Journal of Administrative Science
Vol.22, Issue 2, 2025, pp. 182-198
Available online at *http:jas.uitm.edu.my*

UN Peacekeeping Mission in Conflict Zone: An Analysis of the Implementation on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Doctrine and Resolution

Mohd Safwan Syahmi bin Mohamad Zainuddin [1] & Farhatul Mustamirrah Mahamad Aziz[2*]

[1,2] Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, UiTM Shah Alam Malaysia*

Corresponding Author: farhatul@uitm.edu.my

Abstract

For the past of 76 years, the United Nations has been a vital force in helping to prevent and resolve conflicts around the globe. UN Peacekeeping missions have played a crucial role in the implementation doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in conflict zones, providing a platform for countries to work together and build peace. The objective of the study is to identify the roles and responsibilities of various actors in the implementation of R2P, analyse the challenges faced in the operation of R2P in conflict zones, and evaluate ways to improve the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping mission in the R2P implementation process. Drawing on methods from discourse analysis, this study will be conducted through a qualitative methodology involving the study of important UN documents and also in- depth case studies. The analysis reveal that there are obstacles such as political constraints, insufficiently strong and clear mandates, lack of equipment resources and uneven integration among UN security council members. In addition, the policy of selective intervention in favour of powerful countries has affected application and consistency against the doctrine. As a conclusion, without overcoming the political and operational challenges, the effectiveness of R2P will remain compromised

***Keywords**: United Nation, R2P Doctrine, Peacekeeping, Conflict zone*

Received: 1 August 2025
Accepted: 1 September 2025
Published: 31 October 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine has emerged as a significant international norm aimed at preventing mass atrocities such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Despite being endorsed by the United Nations, the implementation of R2P through UN peacekeeping missions has faced numerous challenges—particularly in conflict zones such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These missions are frequently hindered by political constraints, most notably the veto power held by permanent members of the UN Security Council, which often obstructs timely and effective responses to crises. This political gridlock is evident in conflict situations like Syria and Ukraine**.**

Operational challenges further limit the effectiveness of these peacekeeping efforts. Unclear and ambiguous mandates often hinder mission efficacy, while inadequate resources—including personnel, logistics, and mobility—further reduce the capacity to protect civilians. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) exemplifies these limitations, as it has struggled to effectively implement its Protection of Civilians (POC) mandate.

In addition, the lack of coordination among international, regional, and national actors frequently leads to fragmented and conflicting responses, undermining the overall effectiveness of R2P implementation. While some missions, such as MONUSCO in the DRC, have experienced limited success due to stronger mandates and regional collaboration, others—such as the UNSMIS mission in Syria—have failed due to political deadlock and inadequate support.

This study seeks to explore the political, operational, and coordination-related obstacles that hinder the effective implementation of R2P in UN peacekeeping missions. Focusing on case studies in South Sudan and the DRC between 2015 and 2022, the research aims to (1) identify the roles and responsibilities of various actors, (2) examine the key barriers to successful R2P implementation, and (3) propose strategic improvements to enhance mission effectiveness. By doing so, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how international cooperation, mandate clarity, and resource allocation influence the success or failure of R2P in complex conflict environments.

ANALYSIS OF GAP OF STUDY FROM LITERATURE REVIEW

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a global political commitment designed to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Established at the 2005 United Nations World Summit, R2P marked a paradigmatic shift in the understanding of sovereignty—reframing it as a responsibility rather than mere authority. When a state fails to protect its population, the international community bears a collective obligation to intervene through diplomatic, humanitarian, and, as a last resort, military means. This literature review examines the doctrinal foundations of R2P, its incorporation into UN peacekeeping missions, the roles of key actors, and the challenges hindering effective implementation.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Theoretical Foundations of R2P

R2P is grounded in three core pillars:

1. The state's primary responsibility to protect its population from mass atrocities.
2. The international community's duty to assist states in fulfilling this responsibility.
3. The international obligation to intervene—through peaceful or coercive means—when a state fails to do so (ICISS, 2001; UN, 2005).

