



## The Story of the Hub: Colombia Convention 2023



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## About the artist:

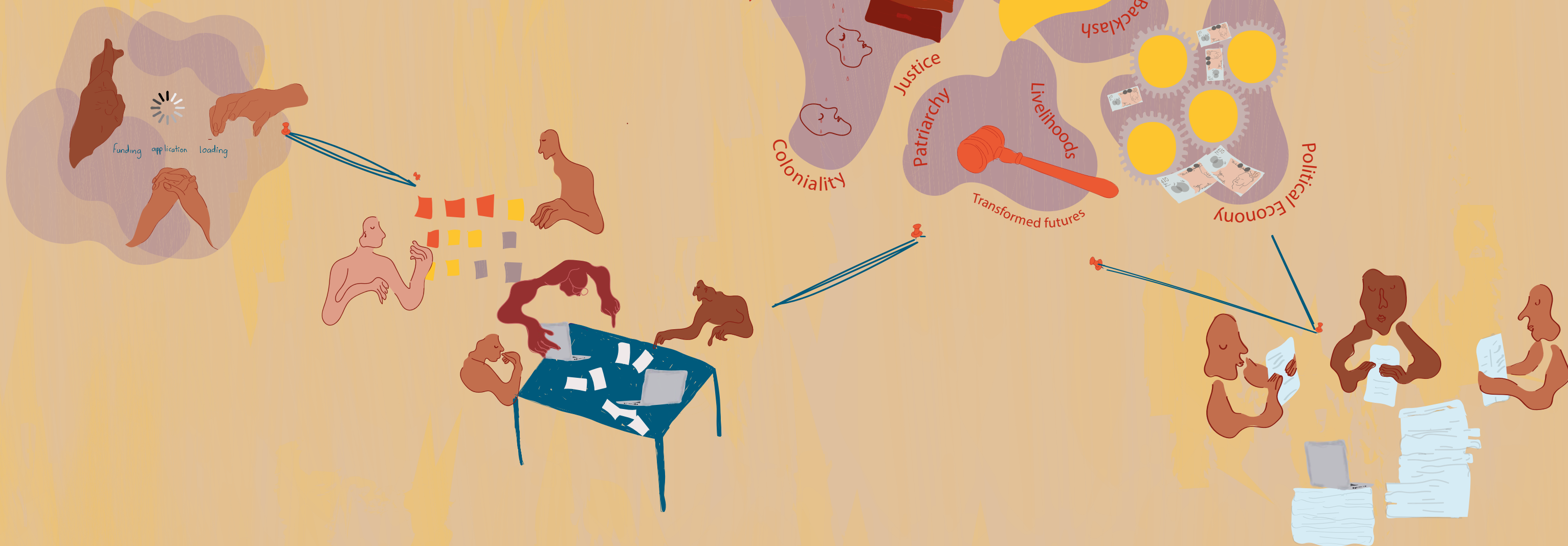
Hayfaa Chalabi is an illustrator and storyteller interested in the role of illustration to re-contextualise narratives, histories, and discussions. Chalabi uses her power as an illustrator and storyteller to spark discussions about different socio-political issues. Her work revolves around the intersections of visual culture, sexuality, gender, and migration. Currently, Chalabi works as a senior lecturer at the University of Arts in London (UAL).

[www.chalabihayfaa.com](http://www.chalabihayfaa.com)

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# What is “The Story of the Hub”?



The Story of the Hub is a body of work that will tell the story of each of the 39 Hub projects (33 projects and 6 collective output projects), bringing together their findings and recommendations in individual and collective formats. The Story of the Hub will synthesise and communicate this research to make a significant contribution to the field of gender, justice and security. This Story will be told in a way that honours the experience of Hub members. Done with balance and perspective, the Story of the Hub will create space for your findings to be told in ways that are inclusive of the emotional labour, personal insights, discomforts, surprises, and joy that sit behind each project - feelings and reflections that are often de-coupled from polished ‘impact stories’ that traditionally are the full stop on research projects like the Hub.

