

European Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
Call for Papers
‘Responsibility to Protect and Gender’ Conference
University of Leeds, Monday 10 June 2019.

The responsibility to protect (R2P) principle has been criticised for being gender-blind. According to its critics, not only has the focus on intervention as a protection mechanism reflected the masculine logic underpinning the principle, but the principle has also failed to take into account the profoundly gendered impact of mass atrocity crimes. In the context of such concerns, there has been a concerted effort, seen in some of the UN Secretary General’s annual reports on R2P, to render the principle more gender-sensitive. This has entailed paying greater attention to the differentiated impact of mass atrocity crimes on women and men and foregrounding the importance of gender and female empowerment in efforts to prevent mass atrocity crimes.

The aim of this conference is to take stock of these efforts and to assess how successful the efforts to incorporate gender into the protection agenda have been. We invite contributions from scholars and practitioners working on gender, R2P, peacebuilding and cognate fields. Confirmed participants include leading scholars in the area, such as Professor Jacqui True (Monash University).

We are interested in both conceptual and empirical contributions on the intersections between the topics of gender and the responsibility to protect, including but not limited to the following questions:

- How has the conceptualisation of gender within the responsibility to protect framework evolved since its inception in 2001?
- How is gender understood and applied into the practice of the responsibility to protect today?
- Is it possible to reconcile the ‘narrow but deep’ approach of the responsibility to protect with addressing structural forms of violence that women are often subjected to?
- The efforts to promote the responsibility to protect are increasingly focusing on prevention of mass atrocity crimes: how is gender understood and operationalised in atrocity prevention efforts?
- To what extent are resilience and capacity-building efforts, as outlined in pillar II of the R2P, gender-sensitive?

Please submit an abstract of up to 200 words and 100-word bio by 15 March 2019 to Dr Outi Donovan, o.e.donovan@leeds.ac.uk.