

WHOSE SECURITY? RE-IMAGINING POST-COLD WAR PEACEKEEPING FROM A FEMINIST

PERSPECTIVE

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Introduction

Feminists have utilized a range of strategies to analyze matters of international security.¹ One strategy is to look for silences and gaps in the mainstream discourse, to think about what is not being articulated and to ask where the women are, so as to bring to the fore issues of gender that had previously been erased.² A related strategy is to examine whether apparently neutral policies and programmes have gender-differentiated impacts and to thereby lend a transparency to those who are actually benefiting from the way neutrality is understood.³ A third strategy is to examine who has access to and participates in decision-making in order to problematize the narrow, masculinist interests represented by those who have the power to determine security priorities.⁴ A fourth approach is to critique the conceptions of gender that are being

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¹ Hilary Charlesworth and Christine Chinkin, "Violence Against Women: A Global Issue" in Julie Stubbs (ed), *Women, Male Violence and the Law* (1994) 13; Kathleen Barry, "Female Sexual Slavery: Understanding the International Dimensions of Women's Oppression" (1981) 3 *Human Rights Quarterly* 44; Judith Gardam, "A Feminist Analysis of Certain Aspects of International Humanitarian Law" (1992) 12 *Australian Yearbook of International Law* 265; V Spike Petersen, "Security and Sovereign States: What is at Stake in Taking Feminism Seriously?" in VS Petersen (ed), *Gendered States: Feminist (Re) Visions of International Relations Theory* (1992) 31.

² Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (1989). Enloe asks the question "where are the women"?

³ Rhonda Copelon, "Intimate Terror: Understanding Domestic Violence as Torture" in Rebecca Cook (ed), *Human Rights of Women* (1995) 116.

⁴ Hilary Charlesworth, "Transforming the United Men's Club: Feminist Futures for the United Nations" (1994) 3 *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems* 421; Dorinda Dallmeyer (ed), *Reconceiving Reality: Women and International Law* (1993).