This work started in earnest at the Belfast/London Convention where we engaged with the overall themes, findings, recommendations and impacts of the Hub’s research and practice to date. Since then, we have both expanded the scope, and reframed the work slightly, moving away from the language of Collective Outputs, and towards a wider effort to tell the Story of the Hub as a whole. This journey is a story worth documenting and telling in and of itself. Key moments of the journey have been illustrated in this booklet and show the progression of ideas and methods of working.

The Story of the Hub in our new framework has three core components:

- **Digital Impact Stories:** These are multi-media rich narratives, that share the impact of each project in a compelling and immersive way. These will be featured on the re-designed website.
- **Collective Output projects.** These projects draw on Hub wide themes from members across projects to examine key ideas that have been developing over the course of the Hub as a whole.
- **Hub wide report:** This report is a synesis of the Hub’s key findings, recommendations, themes, and reflections on the Hub as a whole and its feminist approach.

The work we will do together at the Colombia Convention will be a space for all Hub members present to reflect upon, inform, and help shape this important work in the final year of the Hub. Through this collaborative work and exploration of different storytelling formats, we hope to challenge the traditional parameters of how we talk about research, the pace and rhythm of engagement, and re-frame which, and whose, knowledge is considered valid. In doing so we hope the Story of the Hub will be a testament to collaborative thinking and voice, feminist ethics and practice, and storytelling as a medium for transformative engagement with research.



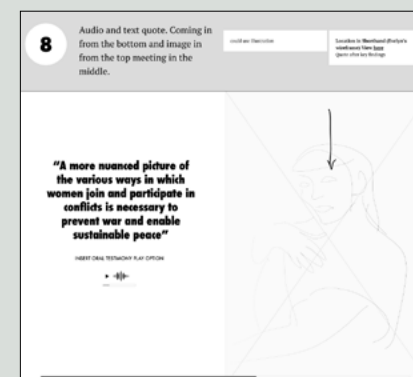
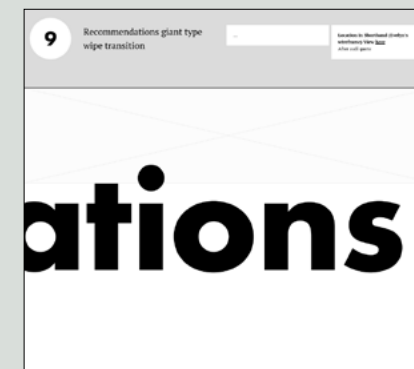
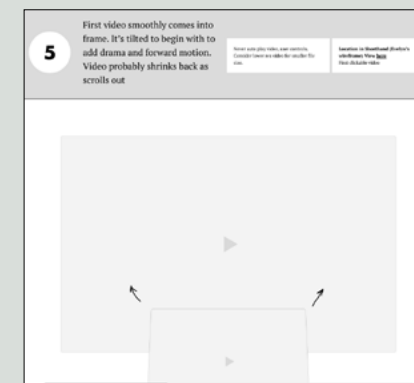
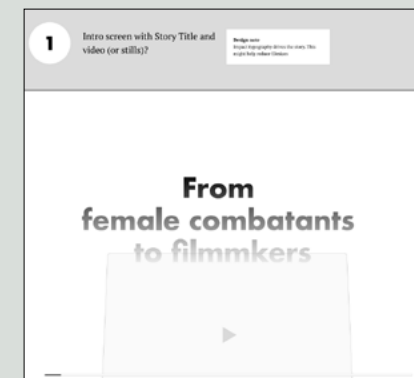
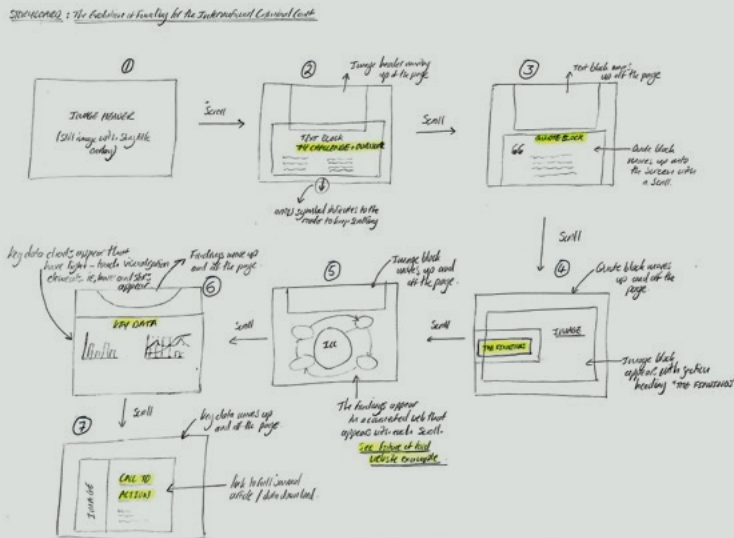
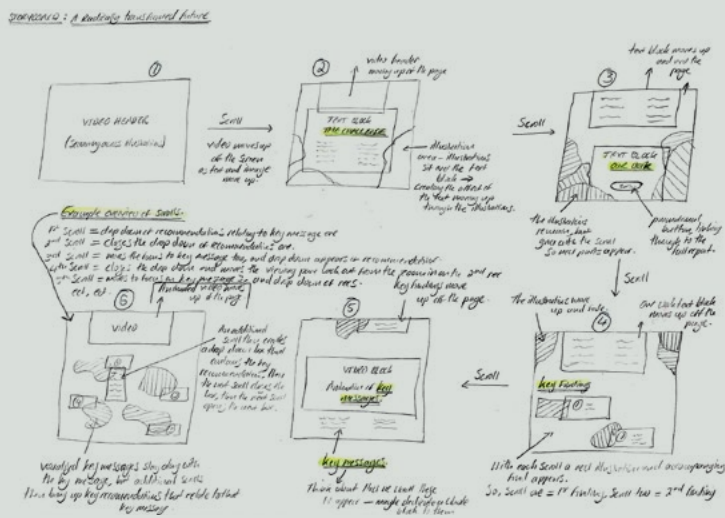
# Digital Impact Stories

