



Power and resistance in the field of female UN peacekeepers deployment



~~Power and resistance in the field of~~ Female deployments in UN peacekeeping



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**Le renforcement du déploiement
de Casques bleus féminins :
Une longue et incertaine marche
vers l'égalité des genres**

Introduction

- The specificity of women's experiences in violent conflict – as victims, actors...) has long been ignored
- Key
 - 2000: UNSC Resolution 1325
 - Protection
 - Inclusion in peace processes ...
 - And in peace operations (Blue Helmets)

But...

Major gap between stated objectives
and actual practices



<https://dandurand.uqam.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Femmes-Conflit.jpg>



http://iremmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Femmes_conflits.jpg

Outline

1. Why deploy women in peace operations?
2. Female UN peacekeepers by the figures
3. Obstacles

1. Why deploy women in peace operations?

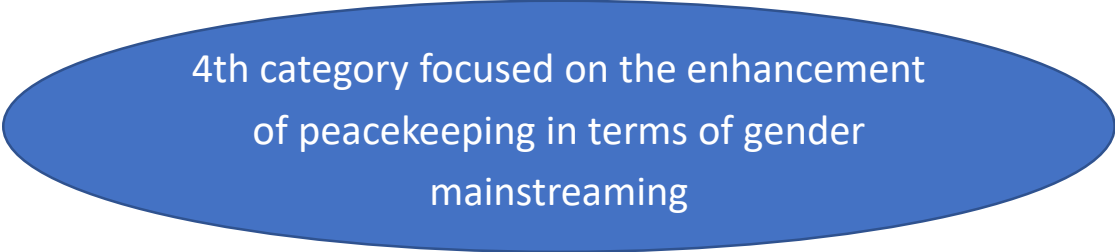
- Arguments mobilized by actors (practitioners, activists...) and analysts ↔ wide variety of objectives
- Five more or less intertwined categories of objectives

1st category (meta & normative) : global objective of gender equality in the world. Transform women's role in the field of security

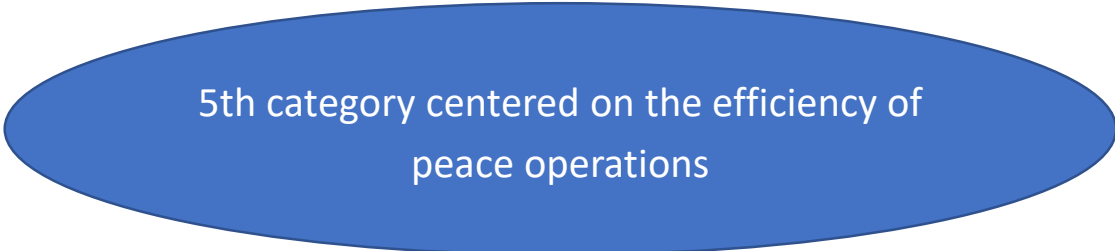
2nd category centered on the home communities of the women who are deployed

3rd category centered on the women of communities hosting UN female peacekeepers

1. Why deploy women in peace operations?



4th category focused on the enhancement
of peacekeeping in terms of gender
mainstreaming



5th category centered on the efficiency of
peace operations

1. Why deploy women in peace operations?

- Scarce literature due to the lack of cases to study...
- Conclusions are provisional and weakly substantiated
- Pervasive discourses mixing up political, ideological, activist and academic arguments

