Women's role in Liberia's peace process (2003–2011)

BACKGROUND ON LIBERIA'S PEACE PROCESS (2003–2011)

Negotiations in Accra, Ghana, resulted in the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2003, bringing to an end some 13 years of armed conflict. The CPA set up a transitional government based on a four-way power-sharing arrangement between the main conflict parties, political parties and civil society actors.

WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

Mass action

- Thousands of women demonstrated for peace.
- Women held a sit-in.
- Women blocked access to the meeting room.

Unofficial consultations

- Women met with negotiators.
- Women met with CPA negotiators.
- Women met with the government.

Post-agreement inclusive commissions

- Minimum 2 women on 8 members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Minimum 13 of 30 members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- A woman leads the independent national commission on human rights.

WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

Women's protests outside the negotiation venue prompted a crucial turning-point in the talks.

Women gained observer status in the talks. This ensured their influence over the content of the agreement, and progress in the talks.

The peace agreement made provisions for gender balance in the transitional government, including commission membership.

A women's network was given the leadership of the new Ministry of Gender.

FACTORS ENABLING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE

Early involvement

Strong networks

Receptive mediators and conflict parties

Conflict building

FACTORS CONSTRaining WOMEN'S INFLUENCE

Fundly

Division among women

Capitalism and market economy

Weak leadership

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (PFI) as part of the series “Women in Peace and Transition Processes” that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and conflict-making processes worldwide.

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