Using 'scrollytelling' as method, we will tell the story of each of the Hub's 39 projects (33 projects, and 6 Collective Output projects) digitally on the Hub's re-designed website.

What is scrollytelling? With its roots in long-form journalism, scrollytelling is literally a story that unfolds by scrolling your mouse. Each scroll reveals new information, a new visual, a new audio clip, a new finding, a new recommendation. This multi-media enriched technique creates space for narratives to rise and fall, appear and disappear, grow and shrink. This movement allows us to structure project findings and recommendations to be engaged with in a different way, at a different pace, where evidence-based findings, relational forms of knowledge and emotional engagements co-exist, and emerge as complementary ways of understanding and communicating the Hub's work.

These digital stories will complement the policy-focused, legal and academic outputs that the projects produce. In doing so, they speak to the politics of knowledge, representation and accessibility, where we are actively thinking through how we consume research and re-conceptualising the relationship between knowledge and communication.

An important component of this work is its focus on multimedia rich storytelling. Through the creation of immersive digital stories, we hope that the Hub's newly designed website can be a blueprint for new ways to engage with complex research digitally. The Hub's recognition of the value of creative methods in working for sustainable impact from the start to expand on our ways of knowing and gathering data, can now be extended through to its communication and impact work in the production of these immersive digital impact stories. Lastly, the Digital Impact Stories will also be used to inform the Hub Report and be featured in the section on Hub projects.





