Embracing concurrent realities: Revisiting the relationship between human rights and conflict resolution

Parlevliet, M.B.

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Embracing concurrent realities
Revisiting the Relationship between Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

This study focuses on the interplay of human rights and conflict resolution in the practice of civil society organisations and independent state institutions, so as to enhance understanding of the relationship between these fields and contribute to improved practice. It has been recognised that human rights, justice, conflict and peace are closely linked. Yet for many years these bodies of theory and practice have remained surprisingly separate in conceptual and practical terms. Those working on these issues have been known to strongly disagree about the most suitable response in specific instances. At times they may even perceive one another’s actions as hampering their own.

By considering the practical experiences of specific non-governmental organisations and state institutions in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Nepal and Zimbabwe, the study deviates from much of the existing literature; that focuses extensively on the so-called ‘peace versus justice’ debate. As such, it recognises that ‘conflict resolution’ entails more than reaching a settlement to end violence or repression. It also appreciates that efforts to advance ‘human rights’ go beyond pursuing individual criminal accountability for serious abuses. The study is based on some eighteen years of personal practical experience, a review of relevant literature and key informant interviews.

Michelle Parlevliet (MA Political Science, MA International Peace Studies) has worked on the nexus of human rights and conflict resolution in various capacities since 1997. She has published widely on this theme and related topics, and has provided facilitation, training, research and technical assistance to multiple organisations and networks at grassroots and senior policy-making level in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Between 2010 and 2015, she pursued her PhD at the Faculty of Law at the University of Amsterdam.
Embracing Concurrent Realities

Revisiting the Relationship between Human Rights and Conflict Resolution
Embracing Concurrent Realities
Revisiting the Relationship between Human Rights and Conflict Resolution
PhD thesis, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Embracing Concurrent Realities

Revisiting the Relationship between Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor

aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus

prof. dr. D.C. van den Boom

ten overstaan van een door het college voor promoties ingestelde

commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Aula der Universiteit

op vrijdag 30 oktober 2015, te 13:00 uur

door Michelle Brigitte Parlevliet

deboren te Almelo
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Promotor: Prof. mr. dr. B.M. Oomen
Copromotor: Prof. dr. G.C.A. Junne

Overige leden: Prof. dr. M. de Wilde
Prof. dr. M.E. Glasius
Prof. dr. B.M. Burgoon
Prof. mr. J.E. Goldschmidt
Prof. C.L. Sriram

Faculteit: Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid
The single story creates stereotypes. And the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the whole story.

*The danger of a single story*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
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### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADR</td>
<td>Alternative dispute resolution</td>
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<td>AI</td>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOs</td>
<td>Authorised Officers (Northern Ireland Parades Commission)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAJ</td>
<td>Committee for the Administration of Justice (Northern Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDA</td>
<td>Collaborative for Development Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>CiM</td>
<td>Churches in Manicaland (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCMA</td>
<td>Council for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCR</td>
<td>Centre for Conflict Resolution (South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRCR</td>
<td>Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Tufts University (United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINEP</td>
<td>Center for Research and Popular Education (Colombia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Civil peace service (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSRC</td>
<td>Community Self-Reliance Centre (Nepal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>Department of Political Affairs (United Nations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESTA</td>
<td>Extension of Security of Tenure Act (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIDH</td>
<td>International Federation for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMLN</td>
<td>Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (El Salvador)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRCMP</td>
<td>Human Rights and Conflict Management Programme (CCR, South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRW</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
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<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Commission of Jurists</td>
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<td>ICG</td>
<td>International Crisis Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>Institute for Conflict Research (Northern Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Independent Electoral Commission (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSEC</td>
<td>Informal Sector Service Centre (Nepal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International non-governmental organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRA</td>
<td>Irish Republican Army (Northern Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOFF</td>
<td>Centre for peacebuilding (peacebuilding network, Switzerland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LHR</td>
<td>Lawyers for Human Rights (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>Labour Tenants Act (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTTE</td>
<td>Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDC</td>
<td>Movement for Democratic Change (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHRI</td>
<td>National human rights institution</td>
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<td>NIHR</td>
<td>Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>NIPC</td>
<td>Northern Ireland Parades Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD-DAC</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Assistance Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPP</td>
<td>Office of the Public Protector (South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPP</td>
<td>Reflecting on Peace Practices Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAHRC</td>
<td>South African Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>SFP</td>
<td>Security of Farmworkers Project (LHR, South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZANU-PF</td>
<td>Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOHCHR</td>
<td>United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (also OHCHR)</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme (United Nations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZLHR</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (Zimbabwe)</td>
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