

addressing gendered differentials of violence and power leads to more prosperous and secure societies (CIDA,1995a,c). Moreover, in the social confusion and flux of post-armed conflict, evaluating the systemic impact of gender relations becomes even more critical.

During a time of limited resources, the Canadian government faces many difficult choices as to where to concentrate its energy within the peace building envelope. **How does Canada make the choices? What criteria should be used? a)Country size - is smaller better for a country like Canada? b)Country within the same hemisphere?**

The remainder of this paper examines the impact of gender in pre-conflict, conflict, and post-conflict settings. Through a study of the social construction of gender roles in relation to ethnicity and violence as well as the diverse ways in which war impacts upon women during and after armed conflict, a clearer understanding of the importance of gender relations in peace building will emerge. It is at this point that we can begin to formulate the necessary questions and call-on the best resources for the creation of a systemic and effective policy on Peace building.

WHAT HAS GENDER GOT TO DO WITH IT?

A 1995 report, "The International Response to Conflict and Genocide: Lessons from the Rwanda Experience," which evaluates the international response to the Rwandan genocide, makes two things clear. First, with women composing 60 - 70 percent of the Rwandan population, the role of women in peace building is not so much a question as a fact. Second, women's specific needs were not met but should have been. Not only were several thousand women brutally raped during the war but in the war's aftermath in some areas between one-third