# The Collective Output Projects

## 1 Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries: A comparative perspective from the Gender, Justice and Security Hub

This project aims to conduct a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the pandemic's impact on women in Hub focus countries. Our goal is to better understand the pandemic's impact on women's lives in Afghanistan, Colombia, Kurdistan-Iraq, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

We seek to gather comparable data from official sources such as UN Women, UNDP, and the World Bank, all of which have undertaken a rigorous systematisation of women's situation as a result of the pandemic in relation to access to the labour market, employment, education, security and violence against women, health, care work, and leadership positions in the private sector for constructing: 1. Country profiles for individual and compared analysis. 2. Narrative based on what Hub researchers and partners can tell us about a) how they have experienced the impact of the pandemic in their personal and professional lives, and b) what they have observed about the impact of the pandemic on women in their researched communities.

The country profiles constructed from the data collection will serve as a key point for future comparisons, as well as a balance of the research with a focus on women who are still experiencing a differential impact of the pandemic today.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Dr Twana Abdwlrahman** – Project(s): Transitional Masculinity, Violence and Prevention, American University of Iraq Sulaimani

**Dr Josephine Ahikire** – Project(s): Beyond War Compensation, Makerere University

**Visaka Dharmadasa** – Project(s): Culture and Conflict, Association of War Affected Women

**Luisa Fernanda Salazar Escalante** – Project(s): Political Economy of Reconciliation, Universidad de los Andes

**Ana María Granda** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA Universidad de los Andes

**Quhramaana Kakar** – Project(s): Culture and Conflict, Women for Peace and Participation

**Omar Kakar** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA Women for Peace and Participation

**Charbel Maydaa** – Project(s): Changing SOGIE in Conflict, Peace and Displacement in the MENA; Gendered Dynamics of International Labour Migration; Gender and Forced Displacement, MOSAIC

**Shanya Mohammed** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA American University of Iraq Sulaimani

**Zakaria Nasser** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA MOSAIC

**Stephen Oola** – Project(s): Beyond War Compensation, Amani Institute Uganda

**Harriet Pamara** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA Makerere University

**Maria Gabriela Vargas Parada** – Project(s): Political Economy of Reconciliation, Universidad de los Andes

**Dr Angelika Rettberg** – Project(s): Political Economy of Reconciliation, Universidad de los Andes

**Jeromy Seller** – Project(s): Covid-19 and Women in transitional countries, RA Association of War Affected Women

**Dr Mohamed Sesay** – Project(s): Land Policy, Gender and Plural legal Systems, York University

## 2 The Amani Institute Gender, Justice and Security Hub Resource Centre

The Amani Institute Gender, Justice and Security Hub Resource Centre will house and curate all outputs created by the Hub, and some of the work of Hub members on Gender, Justice and Security beyond their Hub projects, with the aim of documenting, collecting, preserving, curating and communicating exclusively conflict related, gender related, peace related, justice related, and security related publications. The library will be based in Gulu, Uganda and be accessible to scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists around the world online.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Stephen Oola** – Project(s): Beyond War Compensation, Amani Institute Uganda

## 3 Land and Political Economy

This project is a conversation piece on the various issues identified during previous workshop covering, but not limited to: gender and access to land/land justice; different land tenure systems and customary and indigenous land issues; local economies and global capitalism and commercial interests in land.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Mario Gomez** – Project(s): When Women Do Not Own Land: Land Ownership and Women's Empowerment in Sri Lanka, International Centre for Ethnic Studies

**Dr Simeon Koroma** – Project(s): Land Policy, Gender and Plural Legal Systems, TIMAP For Justice

**Dr Nelson Camilo Sanchez Leon** – Project(s): Land Reform, Peace and Informal Institutions, Dejusticia

**Dr Mohamed Sesay** – Project(s): Land Policy, Gender and Plural Legal Systems, York University

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## 4 Gender, Justice and Security HubCast

Research emerging across the Hub reveals a range of methods and practices that question – and sometimes disrupt – orthodoxies of feminist practice, knowledge production, and the ethics of work in conflict. Some Hub members are adopting methods that deliberately seek to challenge these orthodoxies; others are discovering through their practice the limits of the methods they are using and seeking new approaches. Moreover, the overarching issue of working with and in conflict-affected communities is giving rise to further questions of an ethical nature: how do we challenge prevailing hierarchies and relationships of power, and what are the obligations of those who fund research that exposes all participants to different levels of risk?

