Introductory Guide

PA-X
Peace Agreement Database
www.peaceagreements.org
PA-X Peace Agreement Database (www.peaceagreements.org), and associated research is an output from the Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) (www.politicalsettlements.org), funded by UK Aid from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. The information and views set out in this publication are those of the authors. Nothing herein constitutes the views of the Department.


© University of Edinburgh
## Table of Contents

- What is PA-X? ........................................................................................................ 4
- What does PA-X Include? ..................................................................................... 4
- What is PA-X Gender? ......................................................................................... 5
- PA-X Key Definitions .......................................................................................... 5
- Sources .................................................................................................................. 6
- How to use PA-X? ................................................................................................ 6
- Glossary of Key Terms .......................................................................................... 10
- Categories and Sub-Categories of PA-X ............................................................... 13
- Research ............................................................................................................... 14
- Published Research .............................................................................................. 14
- Underpinning Research ....................................................................................... 15
- How to cite PA-X? ............................................................................................... 15
- Acknowledgements .............................................................................................. 16
- PA-X Terms of Use .............................................................................................. 18
- Contact the PA-X Research Team ....................................................................... 19
- Endorsements ....................................................................................................... 20
- About Us .............................................................................................................. 21
What is PA-X?

The PA-X Peace Agreement Database (www.peaceagreements.org) is a database and repository of peace agreements from 1990 to date, current up until 1 January 2016. PA-X provides a comprehensive dataset of peace agreements from 1990 to 2015, capable of underpinning both quantitative and qualitative research. The database is available as Version 1 from the website, with future updated versions planned.

PA-X has been designed to provide easy access to peace agreement texts and to allow users to explore patterns of agreements over time, both within processes and across processes. It aims to be accessible to:

- mediators and parties in conflict seeking to understand how compromise can be crafted
- civic actors seeking to influence on-going peace talks and proposals
- social science researchers interested in understanding peace agreements quantitatively and qualitatively

What does PA-X Include?

PA-X contains:

- over 1500 agreements in over 140 peace processes
- coding of provisions for 225 substantive categories such as power-sharing, women, and transitional justice

It enables search permutations which can disaggregate the data by country, entity, region, conflict type, and stage of agreement; and allows examination of different combinations of issues addressed.

PA-X provides full data for statistical analysis, with weighted coding for key issues based on whether the provision is rhetorical (1), or goal oriented and demonstrating intent to implement (3), with intermediate provisions that are either goal oriented or indicate clear intent to implement (2).
What is PA-X Gender?

PA-X is accompanied by PA-X Gender, which contains more detailed analysis of the over 330 agreements in the main PA-X collection that mention women, girls, or gender. This database breaks down the relevant provisions into 53 categories, again with detailed search mechanisms and quantitative data fully available.

The search mechanisms and pages on PA-X Gender work the same way as PA-X, although they involve different sub-coding of gender provisions. PA-X Gender was launched in 2015 and has been central to research by institutions including UN Women and the Council of Foreign Relations.

PA-X Key Definitions

**Peace Agreement**: a formal, publicly-available document, produced after discussion with conflict protagonists and mutually agreed to by some or all of them, addressing conflict with a view to ending it.

**Conflict’s protagonists**: state actors and armed non-state actors who are involved in violent conflict (whether causing deaths or not), or associated political representatives.

**Conflict**: armed violence, causing more than 25 conflict-related deaths in one year.

**Peace Process**: a formal attempt to bring political and/or military protagonists of conflict, to some sort of mutual agreement as to how to end the conflict.

**PA-X Contains three different types of agreement:**

**Interstate agreements in inter-state conflict.** These include, for example, agreements between Argentina and the UK restoring normal relations, or between Ecuador and Peru, or Eritrea and Ethiopia, dealing with border issues.

**Intrastate agreements in intrastate conflict.** These comprise the vast majority of the collection. The agreement is defined as intrastate if it includes non-state parties and is directed primarily at intrastate relations, even if signed also by state parties.

**Interstate agreement relating to intrastate conflict.** These are agreements signed by two or more states, but as a result of talks between parties to intrastate conflict.

