the actualisation of the leadership potential of individuals, influencing others to bring about fundamental change and facilitating the empowerment of others. It includes every act of leadership identified in all arenas, including the home, formal and informal environments.

Violence against women is the most common and pervasive form of gender-based violence. It refers to any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Oxfam).

Women's empowerment is the process through which women, individually and collectively, raise awareness of how power structures between men and women operate in their lives and challenge the resulting gender inequalities.