

# **THE GENDERED POLITICAL ECONOMY OF BUILDING PEACE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED STATES EVENT BRIEFING**

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**EVENT:** Plenary Session One: The Gendered Political Economy of Building Peace in Conflict-Affected States

**DATE & TIME:** Monday, June 3, 2013  
9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**LOCATION:** UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center  
Middlesex and Pawtucket rooms (portion of the ballroom)

**CONTACT:** Carol Cohn  
Sandy McEvoy

## **BACKGROUND:**

Increasingly, international actors acknowledge (rhetorically, at least) the importance of women's participation in peace negotiations and post-war governance, but at the same time, there is insufficient attention to what women can and should do to shape economic policies and structures once they are there. At the same time, strategies to empower women in post-war situations are growing in number, but they remain piecemeal and under-resourced and have yet to bring about any substantive shift in women's empowerment, gender equality or sustainable development. To increase the quality of women's leadership in peacebuilding, we need to reframe the questions about 'women's economic empowerment and gender equality' in fragile and conflict-affected areas, incorporating a gendered analysis of the complexity of development issues and post-war institution building. An aim would be to provide women leaders in policy, practice and civil society activism with tools to identify opportunities to improve gender equality outcomes and mitigate the unintended and potentially harmful negative impacts of economic practices – thus contributing to increasing women's security, leadership and gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected states.

## Panel participants:

- Carol Cohn, Ph.D., Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, UMass Boston
- Amani El-Jack, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, UMass Boston
- Kade Finnhoff, Assistant Professor of Economics, UMass Boston
- Sandy McEvoy, Ph.D., Assoc. Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, UMass Boston
- Ghazal Zulfiqar, Ph.D. candidate, McCormack School Public Policy, UMass Boston

## **READING MATERIALS:**

*Women and Wars: Toward a Conceptual Framework* - Carol Cohn

## **BIOS:**

### **Carol Cohn**

Dr. Carol Cohn is the founding director of the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, an organization devoted to building new knowledge about gender and security, and to bridging the gaps between research, policy and practice in the quest to end armed conflicts and build sustainable peace. She is also professor of Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and visiting professor at the UN University for Peace. She has spent 20 years teaching courses about: gender, armed conflict and peacebuilding; gender, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping; as well as many other topics in international relations and women's studies. She has published widely in the field of gender and security, with a focus on gender mainstreaming in international security institutions, the discourse of nuclear defense intellectuals and national security specialists, gender integration issues in the US military, gender and peacekeeping, and the on-going efforts to ensure the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the international and grassroots levels. Her most recent publication is *Women and Wars*, published by Polity Press, 2013.

### **Amani El-Jack**

Dr. Amani El Jack is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Lecturer in the Women's Leadership in a Global Perspective graduate certificate program based at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Her research and teaching traverse socio-economic, political and cultural interrogation of the gendered fields of development studies; globalization; transnational migration; militarization/war; and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Some of her publications include: "Education is My Mother and Father: The 'Invisible' Women/Girls of South Sudan," *Refuge*, 2011, (vol. 27 no. 2); "Protracted Sudanese Refugees: Why Gender Matters?" 2012, *Middle East Institute; Participative Social Assessment of Darfur and Southern Sudan*, 2008, with S. Abdelnour, B. Badri, S. McGrath, D. Wheeler, & O. Branzei. Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada; "Gendered Implications: Development-Induced Displacement in the Sudan," 2007, In *Development's Displacements: Ecologies, Economies and Cultures at Risk*. P. Vandergeest, P. Idahosa, and P. Bose (eds.). Vancouver, Canada: UBC Press; "Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Sudan, Egypt, Libya & Chad," 2005, In *Explosive Remnants of War and Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines*. R. Moyes (ed.). London, UK: Landmine Action; *Gender and Armed Conflict: Overview Report*, 2003, Brighton, UK: BRIDGE (Institute of Development Studies), University of Sussex; *Gender Perspectives on the Management of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Sudan*, 2002, In *Gender Perspectives on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Regional and International Concerns*. V. Farr and K. Gebre-Wold (eds.). Bonn, Germany: Bonn International Center for Conversion. She is currently finalizing a book manuscript entitled: *Militarized Commerce: Gender Dimensions of Transnational Migration in South Sudan*, Under Contract by Ashgate.

### **Kade Finnhoff**

Kade Finnhoff is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is a development economist whose work focuses on countries emerging from violent conflict. In particular, her work looks at the way in which the reconstitution of society is exclusionary or inclusive of particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as female headed households, children and people with disabilities. She has spent a number of years working on issues of inequality and violence, in particular sexual violence, in countries in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Kade has also been a technical consultant for UNDP, UNIFEM and UN Women on a range of issues from pro-poor macroeconomic policy to gender budgeting of post-conflict development assistance.

### **Sandra McEvoy**

Dr. McEvoy is Associate Director of the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights at UMass Boston, an organization devoted to building new knowledge about gender and security, and to bridging the gaps between research, policy and practice in the quest to end armed conflicts and build sustainable peace. She teaches courses in gender, politics and political violence and is a former Research Fellow at the Five Colleges Women's Studies Research Center in South Hadley, MA.

Dr. McEvoy is developing a manuscript that explores Loyalist women's participation in paramilitary organizations in Northern Ireland during the thirty-year conflict in the region. The manuscript draws on empirical data that she collected during eight months of field research in the region in 2006. Her first publication from this data appeared in a special issue on gender and security in the journal *Security Studies*. Overall, Dr. McEvoy's work seeks to develop gender-focused strategies that incorporate perpetrators of political violence into long-term conflict resolution strategies.

In addition to her other leadership positions within the International Studies Association (ISA), Sandra is Chair of the Women's Caucus and founding Chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies Caucus.

### **Ghazal Zulfiqar**

Ghazal Zulfiqar works on issues surrounding poverty, gender and development. Her geographical focus is South Asia, particularly her native Pakistan. She is currently writing her dissertation on the political economy of microfinance as an intervention that was originally designed to be poverty reducing and gender empowering. Her fieldwork for this project involved extensive travel within Pakistan, over a period of 2 years. She also teaches the economics of development and global poverty at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has previous experience in international finance in Africa and South Asia, a Masters in development finance from the University of London and an MBA from Pakistan.