The agreements are coded along more than 225 substantive categories and agreement identifiers and contextual variables (e.g. region, third parties, signatories, and similar). See **PA-X Codebook** for definitions of all categories and explanations for the numerical values in the spreadsheets that can be downloaded from the PA-X website.
Sources

Agreements were sourced using: existing collections; country-specific websites and literature; websites of other civic groups; official documentation of international organisations; and writing to or meeting with and requesting documentation from governments and actors who have signed peace agreements, or mediators involved in conflicts. The data collected was often generated close in time to the conflict, but also over a thirty-year period, or in some cases historically, because the agreements relating to conflicts fought within 50 years of the 1990 database threshold were included where available.

In a few situations involving local agreements, most notably the Syrian conflict, we have recorded and coded agreements whose text could not be verified, if we had a clear basis for regarding it as largely reliable. Any such instances have been recorded and a general caveat about these texts is noted in the database.

How to use PA-X?

The PA-X homepage is at https://www.peaceagreements.org, where you can click on “Search PA-X”.

Alternatively, you can go to: https://www.peaceagreements.org/search.

This is what the homepage looks like:
The search page provides immediate access to basic search, as seen on the following page.

Note that there are several additional options to choose from at the bottom of the page: ‘advanced search’, which provides more search options; ‘view a listing’, which opens a list of all agreements; and download links for quantitative data export in .csv or .xlsx format (see image below).
The advanced search tool adds multiple search options and allows for their various combinations, as demonstrated in the video which is linked to this instruction packet. The codebook provides definitions of search criteria (substantive categories, agreement/conflict level, stage and sub-stage, conflict nature, and agreement status).

For each agreement listed in the search results, the database listing and full text in .pdf format are available (see buttons on top rights of screen, on the next page). The search results can also be exported to downloading database spreadsheet outputs in .csv or .xlsx formats suitable for use in a range of statistical packages.

**Text of Agreements:** clicking on the agreement name triggers a download of the agreement text in .pdf, while click on the “View coding” button opens a new tab with the agreement listing in the database.

The screen image below shows the agreement listing viewing screen in the database.

On this screen, one may see all the coding categories and related agreement text (if any). The “Export agreement coding (pdf)” button produces the database list in .pdf form for the search.
Tokyo Declaration Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan from Transition to Transformation (Tokyo Conference)

Country/entity: Afghanistan  
Region: Europe and Eurasia  
Agreement name: Tokyo Declaration Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan from Transition to Transformation (Tokyo Conference)  
Date: 06/07/2012  
Agreement status: Multi-party signed/agreed  
Agreement/conflict level: Intrastate/interstate conflicts (Afghan War (1879 - ))
Stage: Implementation/renegotiation (new or outstanding issues)
Conflict nature: Government
Parties: Not signed, agreement mentions the following parties as having produced it: The Afghan Government and the International Community (representatives from 55 countries and 25 international and other organizations from around the world)
Third parties: Ambassador Kazu Rodera, Charge d'Affaires ad interim Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

Link to Video demonstrating database search capacity: https://youtu.be/PH3ukhPJih4
## Glossary of Key Terms

### Country
The country or jurisdiction in which the conflict originated.

### Name of Agreement
The name of the agreement as found in the text of the agreement. Where appropriate, popular names of the agreements are included in parenthesis.

### Date Signed
The date on which the agreement was signed or agreed.

### Year
The year in which the agreement was signed or agreed.

### Parties
The parties who directly sign the agreement, often the parties to the conflict and their regional allies.

### Third Parties
Parties who sign the agreement as third parties, such as observers, guarantors, or witnesses, and who can comprise states, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations. The actual term used has been entered in the database.

### Description
Summary description of the agreement’s content.

### Statehood / Identity
Provisions of the agreement dealing with the nature and identity of the state, for example, whether it is unitary, involves autonomy, is intended to be pluralist, or socialist.
Governance / Democratic Institutions
Mechanisms establishing new forms of governance, such as power-sharing or interim administration, and/or new democratic institutions.

Amnesty
Provisions providing for full or partial amnesty.

Past Mechanism
Provisions that address how to deal with past abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, such as through truth commissions, commissions of inquiry, or international criminal tribunals.

Prisoner release
Provisions specifically providing for the release of prisoners.

Victims
Provisions specifically addressing victims.

