

Women & Truth-Telling: Global Experiences & the Local Context

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Feminist Priorities in Truth in Transition

1. The presence of women: inclusion of women in processes to design mechanisms, women as personnel in the mechanisms, women as witnesses/participants
2. Recognition of gender-specific harms that women experienced
3. Acknowledgement of the unequal gender relations, structural gender inequalities, examination of men, masculinity and militarism

Why Truth Matters for Women

Truth as 'telling', a forum to tell one's story	Women included in design, personnel and participants of truth-telling forum
Truth as cathartic, recounting experiences to assist healing	Women recounting stories of gender-specific harms to women, and not only as witnesses to male experiences
Truth as recognition and acknowledgement	Formal and community recognition of gender-specific harms suffered by women, and the circumstances of women's vulnerability
Truth as moral condemnation	Naming harms against women and condemning them as wrong
Truth as truth-recovery, finding out the truth	Full extent of harms against women revealed, and the structural inequalities giving rise to women's experiences of harm identified
Truth as Deterrence	Condemning past harms against women in order to deter their recurrence
Truth as forward-looking, building shared societal narrative	Shared societal narrative built on women's equality and need to address gender inequality and not reinforcing that inequality
Truth as Forward-looking,	Recommendations for institutional reform that will guarantee the

Recurrent Problems in International Experience

- Women as witnesses to male experiences
- What questions are being asked?
- In what circumstances?
- Not getting at culture and context of harm (deprivation, structural inequality, poverty, impact on family and community relationships)

International Good Practice

- Greater efforts at inclusion of women / recognition of women's movements as stakeholders
- Recognition of sexual violence, gender-specific types of harms perpetrated directly against women as part of the conflict

How we can do it better

- 1. A Politics of Presence: Securing Women's Inclusion**
- 2. A Politics of Ideas: Articulating what Women Contribute**
- 3. A Feminist Politics of the Female Body**
- 4. A Feminist Politics of Difference and Democracy**