

## ABSTRACT

South Sudan becomes one of African countries experiencing protracted social conflict. This country has strong patriarchal and militaristic culture, but does not limit women's efforts in struggling to build peace in various ways. This study emphasizes two main explanations: (1) strategies on how women achieve gender mainstreaming, and (2) how women take roles in peace building. This study found out at least three strategies on how to embody gender mainstreaming; take a role as peace maker, policy interventions, and working with man's group to change masculinity concept. Meanwhile, in building peace, women in South Sudan place a lot of contributions on their daily roles but remain involved in formal peace-building process in the field of security, good governance, relief and development, and reconciliation.

**Keywords:** *women's role, gender mainstreaming, peace building, civil war*