These pillars encompass prevention, timely response, and rebuilding efforts. Scholars such as Bellamy (2008) and Thakur (2016) emphasize that R2P challenges traditional notions of sovereignty, prioritizing civilian protection over the principle of non-interference. Despite widespread endorsement, controversies persist regarding the use of force, inconsistent application, and political manipulation of the doctrine (Pape, 2011; Caballero-Anthony, 2010).

R2P in UN Peacekeeping Operations

UN peacekeeping has increasingly adopted R2P principles, transitioning from passive monitoring roles to proactive civilian protection mandates (Bellamy & Williams, 2011; Hultman et al., 2013). However, the practical application of these principles remains fraught with challenges such as vague mandates, inadequate resources, and geopolitical limitations.

The Protection of Civilians (PoC) is now central to peacekeeping missions, yet operational clarity and enforcement mechanisms are often lacking (Holt & Taylor, 2009; Hunt, 2017). Evidence from missions such as MINUSCA in the Central African Republic and UNAMID in Darfur highlights structural and logistical shortcomings—including deficits in air mobility, medical evacuation, and surveillance capacities—that limit R2P effectiveness (Thakur, 2021; Weiss, 2016).

Moreover, tensions between state sovereignty and external intervention continue to shape mandates and constrain engagement, as illustrated in the Rwandan and Syrian crises.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Institutional Roles and Political Dynamics

Several UN bodies play pivotal roles in R2P implementation. The UN Security Council (UNSC) authorizes peacekeeping mandates, yet its effectiveness is often undermined by the veto power of permanent members and strategic rivalries—as seen in the cases of Libya and Syria (Dunne & Gelber, 2014; Bellamy, 2015).

Meanwhile, the UN Secretariat, particularly through the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Operational Support (DOS), provides strategic planning, oversight, and coordination to integrate R2P principles into mission design and execution (Koops & MacQueen, 2015).

Regional Organizations and Member States

Regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) contribute to R2P enforcement by offering early warning mechanisms, operational support, and regional legitimacy. Nevertheless, capacity gaps, coordination challenges with the UN, and political reluctance often hinder effective collaboration (Desmidt & Hauck, 2017; Haass & Ansorg, 2018).

Member states also play crucial roles through troop contributions, funding, and political endorsement. However, inconsistencies in participation and concerns over national interest weaken the global consensus necessary for decisive action (Leuprecht et al., 2019; Karlsrud, 2016).

Key Challenges to R2P Implementation

Multiple structural and political barriers hinder the full realization of R2P:

- Ambiguity of Sovereignty and Political Will: Many states, particularly in the Global South, perceive R2P as a potential tool for neocolonial interference (Bellamy & Williams, 2011).
- Mandate Weakness and Limited Authority: Peacekeepers often operate under restricted rules of engagement, unable to act beyond self-defense (Karlsrud, 2015).
- Insufficient Funding and Personnel: Budget constraints and uneven burden-sharing among member states delay deployments and limit mission scope (Weiss & Daws, 2018; Stamnes, 2016).

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

- Challenging Operational Environments: Asymmetric warfare, non-state actors, and rapid security deterioration, coupled with outdated technology and infrastructure, impair response capabilities (Curran & Holtom, 2015).
- Fragmented International Coordination: Poor communication, overlapping responsibilities, and conflicting priorities among UN agencies and regional actors result in disjointed responses to atrocities (Stamnes, 2016; Desmidt & Hauck, 2017).

This literature review underscores the normative importance and operational limitations of R2P in modern peacekeeping. While partially institutionalized within the UN framework, R2P's effectiveness relies heavily on political consensus, mandate clarity, and coordinated global and regional action. Future efforts must prioritize enhancing mandate robustness, resource mobilization, and multilateral collaboration—particularly through improved early warning and response systems. Empirical research remains essential to bridge the gap between R2P's theoretical aspirations and practical execution.

Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks with Case Studies

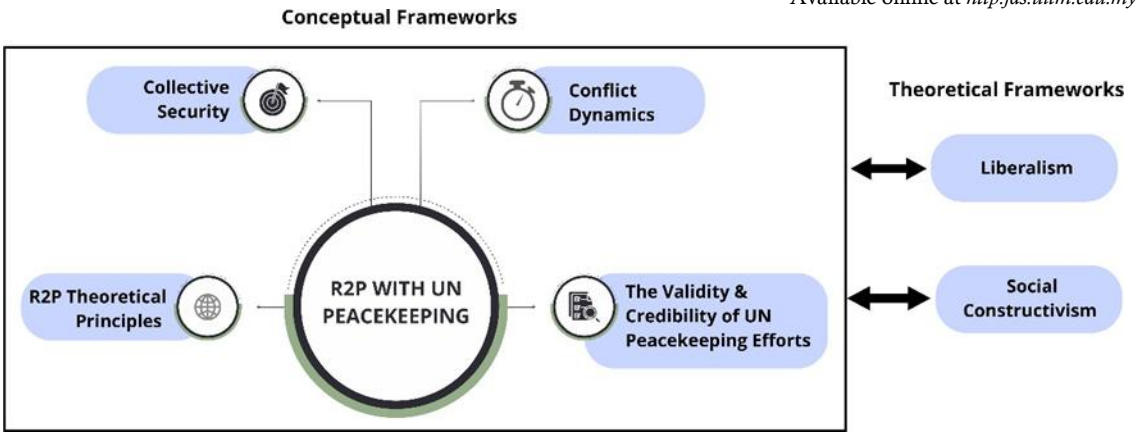
This study adopts a conceptual framework that connects the R2P doctrine with UN peacekeeping missions, emphasizing key concepts such as collective security, conflict dynamics, and mission legitimacy. R2P asserts that when states fail to protect their populations from mass atrocities, the international community is obligated to act.

The theoretical underpinnings are grounded in Liberalism and Social Constructivism:

- Liberalism highlights the role of international institutions, legal norms, and cooperation. R2P is viewed as a collective duty implemented through UN mechanisms to uphold human rights and international order.
- Social Constructivism focuses on the evolution of global norms and the reshaping of state behavior. It interprets R2P as a reflection of changing international values on sovereignty and humanitarianism, with peacekeeping missions facilitating the internalization of these new norms.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Journal of Administrative Science
Vol.22, Issue 2, 2025, pp. 182-198
Available online at *http:jas.uitm.edu.my*



Case Studies: MONUSCO and UNMISS

This study analyses two case studies:

1. MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo): In December 2013, when conflict broke out in Juba, tens of thousands of civilians fled to UN bases. UNMISS became an unplanned protector, hosting more than 200,000 civilians in 'Protection of Civilian sites.' This response highlighted the mission's lifesaving role but also revealed severe logistical strain and dependence on host-state consent. Tasked with stabilizing eastern Congo and supporting state recovery, MONUSCO faced severe logistical limitations, continued violence, and political instability.
2. UNMISS (South Sudan): In eastern DRC, MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade launched targeted operations against armed groups in 2013. While hailed as a rare instance of offensive peacekeeping, critics argued that such militarization risked eroding impartiality and exposed civilians to retaliatory attacks. Established to support peace and protect civilians post-independence, the mission encountered ethnic violence, political resistance, and a lack of cooperation from the host government.

Both missions achieved partial **success** but were constrained by limited resources, inadequate local coordination, and insufficient operational reach.

These case studies demonstrate that successful R2P implementation requires not only robust logistical and political support but also international legitimacy and sustained multilateral engagement. Liberalism emphasizes institutional cooperation, while Constructivism highlights the need for the internalization of protection norms by

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

states and societies. Together, these theories provide a holistic framework for understanding R2P's integration into peacekeeping efforts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative research approach to examine the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine within United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in conflict zones. Given the complexity of the political and social dynamics involved, qualitative methodology is best suited to explore the nuanced perspectives, personal experiences**,** and institutional challenges linked to R2P. As Creswell (2014) suggests, qualitative inquiry allows rich, detailed data collection—particularly through expert interviews and thematic analysis—when dealing with sensitive and multi-layered issues like R2P.

