

ROEI Commission on Women - Program Manager (F)

Background

You have been passionate about women's rights ever since you were a child. Your mother was a major player in the women's rights movement in Golana and she passed these values along to you.

Before joining the ROEI Commission on Women ("the Commission") you spent several years at a small NGO working in post-conflict countries, conducting research on women's involvement in peace processes. You have served in various positions at the Commission, notably as a senior advisor and then as a liaison to the Secretary General's office in Golana. You've published several research papers on the role of women in peace negotiations and have worked on promoting inclusion for women in four peace processes. You are currently leading the Commission's mission in Danaan, and have strong connections to women leaders in the government and civil society. You have been tasked with promoting women's participation in the talks, both as official representatives at the negotiating table and in ensuring the process consults with women more broadly.

The Commission must work and coordinate directly with the host government where they are operating. You have managed to forge a positive relationship with the Danaanian Ministry of Gender who, in partnership with the Commission, has funneled tens of thousands of US dollars toward girl's education and prevention of child marriage to the Ministry. You are aware that some members of the civil society are frustrated by the Commission's close relationship with the government. You've tried to bridge this gap by hosting several consultations with women leaders in civil society. You want to be a conduit for building a strong relationship between these women and the Ministry of Gender.

While you are aware that there are a number of other NGOs working on women's inclusion, you strongly believe that the Commission is best equipped to lead this work. The Commission has been in Danaan longer than any other organization. You also have added capacity and credibility as a ROEI entity, and a strong network that includes government, parliament, and civil society leaders. Your links with the government makes the Commission unique - most others do not have as close of a relationship with the Ministry of Gender.

What you hope to accomplish

As a representative of the Commission, your agenda is to advocate and create programming for women's participation at the peace table and in post-conflict reconstruction. Through your experience, you've found that the best way to achieve this is to hold consultations with distinguished, high-level women civil society leaders and government representatives to inform a position paper or set of recommendations. You can then take those recommendations and, leveraging the ROEI's clout and credibility, advocate for the adoption of your agenda in a way that highlights women's effectiveness as peacebuilders. Research shows that the inclusion of women in peace processes contributes to more robust peace. When women are included, they frequently advocate for other excluded groups and push the rhetoric beyond power sharing and territory to focus on issues that are more closely tied to the root causes of conflict. Both of these approaches help societies to reconcile and ultimately build lasting peace.

You have already connected with the Ministry of Gender, women parliamentarians, and the two largest, most prominent women's civil society groups in Danaan – the Danaan Women's Unity League and 4Peace. These are your primary targets; you don't plan on conducting additional consultations with other groups. As top women leaders, these women represent the many voices of Danaan. Time is also very limited, since the talks are already underway, so you want to prioritize completing your position paper.

You intend to share the position paper with the Joint Mediation Team as well as the Ministry of Gender. The paper features recommendations informed by your consultations with women leaders, such as:

- 30% of the participants in the peace process should be women
- The negotiating parties must consult with women in the process of peace talks
- Sexual violence should be prioritized in the peace agreement

You are also pushing hard for the appointment of a senior-level gender advisor on the mediation team; you want to make sure that the Commission selects and supports this advisor directly. It's likely that you can find some financial support for this advisor in the Contact Group.

Capacity to create change

Your role as head of a ROEI Commission gives you the capacity to leverage other high level actors in the UN and ROEI. You represent the interests of the regional community which is supported and endorsed by the UN in this peace process.

You also have a good working relationship with the Government of Danaan. While you do not personally know the negotiating team at these talks, you believe that citing your connections in the Ministry of Gender will help you gain access to them.

Relationships with others

You know the UN Senior Mediation Expert personally; she is someone who you see eye to eye with. You also are familiar with the Lead Mediator; you have encountered each other before in previous peace processes. While you don't have a close relationship, you feel confident that you could reach out to the Lead Mediator to set up a meeting.

You also know the top civil society women leaders in Danaan. The head of the Danaan Women's Unity League has attended every consultation you've hosted and seems very supportive of your work. Members of 4Peace also attended one of your convenings, but appear less interested in engaging closely with the Commission. Specifically, the Executive Director of 4Peace does not seem very flexible with their agenda for women's inclusion. You are aware that there are other internationals working on women's inclusion, like Women United International, but have not met any of those organizations, since your primary goal is to connect with high-level Danaanian women.