Criminal Justice Reform
Provisions specifically providing for reform of criminal justice.

National Human Rights Institution
Provisions establishing national human rights institutions, or institutions for promoting democracy, such as human rights commissions, ombudsman mechanisms, and equality commissions.

Human Rights Framework
Provisions providing for a human rights framework to guide the post-conflict period, for example by making provision for a bill of rights or for incorporation of human rights standards.

Judicial Reform
Provisions addressing the reform of the judiciary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policing</td>
<td>Provisions addressing policing, and reform of the police or of the army where they have been providing policing functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees / Land</td>
<td>Provisions specifically addressing refugees’ issues, such as return, and land claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Society</td>
<td>Provisions specifically addressed at the inclusion of civil society, for example, through Peace Building Commissions, or through general calls for inclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Provisions specifically addressing women, their inclusion, and their rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement Mechanism</td>
<td>Any mechanism by which the agreement provides for its own enforcement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Community</td>
<td>Any provision noting the involvement of international actors in negotiating the agreement, or specifically providing for international actors to be involved in the peace agreement’s implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Involvement</td>
<td>Any provision referencing United Nations’ involvement in the peace agreement or its implementation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Categories and Sub-Categories of PA-X

The following categories with sub categories are searchable for on PA-X (see further codebook, www.peaceagreements.org).

Groups: children/youth; disabled persons; elderly/age; migrant workers; racial/ethnic/national groups; religious groups; indigenous people; refugees/displaced persons; social class; other.

Gender: women, girls and gender; men and boys; sexual orientation; family.

State definition: nature of state (general); state configuration; self-determination; referendum; state symbols; independence/secession; accession/unification; border delimitation; cross-border provisions.

Governance: political institutions (new, reformed or temporary); constitutional renewal; constitutional reform; elections; electoral commission; political parties reform; civil society; traditional/religious leaders; public administration (civil services).

Powersharing: political, territorial, economic and military.

Human rights and equality: human rights/rule of law; equality; democracy; protection measures; human rights framework; civil and political rights; socio-economic rights; national human rights institution; regional or international human rights institutions; mobility/access; detention procedures; media and communication; citizenship.

Justice sector reform: Criminal justice reform and emergency provisions; judiciary and courts; prisons and detention; traditional/religious laws.

Socio-economic reconstruction: development or socio-economic reconstruction; national economic plan; natural resources; international funds; business; taxation; banks; land reform/rights; pastoralist/nomadic rights; cultural heritage; environment; water rights.

Security sector: general; ceasefire; police; armed forces; DDR; intelligence services; rebel/opposition/para-statal forces; withdrawal of foreign forces; corruption; crime; drugs; terrorism.

Transitional justice: amnesty/pardon; courts; mechanism; prisoner release; vetting; victims; missing; reparation; reconciliation.

Implementation: UN Signatory; other international signatory; referendum for agreement; international mission/force/similar; enforcement mechanism.
Research

The research emanating from PA-X offers substantial conceptual and empirical work, re-characterising the relationship of peace processes and peace agreements to political settlements. Our research is focused mainly on inclusion in peace processes. Who is included in what types of agreement, and what issues are covered? We are interested in exploring the trade-offs between elite bargains and other forms of inclusion in peace agreements, and considering the implementation difficulties that may arise. We examine how political/military elites and other social forces press claims of inclusion during peace processes. How is inclusion 'navigated' in the changing landscape of a peace process?

We consider in particular:

- how peace processes are structured and sequenced and the consequences of sequences for inclusion, focusing on key moments – ceasefires, peace agreements, interim constitutions, constitutions
- how horizontal inclusion of the political and military actors at the heart of the conflict is provided for, through power-sharing and forms of territorial devolution of power
- how vertical inclusion is provided for, addressing women, non-aligned minorities, and other social constituencies
- the trade-offs between vertical and horizontal inclusion and strategies for navigating them
- effective strategies for change that are used by marginalised groups, and the ways in which international intervention assists or detracts from these strategies

Our PA-X research is also complemented by case studies and practice labs, and a large-scale global Amnesty Database.

Published Research


**Underpinning Research**

- Bell C, ‘*Peace Agreements and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press 2000).