The study is designed as an exploratory qualitative inquiry**,** employing semi-structured interviews to investigate the roles, challenges, and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping in upholding the R2P mandate. This flexible yet focused approach allows consistency across interviews while enabling participants to share in-depth insights.

In addition to primary data, secondary sources—including UN policy documents, reports, academic literature, and institutional publications—were also analyzed to support and contextualize the findings.The unit of analysis focuses on how R2P is implemented within UN peacekeeping operations, particularly through the individual perspectives of practitioners and experts involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian policy. These include professionals working in operational, diplomatic, and academic roles.

A purposive sampling strategy was used to select four expert participants, based on their relevance and experience with R2P and peacekeeping. This sample size aligns with the qualitative research principle that values depth over breadth (Mason, 2010). Participants included representatives from the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**,** UN-affiliated peacekeeping bodies, diplomats involved in R2P policymaking, and academic scholars. Snowball sampling was also employed to identify further key informants based on recommendations from initial participants.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Data collection was conducted through semi-structured interviews, guided by a carefully developed interview protocol. The guide included open-ended questions aimed at drawing comprehensive responses regarding R2P implementation, the challenges faced by UN missions, and areas for improvement. A pilot test with professionals was conducted to refine the questions for clarity and relevance. Interviews were conducted virtually to accommodate geographic limitations and participant availability.

For data analysis, thematic analysis was applied following Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework:

1. Familiarization with the data
2. Initial coding
3. Theme identification
4. Theme review
5. Theme definition
6. Final synthesis

Manual coding was used to allow deeper engagement with the data and to iteratively refine emerging themes.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were an integral part of this research. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, with clear explanations of the study's purpose, their rights, and confidentiality protections. All participants provided informed consent prior to the interviews. They were assured that their identities would remain confidential, with pseudonyms used in all reporting, and that they could withdraw at any stage without consequence. Ethical approval was secured from the institutional review board, ensuring full compliance with professional and academic standards.

Respondent Data and Background.

This study involved four expert respondents with distinguished backgrounds in international relations and peacekeeping field. The Respondent 1, Her. Excellency. Dato' Dr. Shazelina Binti Zainul Abidin, she is the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Canada and holds a PhD from the University of Sheffield, where she also serves as an Honorary Research Fellow. The respondent 2, Major General (R) Dr. A.K. Bardalai, he is a former Indian Army officer who served as Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Force Commander of UNIFIL, he was awarded with a PhD in

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

UN Peacekeeping from Tilburg University and a fellowship at the National India Peace Institution. The respondent 3, Dr. Shannon Zimmerman, she is a Senior Lecturer in Strategic Studies at Deakin University and the Australian War College, and a Research Fellow at the Asia- Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. and the last is Respondent 4, Juliette Paauwe, she is a Senior Research and Advocacy Officer at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, affiliated with the Ralph Bunche Institute, and she holds a Master's degree in International Security and Law from the University of Southern Denmark.

This qualitative research design provides a robust foundation for exploring the real-world implementation of the R2P doctrine in UN peacekeeping operations. The combination of expert interviews, rigorous thematic analysis, and ethical research practices ensures that the study yields credible and meaningful insights into this critical area of global humanitarian policy.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

The Relationship Between Peacekeeping and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

This study found that while the integration of R2P into UN peacekeeping operations is conceptually endorsed, its practical implementation remains inconsistent. Respondents highlighted a disconnect between the moral imperatives of R2P and the operational realities of peacekeeping mandates.

Respondent 1 emphasized the normative foundation of R2P post-2005 but noted the ongoing lack of structured integration into peacekeeping frameworks. Similarly, Respondent 2 observed that although the Protection of Civilians (PoC) and R2P share foundational goals, PoC benefits from legal codification, whereas R2P remains a soft norm. Respondent 3 discussed the operational challenge of aligning R2P with state-driven peacekeeping structures, describing peacekeeping as a tool of states rather than a mechanism for moral intervention.