2. Female UN peacekeepers by the figures

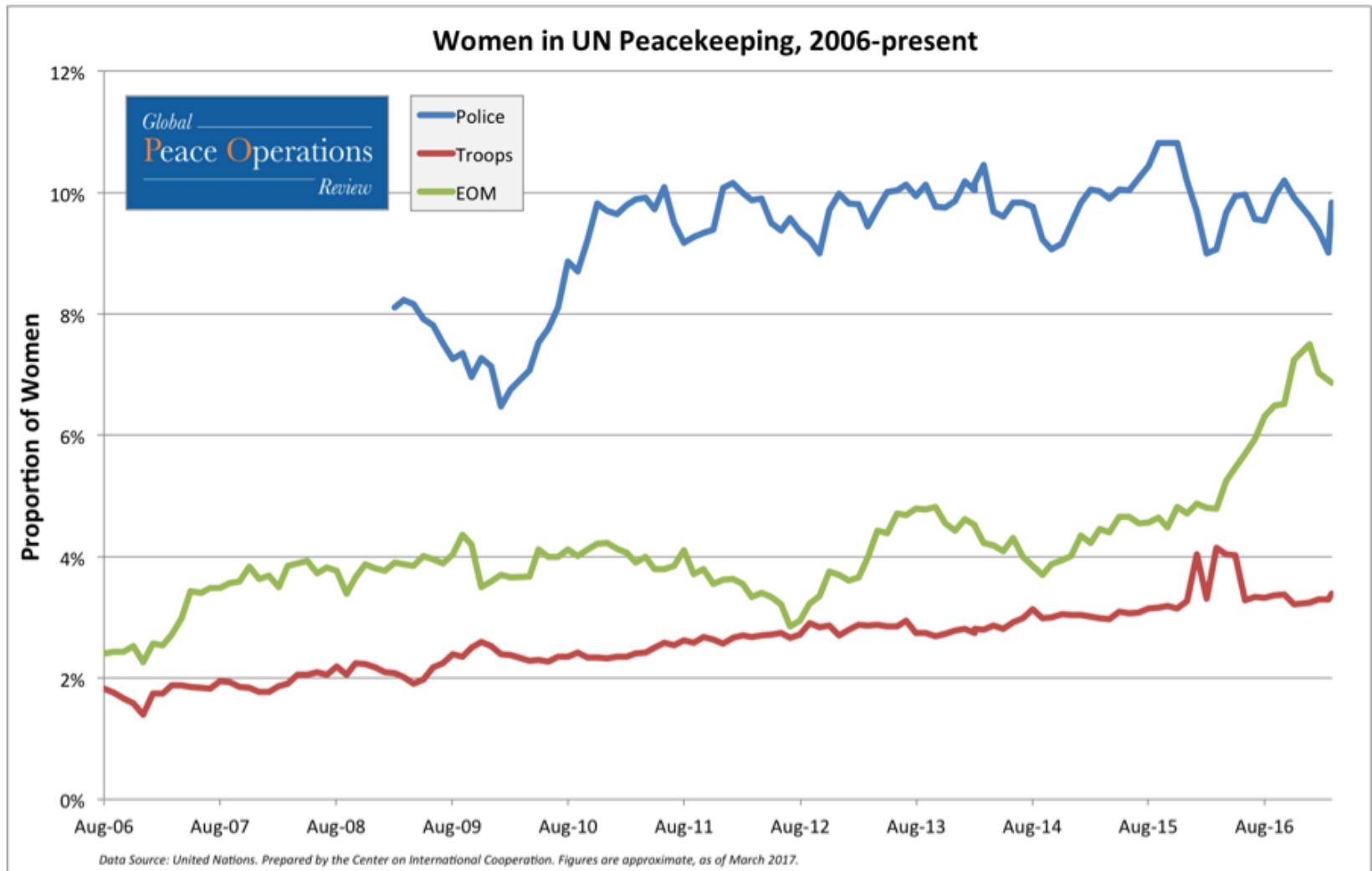


Figure 1. Women in UN peacekeeping (2006-2017).

Source : Global Peace operations Review (<http://peaceoperationsreview.org/featured-data#gender>).

2. Female UN peacekeepers by the figures

Table 1 Percentage of deployed women per TTC (decreasing order of country contributions to PKG) & by category (cumulative figures, Jan. 2011-April 2017)					
Blue Helmet contributor in order of importance	Individual police	Formed police units	Experts on mission	Military troops	Agregate totals
Ethiopia	4,48	0	10,61	5,83	5,92
Bangladesh	4,56	11,51	0,18	0,49	2,38
India	9,65	9,75	3,03	0,35	1,53
Rwanda	42,37	12,22	1,12	1,78	4,30
Pakistan	10,68	0,04	0,00	0,25	0,35
Nepal	5,50	6,77	1,32	2,00	2,77
Egypt	0,46	0,00	0,02	0,05	0,06
Senegal	4,65	2,51	1,56	0,56	1,35
Indonesia	26,27	0,00	0,05	1,27	1,47
Tanzania	24,40	0,00	14,38	4,72	6,14
Ghana	33,52	15,33	9,74	7,93	9,97
China	2,05	3,86	0,00	2,63	2,62
Burkina Faso	22,28	3,00	0,00	1,57	3,43
Average	14,68	5,00	3,23	2,26	3,25

