

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN PEACE
BUILDING IN PUNTLAND STATE OF SOMALIA AND ITS EFFECT ON
DEVELOPMENT.**

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Reg No: MDS/2013/44049

**A Research proposal submitted in partial fulfilment for the award of a Master
of Development studies of Mount Kenya University**

April 2015

ABSTRACT

Peace building has become increasingly important as a means of preventing continuing hostilities among previously warring factions. However, peace building strategies or designs have not fully recognized the particular needs of women and have not acknowledged the significance of women's contributions to peace building in war-torn communities. In Somalia, women responded to this marginalization by initiating unique peace building mechanisms and making space for themselves during the process of rebuilding. This report will therefore look at the role women in Puntland play in peace building framework including security, governance, relief and development and reconciliation. It will further look at the traditional peace building effort taken by women and the importance of women during peace building, and outlining some of the concerns, problems and limitations that plague the peace building process in the post-war setting. It then turns to an examination of women's role in peace building in one case study, namely Galkayo, Bosaso and Garowe of Puntland region of Somalia. The study is significant because it will demonstrate the integral role women play in the peace building process in Somalia. While marginalized from traditional peace building processes, women's experiences and knowledge of building peace in post-conflict have the potential to contribute to and improve a more inclusive peace building design that may result in increased effectiveness for future operations. The study will be conducted in Puntland state. It will adopt a mixed study method, using both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The study will use a descriptive research design. The sample will be drawn from the citizens of Puntland. The researcher will use purposive and random sampling methods. Data will be collected using questionnaires, interviews, and group discussions. The data will be analysed using regression and progression data analysis and also content analysis. The findings will be presented using graphs, diagrams and reports. The study will be conducted between April and June 2015.