To explore these ideas further, this podcast series will include conversations between Hub members on questions of feminist practice, knowledge production, and the ethics of work in conflict, bringing together people from different disciplines, career stages, and professions.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Tanya Bhat** – Project(s): Conflict and Culture, Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network

**Dr Michelle Callander** – International Strategy and Partnership Manager, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Alan Keenan** – Project(s): Gender and Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka, International Crisis Group

**Claire Wright** – Project(s): Addressing Post-colonial Legacies in Transitional Justice, Queen's University Belfast

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## 5 Feminist Practice: ECN and Global South perspectives

Highlighting Early Career Researcher (ECRs), Global South scholars, and/or practitioners' experiences, this project builds on the conversations and connections established by the Feminist Practice Working Group during the Belfast/London Hub Convention (2022) working sessions.

The outputs generated by this project, including the ISA roundtable and article, reflect on the multiple spaces of precarity we encounter as ECRs, Global South scholars, and/or practitioners, including issues of accessibility, inclusivity, and accountability. As such, this project will consider different ways of enacting practice-based solidarity and care in our work; how we can develop and negotiate feminist relationships within and across the various structures and systems in which we are embedded; our experiences and uses of anger and other emotions; and, our strategies for radical empathy, refusal and co-resistance. Using the Hub as our case study, this project will explore the challenges and opportunities that feminist practice poses to international research on peace and justice from an ECR, Global South scholar, and/or practitioner perspective. Specifically, it aims to contribute to the creation of better spaces, institutional bodies and practices for knowledge co-production, collaborative consultation with multiple stakeholders, and inclusive practice and communities.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Nicky Armstrong** – Policy and Communications Consultant, the Gender, Justice and Security Hub

**Tanya Bhat** – Project(s): Conflict and Culture, Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network

**Alba Boer Cueva** – Project(s): Donor Funding and WPS Implementation, University of New South Wales

**Luisa Fernanda Salazar Escalante** – Project(s): Political Economy of Reconciliation, Universidad de los Andes

**Maria Gabriela Vargas Parada** – Project(s): Political Economy of Reconciliation, Universidad de los Andes

**Sinduja Raja** – Project(s): Women's Rights After War, University of Denver

**Julia Xavier Stier** – Central Support Officer, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Roua Al Taweel** – PhD Candidate, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University

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## 6 Crafting Stories: Recollection, Recovery and Sustenance in the Lives of Women from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka

Afghanistan and Sri Lanka are two core countries in the Hub's research portfolio, and both have been the sites of innovative arts-based work and outputs. Taken together, they represent the broadest range of diversity within the South Asia region, with Afghanistan bordering several geographical and cultural regions aligned to the Middle East, Central Asia, the Indian subcontinent and East Asia, while Sri Lanka has closer cultural ties to central and southern India although connected through centuries of trade and travel to the entire Indian ocean rim. Both countries have experienced prolonged armed conflict and political and economic crises. Their impact on women has been severe, but the survival and resilience of Afghan and Sri Lankan women has been as intense – vividly seen in their participation and innovative creation of craft and storytelling performance.

The proposed exhibition aims at highlighting this story of women's lives and potential through a synthesis of still and moving images, curatorial notes and panel discussions. It will include photographs of the participatory and creative process of Afghan women's work with handmade textiles, and a video installation and screening of a video essay/docu-drama depicting Sri Lankan women's experiences of its ethnic war. Placed in dialogue with each other, this work from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka explores textiles and storytelling as sites of refuge, recovery and sustenance in the face of violence, poverty, climate migration, pandemics, and other forms of displacement and disruption.