^[1] Ces chiffres ont été calculés par l'auteure à partir de la base de données « genre » « IPI Peacekeeping Database » du site « Providing for peacekeeping » (<http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/contributions/>). Ils comportent donc les mêmes limites que cette base de données qui, bien que sérieuse et assez complète, n'accuse pas moins ici ou là une petite défaillance (erreur sur le renseignement de femmes déployées par le Maroc dans des contingents militaires).

2. Female UN peacekeepers by the figures

Table 2 Percentage of women deployed by major TTCs (decreasing ranking) & by category Agregation French-speaking / non-French speaking (cumulative figures, Jan. 2011-April 2017)						
	BH contributors	Individual police	Formed police units	Experts on mission	Military troops	Agregate totals
Non-French speaking	Ethiopia	4,48	0	10,61	5,83	5,92
	Bangladesh	4,56	11,51	0,18	0,49	2,38
	India	9,65	9,75	3,03	0,35	1,53
	Pakistan	10,68	0,04	0	0,25	0,35
	Nepal	5,5	6,77	1,32	2	2,77
	Indonesia	26,27	0	0,05	1,27	1,47
	Tanzania	24,4	0	14,38	4,72	6,14
	Ghana	33,52	15,33	9,74	7,93	9,97
	China	2,05	3,86	0	2,63	2,62
	Average	13,46	5,25	4,37	2,83	3,68
French-speaking countries	Rwanda	42,37	12,22	1,12	1,78	4,3
	Egypt	0,46	0	0,02	0,05	0,06
	Senegal	4,65	2,51	1,56	0,56	1,35
	Burkina Faso	22,28	3	0	1,57	3,43
	Average OIF	17,44	4,43	0,68	0,99	2,29

2. Female UN peacekeepers by the figures

Tableau 3
Déploiement de femmes par la Belgique, le Canada et la France
au sein du groupe francophone

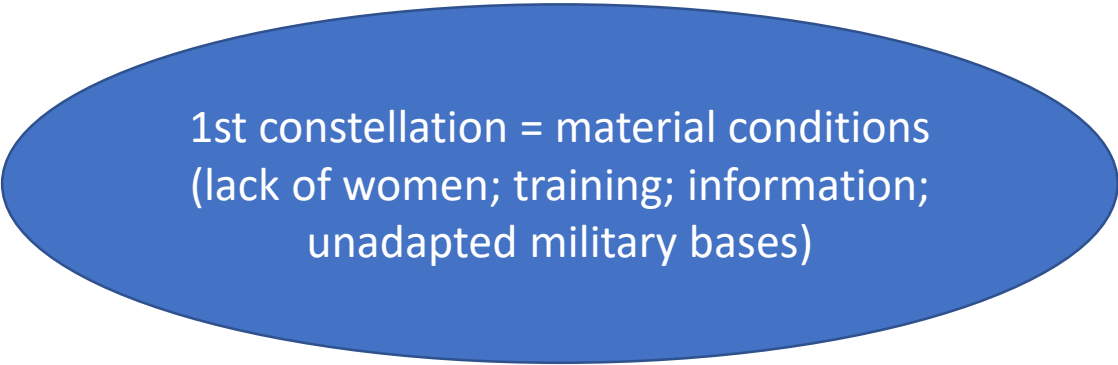
Catégorie de personnel		Police		Militaires		Total
		Individuel	Unités formées	Expert	Troupes	
Belgique	Nombre absolu	0	NA	0	394	394
	Rang selon nombre	NA	NA	NA	10ème	19ème
	Pourcentage	0%	NA	0%	6,80%	6,43%
	Rang selon pourcentage	NA	NA	NA	3ème	13ème
Canada	Chiffre absolu	1294	NA	99	130	1523
	Rang selon chiffres	5ème	NA	2ème	14ème	10ème
	Pourcentage	14,05%	NA	7,11%	7,44%	12,33%
	Rang selon pourcentage	10ème	NA	7ème	2ème	5ème
France	Chiffre absolu	207	NA	50	4264	4521
	Rang selon chiffres	18ème	NA	8ème	2ème	3ème
	Pourcentage	5,63%	NA	4,45%	5,80%	5,77%
	Rang selon pourcentage	23ème	NA	9ème	4ème	14ème

