Deploying Feminism at the UN: Do More Gender Equal Missions Better Protect Civilian Populations?

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**Research Question**
When more women are included as troops and police on UN missions, do they reduce the risk of violence against civilians?

**Background Literature**

Larger UN peacekeeping missions deter attacks against civilians because they:
- Send a credible and costly signal that the international community is committed to resolving a dispute (Walter 2002, Hultman & Shannon 2014).
- Reduce the risk of sudden escalations by disarming combatants (Hultman & Shannon 2014).
- Promote cooperation between combatant groups (Ruggeri 2011).
- Monitor and report on disputant activities, reducing information gaps (Hultman & Shannon 2014).
- Rebel groups are more likely to attack civilians when they have less access to critical information (Wood 2010).

**Hypotheses**

Hypothesis 1: As UN missions deploy more women peacekeepers to a country, the amount of violence against civilians will decrease.

Hypothesis 2: As UN missions deploy more women as part of UN police units to a country, the amount of violence against civilians will decrease.

**Research Design**

**Case Selection**
- African countries with a UN mission
- Only civilian protection mandates
- Observer-only missions excluded

**Time Frame:** 2000-2017

**Level of Analysis:**
- PRIO grid cell-month
- AfroGrid v 1.0 (Schon and Koren 2021)

**Dependent Variables**

One Sided Violence (OSV)
- UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset
- Divided into Government and Rebel Perpetrators
- Dichotomous (1 = one or more attacks)

**Independent Variables**

- % Female Troops and Female Police
- Robust Africa Deployments of Peacekeeping Operations (RADPKO) Dataset (Hunnikus & Nomikus 2006)

**Control Variables**

- Total number of troops: police (RADPKO)
- Lagged female deaths (UCDP)
- Cell population (Li et al. 2020)
- Nighttime lights (Li et al. 2020)
- Terrain ruggedness* (Deaver et al. 2013)
- Distance to nearest urban center*
- Spatial lags
- OSV in neighboring cells
- % Troops in neighboring cells
- Cubic Polynomials of time

**Where Do Women Deploy?**

***Probability Women Peacekeepers are Deployed to a Region***

- Countries
- Total Troops
- Total Police
- Female Troops
- Female Police
- % Female Troops
- % Female Police

**Results: Risk of Attacks by Rebel Groups**

**Results (Summary)**

- Women peacekeepers deploy on missions to more deadly countries; however, they are less likely to serve in violent areas.
- More women peacekeepers reduce rebel-perpetrated violence against civilians, but I find no impact on government-perpetrated violence.
- Women troops are more effective than police at protecting civilians.
- Hypothesis 1 supported (rebel violence only)
- Hypothesis 2 finds are mixed

**Conclusions**

- The UN should focus on increasing the presence of women peacekeepers to better protect civilian populations.
  - Especially women troops
- More research needs to be done exploring why women peacekeepers may be more effective.

**References**

[Provided URLs and citations for the research]