Curatorial notes to the photographs and video installation also highlight the methodologies used, towards building cross cutting insights on their multi modal application, relevance to local communities, and evolution during the creative process including the artistic choices they provoked, and so, their value for future research including feminist methodologies. Using an experimental aesthetic narrative, the video essay, inspired by the story telling performances from Sri Lanka, further emphasizes issues of conflict, culture, landscape, and gender justice and how these elements can be meaningfully told.

The exhibition will, therefore, be a rich visual display of data from the arts-based projects carried out in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka for the public to view and engage with. We envision the exhibition appealing to members of conflict related diasporas based in London, and those engaged in higher-education, research, developmental think tanks, donor agencies and the creative industries. These viewers will be academics, students, policy makers, activists, designers, film makers. It would also be of general interest to a public concerned with gender, sustainability, livelihood, peacebuilding and heritage.

### PROJECT MEMBER(S):

**Dr Neloufer de Mel** – Project(s): Narrating (in)security; Innovative Methodologies and Methodological Innovation; The Potentialities and Politics of Transformation, Colombo University

**Dr Neelam Raina** – Project(s): Conflict and Culture, Middlesex University



# Global Gender, Justice and Security Hub report

The Global Gender, Justice and Security Hub report, referred to as “the Hub Report” here, will be a synthesis of the Hub’s individual and collective work that highlights key themes, findings and recommendations as well as reflections on the Hub model and its approach to feminist research and practice. It will provide a summary of the Hub’s research and aims to influence law and policy, support practice and activism, expand knowledge, and reflect on the Hub’s practices.

The report will be led by a core writing team, while also prioritising a participatory approach that incorporates a diverse collection of Hub members perspectives throughout the development, writing, editing, and dissemination process. The Hub Report will be informed by all Hub outputs from each project (currently being collected, categorised, and analysed), UKRI grant reports, the Digital Impact Stories, Hub member workshops online and Conventions. The final report will be formatted and shared in three main ways: 1) in a traditional print and pdf style; 2) a digital and multi-media enriched version integrated into the Hub’s redesigned website; and 3) through a series of in-person dissemination and engagement events and meetings.

Building directly on the work done by Hub members at the Belfast/London Convention and the subsequent online workshops, four key sections of the report have been identified.

1. Structures of Gender Injustice and Inequality: Patriarchy, Capitalism, Coloniality, and Contemporary Crisis
2. Weaving a Web of Feminist Praxis: Reflections on the Hub Model and Practice
3. Illuminating the Hub’s Work: Streams, Countries, Projects, and Collective Output Projects
4. Radically Transformed Futures: What Are They and How Do We Get There?

As will be detailed in the following section, the Story of the Hub sessions at the Colombia Convention will focus on several of these sections. The Convention sessions are an opportunity for all Hub members present to help inform and guide what content is included in the Hub Report. There will also be additional online seminars after the Convention where all Hub members will be invited to further contribute to this process.

# Introduction to the Hub Story at the Colombia Convention

**One of the key themes of the Convention will be work on the Story of the Hub. The Convention schedule includes five Story of the Hub sessions:**