^[1] NA signifie que le pays n'a pas fait de déploiement dans la catégorie concernée (donc ni homme ni femme).

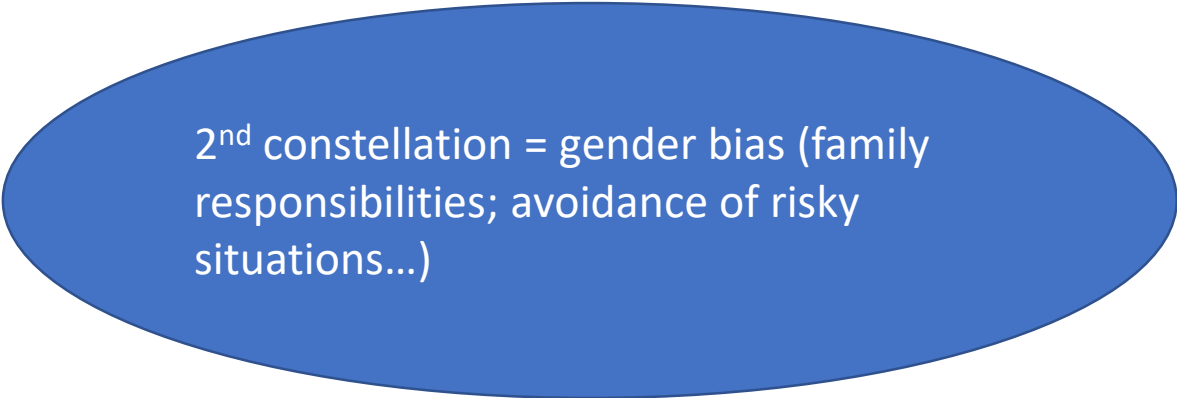
^[2] Un « 0% » signifie qu'aucune femme n'a été déployée dans la catégorie concernée, sachant que des hommes l'ont été.

3. Obstacles

- Figures show the extent of the gap between practices / discourses and expectations
- Analysis of causes → 4 constellations of obstacles



1st constellation = material conditions
(lack of women; training; information;
unadapted military bases)



2nd constellation = gender bias (family
responsibilities; avoidance of risky
situations...)

3. Obstacles

3rd constellation of obstacles = political
Decision makers not committed to the
deeper transformative objectives of WPS
Instrumental vision
Men's monopoly over key positions (SG;
ASG; command of peace operations)...

4th constellation = strength of
patriarchy that perpetuates men's
domination over women and excludes
the latter from the field of security

Conclusion

- Several key tensions:
 - Instrumental vs. normative visions
 - Essentialist vision vs. gender as construct vision
 - Quantified vs. transformative objectives (count women vs making women count, Paffenholz et al. 2016)
- Mixed results
- Need for a critical and reflexive approach to actual discourses and practices, their normative foundations, in order to enhance a transformative inclusion of women in peacekeeping

Next steps:

- Power in the discourses & practices (power over TCCs and their women)
- With a focus on European countries

Thank you so much for your interest,
patience & questions!

References:

Jennings, K. M. (2011), *Women's participation in UN peacekeeping operations: agents of change or stranded symbols?*, Norwegian peacebuilding resource center (NOREF)

Paffenholz, T. et. al. (2016), *Making Women Count - Not Just Counting Women: Assessing Women's Inclusion and Influence on Peace Negotiations*, UN Women