

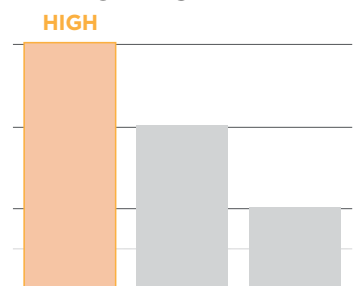
# Women's role in Liberia's peace process (2003-2011)



## 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 14 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 INFLUENCE



## WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

### Mass action

- **Thousands** of women demonstrated for peace
- Women held a sex strike
- Women blocked access to the meeting room and threatened to undress to force progress

### Unofficial consultations

- Mediators and conflict parties consulted with **women activists**

### Post-agreement inclusive commissions

- **Minimum 2 women out of 5** members of the Governance Reform Commission (initially led by a woman)
- **Minimum 4 women out of 9** members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- A woman leads the independent National Commission on Human Rights

### Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations (2003)

*Mandate: To seek a negotiated settlement of the crisis*

**No** women negotiators in the talks

### Observer status

- **1 woman** was among the leaders of political parties with observer status
- **1 women's network** was among the 6 civil society organizations to have observer status

### Direct representation in transitional government (2003-2005)

*Mandate: Implementation of the ceasefire and peace agreements, promotion of reconciliation, preparation for elections*

- Women's network responsible for **Ministry of Gender**

Information exchange to support push for peace and women's representation

## 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 access enabled 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
- Coalition building
- Strong women's networks
- Receptive mediators and conflict parties

### - FACTORS CONSTRAINING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE

- Funding
- Decision-making power
- Divisions among women
- Cooptation of women activists into government

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI) 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 constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover other infographics and our case study series, visit our website: [www.inclusivepeace.org](http://www.inclusivepeace.org)

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