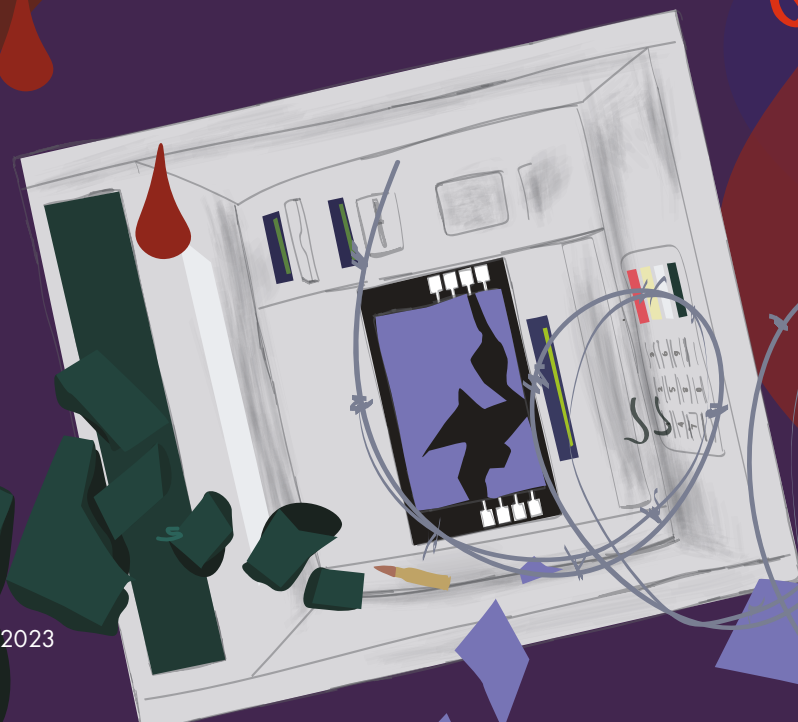
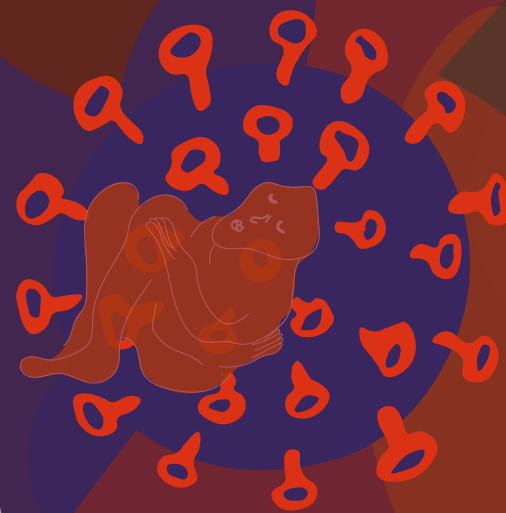
1. Introduction to the Story of the Hub: Our Work Together
2. Structures of Gender Injustice and Inequality: Patriarchy, Capitalism, Coloniality, and Contemporary Crisis
3. The Hub as a Feminist Web: Reflections on the Hub Model and Practice
4. Radically Transformed Futures: What Are They and How Do We Get There?
5. Closing Reflections on the Story of the Hub: Next Steps in Our Work Together

These sessions will be a combination of small and large group discussions and interactive and arts-based workshops. The main goal for these sessions is to facilitate space for all Hub members present to reflect upon, inform, and help shape this important work in the final year of the Hub.

