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Research focusing on gendered relations in PSOs remains under-developed, not least because of the unwillingness of many funding bodies to become involved in this sensitive and potentially provocative issue. It is for this reason that the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) has taken a particularly bold step in supporting the research presented here. In many ways, their support might be considered somewhat risky, as similar research has invoked an angry backlash from those agencies and organisations perceived to be under attack as a consequence of researchers efforts to illuminate aspects of their shortcomings; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/Save the Children Fund UK (UNHCR/SCFUK) report of 2002 is a case in point. Ultimately, the presentation of a balanced account that seeks to capture sensitive issues whilst providing constructive input into current UN gender strategies, has been a collaborative enterprise and could not have been achieved by the principal researcher alone. To these ends, Vanessa Kent at the ISS has provided a key role in ensuring that the transition from raw data to research monograph has been achieved expertly. Her input has been crucial, in particular her understanding of the ways in which such material might be presented in a way to best maximise its impact.

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