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In Search of Women's Full Inclusion: A Case Study of the Institute for Inclusive Security's advocacy for women's inclusion in Sudan and South Sudan's Cooperation Agreements

Anna Tonelli

SIT Graduate Institute, anna.tonelli@mail.sit.edu

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Abstract

Over the past nearly two decades, efforts to increase women's inclusion in peacebuilding have grown exponentially as more research has proven that women's participation leads to more sustainable peace processes. Yet women continue to be the marginalized from all levels of official processes including negotiation, drafting of resolutions, and implementing agreements. Nowhere is this more exemplary than in the efforts for peace between Sudan and South Sudan. The Cooperation Agreement, signed in September 2012 offered yet another opportunity to engage women. However, once more the processes excluded them from the table. In an effort to finally convince policymakers that women's inclusion is the only means to sustainable peace, the Institute for Inclusive Security's Sudan and South Sudan Team is advocating for women from both countries to serve as active members in the implementation process.

This case study describes the context from which the Institute for Inclusive Security's Sudan and South Sudan Team's advocacy initiative emerged and examines the ways in which the advocates developed a strategy to confront decades of exclusion. This paper evaluates the effectiveness of their advocacy initiative, focusing on the period between January 2013 and April 2014. It provides insight into some of the challenges confronting organizations working towards women's inclusion in peacebuilding, as well as some of the lessons learned that could be applicable to other efforts. Information was gathered from conversations, primary documents, peer-reviewed sources and significant literature.