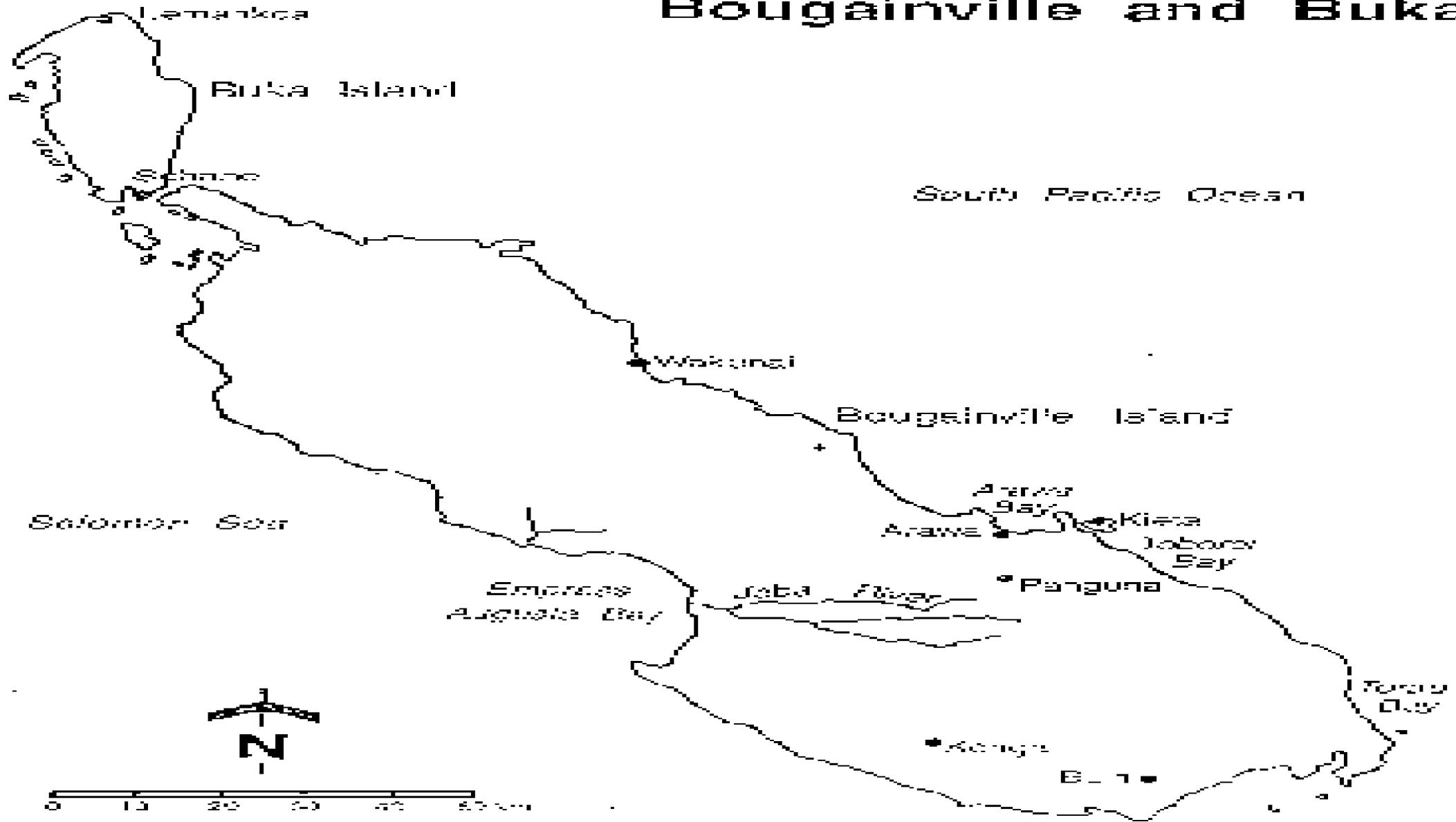


PNG UPDATE 2022

Inclusive Peace: The role of women in the PNG-Bougainville Post Referendum consultations

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Bougainville and Buka



Introduction

- **Our role in this Bougainville research project?**

To identify main constrains that are limiting women's participation.

- **Our aim and goal?**

To strengthen Women's Participation in the Post-Referendum Phase of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Outline

- **The theory of female representation in post-conflict scenarios**
- **The role of Bougainville women during the conflict**
- **Limited participation in the Post-referendum consultation process**
- **Recommendations**

The theory of female representation in post-conflict scenarios

The Theory: Women play vital role during conflict and peace negotiations, but the post-conflict era they became marginalized.

There is a widespread acceptance that women should be equally represented in peace negotiations during conflicts and the peace-building process following conflicts, but in practice most political institutions in conflict and post-conflict societies tend to perpetuate an exclusionary attitude towards women. (Gender, Conflict, and Development, World Bank., 2005)

- The UN Resolution 1325/2000 urges all parties involved in peace negotiations and post-conflict negotiations to involve women in the “planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration” and to consider the different needs of women, among other marginalized groups.
- However, women are alarmingly underrepresented in negotiations today.

Women's role in the Bougainville peace process

- Grassroot Peace Initiatives:..

- Throughout the Bougainville crisis, women took an active role in pressuring the menfolk to negotiate for peace. Sister Lorraine Garasu's account states that about 7,700 people participated in women-led initiatives for peace during the conflict.

