

# European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation



## **On the limits of good governance: an analysis of the causes and implications of corruption in post-conflict societies.**

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to analyse the essence and impact of post-conflict corruption and to explore measures and policies that make the establishment of legitimate, accountable, effective and sustainable post-war political leadership and public administration possible. The research therefore aims to identify and clarify linkages between corruption and its consequences and causes, good governance, the rule of law and conflict and peacebuilding in the context of post-conflict societies. Post-conflict corruption leads to violations of human rights; reduces economic growth and development; it severely undermines peace and stability and the legitimacy of young governments, it may even be a direct or indirect cause for a renewal of conflict. Post-war legacies in the form of corrupt power structures may lead to the institutionalisation of corruption. Corruption reinforces inequality in society and the vulnerable groups, women and children are the most direct victims. The challenges to deal with corruption in post-conflict contexts are many, as the incentives for corruption are also plenty. But these young post-conflict societies are at the moment of transition full of hope and with high expectations, which may give an unusual opportunity to address corruption.

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