Tempering Power and Peacemaking with Justice

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Imbalance of power:

So is mediation wrong for domestic violence or rape? *Please think about the evidence before reaching that conclusion.*

Peacemaking mediations eventually work in ending wars and reducing rape. But men totally dominate in peacemaking mediations that end wars. *Please think about tempering the power of these men.*

Peace deals give male combatants more than women and children who were victims of the war. *Please think about feminist peace politics in Bougainville.*
Restorative justice and gendered violence

- We need more criminal convictions for gendered violence.
- More access to restorative justice for gendered violence.
- To achieve more access to both, we need justice informalism that supports formal justice; and formal justice that enables informal justice.
- We need justice in many rooms, especially when victims cannot face a perpetrator in a courtroom, in a restorative conference or a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Also widen the circle in each room. That means moving from dyadic mediation toward restorative justice, defined as justice where all stakeholders have an opportunity to speak about who has been harmed, who has needs which should be met by the restorative process. Muddy power imbalances.
- With peacemaking, reimagine, renarrate how it really works. Emphasise peacemaking work women already do. Lend more power to that work.
Limiting, curbing or controlling power less appealing than ‘tempering’ power.

Power is a good thing; it is needed to enforce legal judgements, to keep peace, to levy taxes for schools/hospitals. It is untempered power that is bad because it is arbitrary, unchecked power.

So don’t abandon courtrooms because most voices are male; don’t abandon peace mediations because men do the deals.

Instead, have a strategy to temper their power with the power of circles of female/youth power that precede and follow them.
Women lead in Ambon: moving peacemaking out from islands of civility that spread like ink-spots to connect up.
Ambon Mosque: Timor is another case of healing through gifts of shared work on culturally critical sites
The following slides are from Akihisa Matsuno’s for Commision for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (Timor)

Community Reconciliation Process (CRP)
CRP hearing
The traditional ritual confirms agreement.
Rituals of everyday life (funerals, weddings, offering a lift)

Eat together!
Drawing
Dancing
Mothers of the Land and Peace March Leadership. Like Kulka Women’s Movement in Highlands
Women Lead Bougainville Reconciliation
Youth Cross - Bougainville
Long procession follows the cross village to village.
Confess to murder in the church and cut the murder weapon in two
Minimally sufficient deterrence sooner or later

- Later in life, prosecute Bougainville and ANU rapists, who never apologized, never cooperated with mediated justice, when some survivors are ready to testify.

- Prosecute a criminal like Chile’s Augusto Pinochet or Liberia’s and Sierra Leone’s Charles Taylor later (for rape in war).


- At every stage, energise feminist social movement politics about the shamefulness of campus rape, rape in war.