

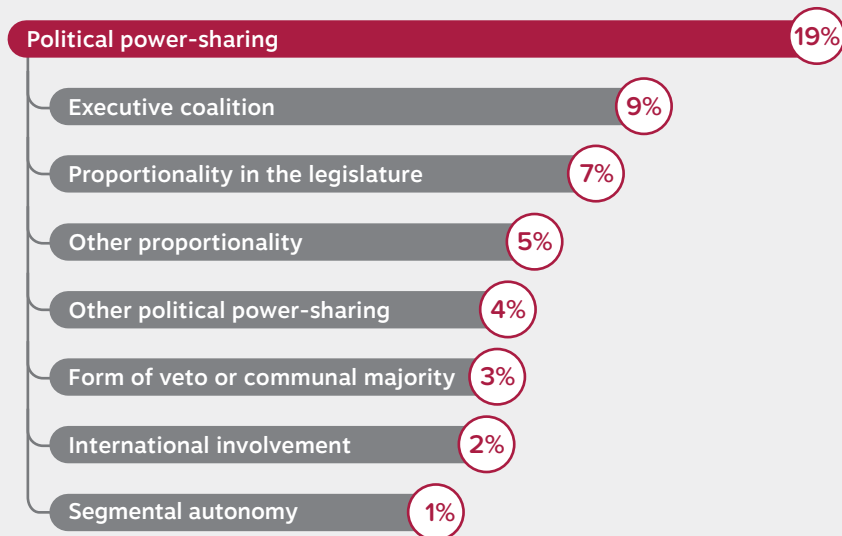
Political Power-Sharing

Political power-sharing provides for power to be shared in political institutions among different groups and parties.

It can include:

- enforced executive coalitions
- proportional legislatures
- forms of communal veto
- proportionality in other political and legal institutions
- segmental autonomy (for example different educational systems for different groups)
- international involvement

Proportions of different forms of power-sharing within political power-sharing agreements



Political power-sharing agreements can be temporary (in interim arrangements) or indefinite (in new political settlements).



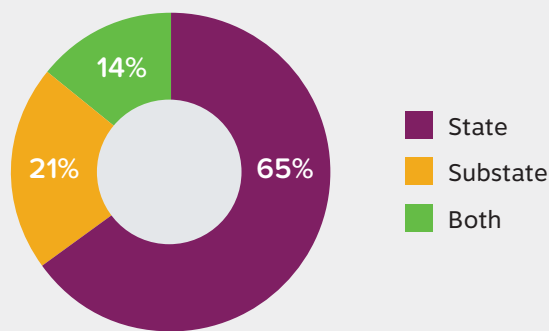
Indefinite
Permanent ethno-group power-sharing



Temporary
Interim transitional arrangement

Political power-sharing can be provided for in the national government, or in sub-state regional or local governments, or all.

The proportion of political power-sharing agreements that include provisions for power-sharing at the state, sub-state, or both levels



Political power-sharing arrangements provide important security guarantees for state and opposition parties or rebel groups, by offering them a place in government. These guarantees are useful to ending conflict, however, they are often criticised for:



Rewarding violence



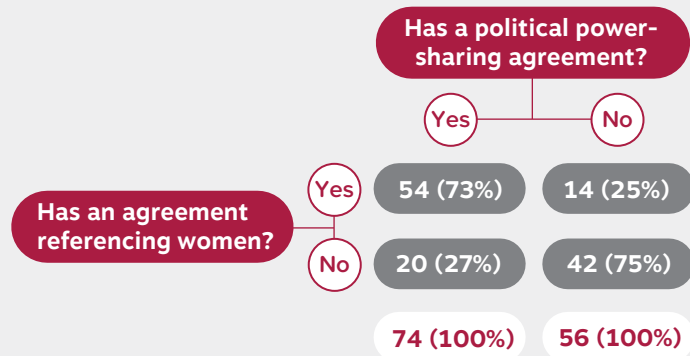
Entrenching the divisions at the heart of the conflict by translating it into new political institutions



Focusing on an elite pact, to the exclusion of any social contract

Women will often be underrepresented in the political-military hierarchies at the centre of both peace negotiations and the power-sharing institutions.

The proportion of peace agreements that contain political power-sharing agreements, and have agreements that reference women



Power-sharing arrangements are often successful in stopping conflict but often do not provide a stable politics.

The central challenge is to ensure that the power-sharing arrangements do not operate only as an 'elite pact' but have capacity to evolve to a more inclusive social contract.



Elite pact



Inclusive social contract

Power-sharing can be difficult to change.

Power-sharing arrangements which aim to deliver political equality to excluded ethno-national groups are difficult to replace without negatively affecting the political equality important to peace.



When power-sharing is temporary, the democratic arrangements designed to replace it may also need to provide for the political accommodation of groups.

Where power-sharing is focused on bringing armed actors into an interim transitional arrangement, these actors may need some hope of having access to power post-transition if they are to be incentivised to 'complete' the transition.



Political power-sharing arrangements based on group identities, or integrating government and opposition political and military elites, should build in special provision for women and minorities.



Human rights measures also form an important safeguard to group power-sharing bargains by recognising individual rights.



See publications at: www.politicalsettlements.org/publications-database

In particular Bell, C. (2018). Accessing Political Power: Women and Political Power-Sharing in Peace Processes (Gender Briefing Series). New York City: UN Women, PA-X (2018). Peace Agreements Database and Access Tool, Version 1. Political Settlements Research Programme, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh. www.peaceagreements.org

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