



**Erasmus
Mundus**

Feminist vision(s) of peace in frozen conflict settings: the case study of Georgia

July 2023

Glasgow Student Number: 2704438m

Trento Student Number: 233429

Charles Student Number: 16358708

**Presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
Degree**

of

**International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic
Studies**

Word Count: 20,064

Supervisor: prof. Rebecca Kay

Date of Submission: 22/07/2023



**UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO**



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Abstract

Since the early stage of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict in 1992, women's organisations have been active in providing humanitarian support and in pursuing reconciliation efforts between Georgians and Abkhazians. Thirty years after the beginning of the conflict and with official negotiations stalled, women's organisations have continued to operate, especially at the grassroots level.

This research project seeks to understand the gender dynamics in the frozen conflict settings of Georgia and Abkhazia by looking at how the gendered impacts of the conflict influence women's engagement in peacebuilding. The peace efforts of women's organisations are examined from a gender lens to determine how gender is deployed and whether it affects the reconciliation activities between the parties. These initiatives are compared to feminist peace concepts, characteristics, and practices. In particular, the aim is to understand to what extent these initiatives explicitly or implicitly embrace and connect with feminist concepts of peacebuilding. In this regard, the research also explores how feminist peace is envisaged and realised at the grassroots level and in the context of the protracted conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia.

The research method chosen is a case study on Georgia, using a qualitative approach, specifically qualitative semi-structured expert interviews with five women's organisations involved in peacebuilding and reconciliation at the grassroots level in Georgia and Abkhazia.

Using thematic analysis, the thesis draws on the data collected to argue that, although with some differences between them, women's organisations in Georgia draw on feminist peace concepts and practices, but with some differences related to the protracted conflict situation: they adopt the conception of peace as an ongoing and constant process and in their peace initiatives they promote gender equality and women's empowerment among the women of the conflicting parties, rarely engaging in dialogue on a political solution.