**How to cite PA-X?**


Acknowledgements

Funding

The current database is an output of the Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) www.politicalsettlements.org, funded by the Department of International Development (DFID, UK Aid). It has also received some funding from UN Women, to feed into the Global Study and UN Secretary General’s Report on the fifteen-year review of UNSCR 1325, and from funding from the College of Arts and Humanities, Knowledge Transfer Fund, of the University of Edinburgh.

The pilot phases of the project were funded at different times by: the Nuffield Foundation and the British Academy.

Research

The database was conceived of and designed by Professor Christine Bell. The permanent researchers and peace agreement analysts responsible for the research and database content are: Sanja Badanjak, Robert Forster, Astrid Jamar, and Laura Wise.

The current phase of the database benefited from coding by other coders, some former members of the team and its recent additions, as well as project associates: Rachel Anderson, Sean Molloy and Jan Pospisil.

Early stages of PA-X Gender also relied on coding from: Celia Davies, Meg King, Laura Martin, Sissela Matzner, Laura Murdoch, Anna Ross, Jenna Sapiano, and Susan Thomson.

Nascent versions of the project linked to the monographs above benefited from research by Jonathon Doak, Johanna Keenan and Catherine O’Rourke. Catherine O’Rourke undertook the bulk of the coding for an earlier incarnation of another similar database which informed the development of the current database, still available at: http://www.peaceagreements.ulster.ac.uk/

Additionally, coding analysis was contributed by University of Edinburgh students on work-based and summer placements: Jack Barton, Lewis Dunne, Lauren Donnelly, Helia Farahnoosh, Alejandro Fernandes Jullian, Kerstin Mayr, Lauren Mizen, Kalina Peresterova, Vanessa Utley and Matthew Wilmore.

Website and database design and maintenance

The programming technology behind the database and the website has been produced by the University of Edinburgh Information Services, John Allison and Bill Lee in particular. For more, see https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services.

Transcription

Dot Kirkham
Photos

Robert Henderson (http://robertjohnhenderson.com/)
Charlotte Melly/Conciliation Resources
Yan Yong (http://www.globaljusticeacademy.ed.ac.uk/resources/photography)

Agreement translations

A large number of agreements were translated into English from the following languages by the following translators: Rachel Anderson (Russian, French), Haneef Aurangzeb (Urdu), Sanja Badanjak (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian), Marian Craig Falcon-Craig Consultants (French), William Da Rosa (Portuguese), Robert Forster (Arabic), Simen Jordsmyr Holm (Arabic), Nataša Honeybone (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian), Elena Granina (Russian), Matilda Karçanaj (Albanian), Daniel Kelly Herrera (Arabic), James Kelly - http://www.jcktranslation.com/en/about-me/ (Spanish), Will Mitchell (Chinese), Neil Russel (Arabic), Lewis Walker (French, Spanish), Imogen Westfield (Arabic).
PA-X Terms of Use

The PA-X website is the website of the peace agreement access tool, currently hosting the PA-X Peace Agreement Database and PA-X Women and Gender Database (“the Databases”). Both Databases are protected by copyright and database right belonging to the University of Edinburgh and may only be used in accordance with these terms of use. The concept, selection and arrangement of the contents of the Databases was largely the intellectual creation of Professor Christine Bell, an employee of the University of Edinburgh. Professor Bell asserts her moral right to be identified as the author of the Databases.

**Intellectual Property Rights**

The Databases are available solely to provide information to users of this site for their research purposes.

You may download and print sub-sets of material from the Databases and create new datasets using the tools provided for your legitimate research purposes but you may not copy or re-utilise either of the Databases in their entirety or a substantial part of them to create any sub-set database identical or substantially similar to either of the Databases.

You may not charge a fee for any use you make of either Database and commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Data produced from the website should be notified to the politicalsettlements@ed.ac.uk, to assist with keeping a repository of information about the website usage.

All use of the website material, including selections of data, qualitative coding or quantitative coding, should state that the copyright and database right in the Databases is owned by the University of Edinburgh and should clearly reference the website in accordance with the further acknowledgements page.

Except for material identified as copyrighted by other parties, the content of the Databases is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) which allows you to make free use of the available material in the Databases for non-commercial purposes.