Example;

- There was a peace march followed by an all-night vigil organized by women from the area around Selau in August 1991. Up to 5,000 people may have attended the event. The women and the local council of chiefs staged a reconciliation ceremony that included the PNG Defense Forces (PNGDF) and led to the village being officially neutral for the rest of the conflict(NDI 2021).
- Another notable example of women's desire for peace and their organizational capacity in the early stages of the conflict was a peace conference of church-affiliated women in Arawa in 1996, which drew 700 attendees.

Continue...

- Creation of 3 reserved seats for women

-Women negotiated for and were delegated 3 reserve seats in the Bougainville House of representatives and the Bougainville Community Government Act 2015 created dual seats for men and women at the community government level.

Figures

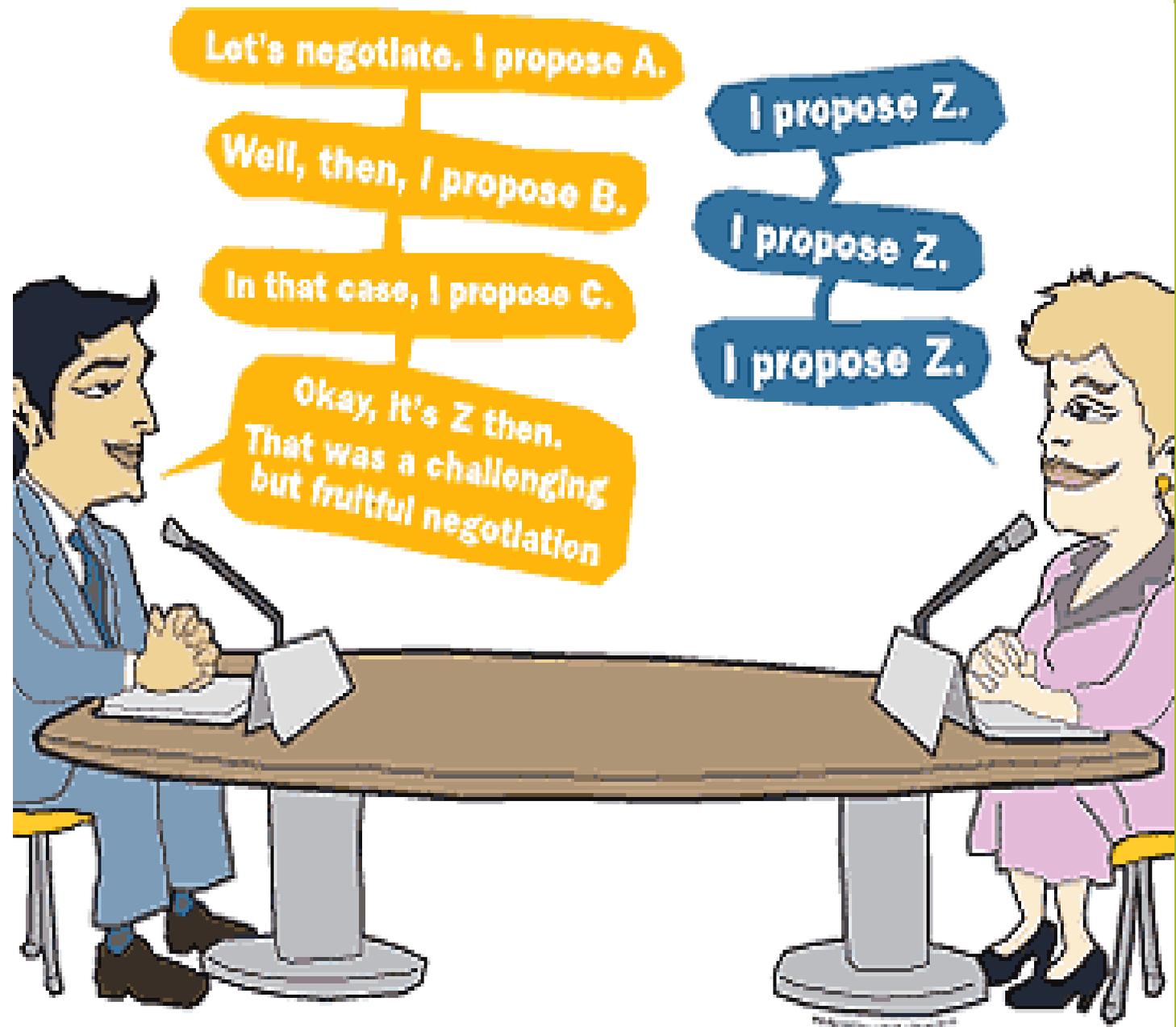


Limited participation of women in the Post-referendum consultation process

A recent study by the National Democratic Institute in 2021 shows a range of limitations ranging from cultural barriers, lack of clear provisions in law for inclusion of women, capacity issues, and the need for supporting networks.

- ✓ **Resistance from male counter-parts and cultural barriers**
- ✓ **Lack of legal provisions for inclusion of women in PNG and Bougainville laws in archiving Gender Parity.**
- ✓ **Lack of capacity**
- ✓ **Lack of network and knowledge gaps**

Why should women be involved in post-conflict peace process?



Why should women be involved in post-conflict peace process?

- Women are likely to put gender issues on the agenda, introduce other conflict experiences, and set different priorities for peace building and rehabilitation.
- Acting as linchpins of peace processes, women raise political and social issues and elevate the concerns of victims, non-combatants, and other groups.
- Women also have a solid record of building bridges among opposing parties in unofficial talks.
- When women are actively involved, peace agreements are more credible and cover a broader range of issues.
- Their participation widens negotiations beyond topics of military action, power, and wealth sharing, while promoting a non-competitive negotiating style and building bridges among negotiating parties.

THANK YOU
IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS, DO ASK.