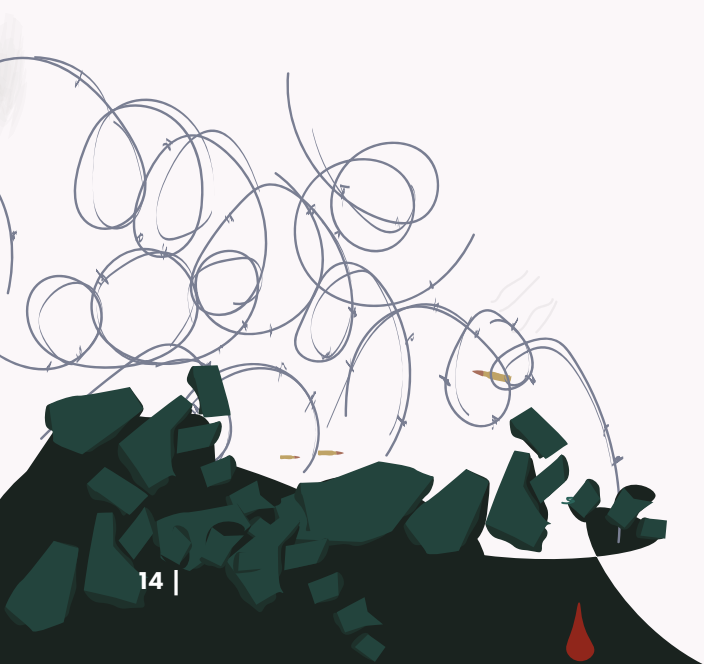
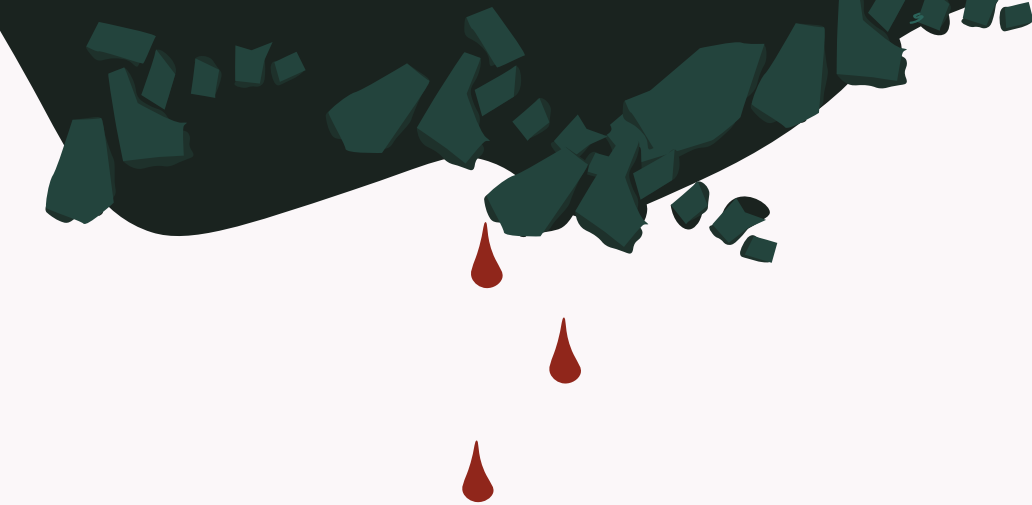
We hope that this booklet will be used as a working resource throughout these sessions. We have included blank pages for the working sessions 2-4 as a place to reflect, make notes and draw connections.

## Structures of Gender Injustice and Inequality: Patriarchy, Capitalism, Coloniality, and Contemporary Crisis

This session explores the unjust and violent structures and contexts in which the Hub's work takes place. At the Belfast/London Convention structural violence and contemporary crisis were identified as two overarching themes necessary to examine when researching gender, justice, and security. Specifically, the structural violence of patriarchy, capitalism, and coloniality and the compounding contemporary crises of Covid-19, budget cuts, context-specific conflicts, and the global gender backlash were shared as key problems Hub members faced and Hub research, practice, and activism seek to resist and transform.







## The Hub as a Feminist Web: Reflections on the Hub Model and Practice

This session explores the Hub model as a way of researching gender, justice and security through feminist ethics and practice. The Hub consists of 130+ members, 39 projects, 7 focus countries, and 6 streams. But it is also something more than the simple summation of its parts. This session emphasises and explores our connections with one another and with the people we work in solidarity with – the web of relationships that undergird our research and work together. While reflecting on the Hub as a whole, we will also discuss the specifics of the Hub's research model including the strengths and weaknesses of this approach that have emerged in our experiences over the past 4 years.









# Radically Transformed Futures: What Are They and How Do We Get There?

This session explores the Hub’s vision and call to action for a radically transformed future. The theme is drawn directly from the work done at the Belfast/ London Convention where Hub members emphasised the importance of naming, examining, and working towards a new set of mindsets, processes, language, and institutions for gender, justice and security. This session will facilitate a creative and critical space for Hub members to reflect on what individual and collective disruptions of the status quo look like at project, country, and global levels.