**Disclaimer and Limitation of Liability**

Due to the changing nature of the information contained in this website, neither the Political Settlements Research Programme, nor PA-X nor anyone affiliated with the project or funding the project shall be liable for any damage or loss resulting from information accessible via this website not being accurate, complete or current.

Due to the nature of communications over the Internet and the inherent risks of the transfer of data over the Internet, neither PA-X nor anyone affiliated with the project shall be liable for any damage or loss whatsoever or howsoever resulting from viruses or the corruption or loss of data or damage to software or hardware.
Whilst PA-X will use all reasonable endeavours to minimise any amount of downtime on the website, due to the intrinsic nature of websites, neither PA-X nor anyone affiliated with the project shall be liable for any damage or loss whatsoever resulting from you being unable to access the website.

In any event PA-X shall not be liable for any death or personal injury arising out of use of the website unless it is due to the negligence of PA-X or anyone affiliated with the project.
Without prejudice to the above, neither the PA-X nor anyone affiliated with the project shall be liable for any direct, indirect, special or consequential losses or damages whatsoever, howsoever arising (including but not limited to loss of business, loss of opportunity, loss of sale, loss of goodwill, loss of profits or increased costs).

The disclaimers set out above do not affect or prejudice any other PA-X disclaimers or exclusions relating to this website (whether or not contained in these terms).

**Remedies**

If you breach any of these rules, PA-X may, in addition to any other remedies available to it, deny access to the website to the user.

**Hyperlinks**

The PA-X website may provide hyperlinks to other websites. PA-X is not responsible for the availability of such other websites and does not endorse, and is not responsible or liable for any content, products or other materials available on such other websites.

**Contact the PA-X Research Team**

For any questions regarding the database, contact PoliticalSettlements@ed.ac.uk.
Endorsements

“The peace agreements database is a noteworthy accomplishment, with remarkable breadth. It will serve as an invaluable resource for scholars, groups impacted by violent conflict seeking a greater voice in peace processes, and individuals charged with mediating disputes. The knowledge the database provides may foster political settlements that are more inclusive and more sustainable.”

US Ambassador (former) Carey Cavanaugh (involved in peace efforts involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkey. Established the American Embassy to the new Republic of Georgia 1992, later becoming US Special Negotiator for Eurasian Conflicts and Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group process for Nagorno-Karabakh)

“PA-X Peace Agreement Database provides an invaluable resource, which we already have been able to use. International IDEA has collaborated with the Political Settlements Research Programme, University of Edinburgh, to convene the ‘Edinburgh Dialogues on Post-Conflict Constitution-building’. PA-X data has been very useful in informing these high level policy discussions. Data from PA-X and IDEA has enabled an important new report on ‘Sequencing of Peace Agreements and Constitutions’, which is widely used by actors in peace processes and has received high level policy attention at the United Nations. Furthermore, the Constitution Building Programme of International IDEA is using PA-X data in developing a database of constitution-building processes in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Data such as this, and the analysis that results, is vital to an urgent need to transform peace and democracy building practices, which too often appear in regression.”

Yves Leterme, Secretary-General, International IDEA, former Prime Minister Belgium, https://www.idea.int

“This database will be an important resource, not just for high-level mediators and parties to conflicts, but also to the wider range of civic participants who seek to influence talks processes and press for greater inclusion. Having access to such a breadth of data on peace processes will mean that practitioners will have a firmer foundation for the choices they make.”

Jonathan Cohen, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources, http://www.c-r.org
About Us

The Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) is concerned with how political settlements can be made both more stable, and more inclusive of those affected by them beyond political elites. In particular, the programme examines the relationship between stability and inclusion, sometimes understood as a relationship between peace-making and justice.

The programme is addressing three broad research questions relating to political settlements:

1. How do different types of political settlements emerge, and what are the actors, institutions, resources, and practices that shape them?
2. How can political settlements be improved by internally-driven initiatives, including the impact of gender-inclusive processes and the rule of law institutions?
3. How, and with what interventions, can external actors change political settlements?

The Global Justice Academy at The University of Edinburgh is the lead organisation. PSRP partners include: Conciliation Resources (CR), The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), The Rift Valley Institute (RVI), and the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI, University of Ulster).

Find out more at: www.politicalsettlements.org