



## Program for Protection of Civilians (PoC) seminar in Bergen November 4 and 5, 2013

### Day 1: Gender Essentialisms in Protection Practices

In recent years, women's protection needs in war zones has been brought to the forefront of the international security agenda. It has become commonplace to argue that women and children constitute the most vulnerable civilian victims in armed conflict. The discourse is infused with gender essentialisms, portraying men as combatants and women and children as 'innocent' and 'vulnerable' in need of protection, particularly from acts of sexual violence. How has this hierarchical construction of innocence and vulnerability affected or perhaps even undermined the actual "protection of civilians" by humanitarian and security actors on the ground? Are civilians increasingly distinguished from combatants according to who they are (gender/age) rather than what they are actually doing (civil/military)? Are gender norms operating in practice to contain the operations available to protection workers? How can humanitarian and security actors attend to women's and men's protection needs without reinforcing patriarchal gender relations or other intersecting hierarchies?

12.00	Coffee and a bite to eat
12.45	Welcome by <i>Liv Tønnessen</i> , senior researcher at Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)
13.00	<u>Session 1: Key note speeches</u> Chair: <i>Astri Suhrke</i> , senior researcher at CMI
13.00	<b>"From Social to Policy Construct: Redefining the Essential in Gender"</b> <i>Chris Dolan</i> , director of the Refugee Law Project (RLP), an autonomous community outreach project of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University (40 minutes) Questions and discussions (20 minutes)
14.00	<b>"Force Projection/Civilian Protection: Gender and the Paradox of War Norms"</b> <i>Charli Carpenter</i> , Associate Professor in the Department of political science at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (40 minutes) Questions and discussions (20 minutes)

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15.00

Coffee break

15.15 –  
16.30

Session 2: Roundtable on Gender Essentialisms in Protection Practices

Chair: *Ole Jacob Sending*, research director at NUPI

Panel participants:

*Kristin Sandvik on Colombia*, senior researcher at PRIO and Centre Director for the Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies

*Torunn Wimpelmann on Afghanistan*, Researcher at CMI

*Berit Angelskår on Palestine*, PhD candidate at the institute of social anthropology, University of Bergen

*Liv Tønnessen on Sudan*, senior researcher at CMI

19.00

Dinner in the rain



## Day 2: Local Protection Practices in Afghanistan, Colombia, the horn of Africa, Liberia, Uganda, and Sudan

Work package 1 of the project *Protection of Civilians: From Principle to Practice* puts focus on *Local Practices*. It consists of fieldwork based case studies concentrating on a series of complementary aspects of the local role and impact of PoC practices in Afghanistan, Colombia, Liberia, the horn of Africa, the two Sudans, and Uganda. The objective of this work package is to generate original field-based knowledge on the *local* role and impact of PoC practices, as seen from the perspective of the affected societies. The case studies explore PoC in a range of different settings from ongoing conflict to recovery. The case studies address a variety of different actors (beneficiaries, civil society, humanitarian and non-humanitarian) with different governance capacity.

Chair: *Gunnar Sørbo*, senior researcher at CMI

9.00	Presentation of the PoC project, <i>Kristin Sandvik</i> , senior researcher at PRIO and Centre Director for the Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies
9.15	<b>“Protection in Retreat: Afghanistan”</b> , <i>Aziz Hakimi</i> ( SOAS) <i>Astri Suhrke</i> , (CMI) <i>Torunn Wimpelman</i> (CMI) Comments by <i>Kristin Sandvik</i> (PRIO) and <i>Ole Jacob Sending</i> (NUPI) Discussion and other comments
10.15	10.15-11.15: <b>“Humanitarianism Transformed”</b> , <i>Jon Harald Sande Lie</i> (NUPI) Comments by <i>Astri Suhrke</i> (CMI) and <i>Torunn Wimpelmann</i> (CMI) Discussion and other comments
11.15	Coffee break
11.30	<b>“Governing Mobility through Humanitarianism in South-Central Somalia: Protection, Repatriation and Relocation”</b> , <i>Cindy Horst</i> (PRIO) Comments by <i>Are Knudsen</i> (CMI) and <i>Synnøve Bendixsen</i> (IMER) Discussion and other comments
12.30	Lunch
13.30	<b>“Now the Law Says You Are a Victim”</b> : <b>From Humanitarian Crisis to Transitional Justice in Colombia</b> , <i>Kristin Sandvik</i> (PRIO) Comments by <i>Elin Skaar</i> (CMI) and <i>Liv Tønnessen</i> (CMI)

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	Discussion and other comments
<b>14.30</b>	<b>“The Darfur Conflict and Gender Based Violence: Local Conceptions of (Lack of) Protection of Women and Girls”</b> <i>Liv Tønnessen</i> (CMI) Comment by <i>Berit Angelskår</i> (UiB) and <i>Kristoffer Liden</i> (PRIO) Discussion and other comments
<b>13.30</b>	Coffee and a snack
<b>14.00</b>	<b>“Peacebuilding, Gender and Protection in Liberia: A Role for Customary Justice?”</b> <i>Niels Nagelhus Schia</i> (NUPI) and <i>Benjamin de Carvalho</i> (NUPI) Comment by <i>Chris Dolan</i> (Makerere University) and <i>Torunn Wimpelmann</i> (CMI) Discussion and other comments
<b>15.00 – 16.00</b>	Summing up work package 1 on Local practices, <i>Liv Tønnessen</i> (CMI) General discussion