In contrast, Respondent 4 adopted a more optimistic view, presenting peacekeeping as a tangible manifestation of international commitment to R2P—when

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

political conditions allow. Collectively, these perspectives present a spectrum ranging from critique of systemic disconnection to cautious optimism for future integration.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Actors in R2P Implementation

a) UN Peacekeeping Missions

The findings revealed that although UN peacekeeping missions are central to R2P's operational potential, their effectiveness is frequently undermined by limited resources, unclear mandates, and political constraints. Respondent 4 noted, "Missions are often asked to do more than their mandate or resources allow," while Respondent 2 stressed, "UN peacekeepers face political barriers even before they are deployed."

b) United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The UNSC serves as the gatekeeper for authorizing R2P-related interventions. However, its credibility is often challenged by the veto power of permanent members (P5), which can paralyze action. Respondent 3 remarked, "Security Council resolutions set the framework, but internal politics delay or derail them." Respondent 2 echoed this, concluding that R2P's success depends on the political will of powerful states.

c) Regional Organizations

Regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) are often the first responders but lack the autonomy and capacity to operationalize R2P independently. All respondents agreed that while regional organizations play a critical role, they remain under-resourced. Respondent 3 emphasized the need for genuine political will among member states, and Respondent 4 called for stronger integration between regional and UN frameworks.

d) International Justice Institutions

Institutions like the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) play pivotal roles in post-conflict accountability. However, their effectiveness is hindered by political limitations. Respondent 3 pointed out that the ICJ's state-centric focus creates an "accountability gap," while Respondent 2 advocated for the establishment of hybrid tribunals to address enforcement challenges. These institutions are symbolically significant for justice, but stronger enforcement mechanisms are needed to fully support R2P objectives.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Challenges in Implementing R2P in UN Peacekeeping Missions

All respondents identified unclear mandates and insufficient resources as primary barriers. As Respondent 2 stated, "We cannot ask peacekeepers to achieve the impossible with vague instructions." Respondent 3 likened the absence of clarity to "a ship without a compass." These issues create logistical, training, and funding gaps that compromise mission readiness and effectiveness.

The politicization of humanitarian intervention remains a major obstacle. The use of veto power by P5 members for strategic interests often results in inaction, especially during crises like those in Syria and Ukraine. Respondent 4 described this as turning "the UNSC into a battlefield," leaving vulnerable populations as "collateral damage."

Moreover, the normative framework of R2P does not always align with the operational tools of peacekeeping. Respondent 1 noted that R2P's complexity—spanning prevention, intervention, and rebuilding—creates implementation difficulties. Respondent 3 emphasized the reactive nature of peacekeeping, which often arrives after atrocities have already occurred, contrary to R2P's preventive aims.

The issue of consent from host governments—especially those implicated in atrocities—poses further ethical dilemmas. As Respondent 2 noted, "Peacekeeping requires consent, even from perpetrators," raising concerns about impartiality. Respondent 3 advocated for redefining sovereignty as contingent on a state's ability to protect its citizens.

Strategies to Enhance R2P Implementation through UN Peacekeeping

Respondents emphasized the need to shift from military intervention to preventive diplomacy. This includes ethical leadership and addressing the structural causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and poor governance. Respondent 3 advocated tackling "systemic threats like climate change and economic inequality" as part of conflict prevention.

Clarity of mandate and resource alignment were central recommendations. Respondent 1 urged for mandates to be narrowed to essential goals such as civilian

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

protection, while Respondent 4 stressed, "Resource collection must match operational needs." Respondent 2 highlighted political will as key to mobilizing resources.

There was a consensus on the need for peacekeeping reform. Respondent 1 criticized the overreliance on military measures, suggesting, "Peacekeeping should be the last resort." Respondents 2 and 4 called for peacekeeping operations to be more context-specific and anticipatory, including the integration of early warning systems and atrocity risk assessments.

The Importance of Local Actors and Civil Society

All respondents agreed that civil society and grassroots organizations play a crucial role in enhancing the legitimacy and contextual relevance of peacekeeping operations. Respondent 1 emphasized the use of digital platforms to amplify local voices, while Respondent 4 noted, "Civil society can detect early warning signs of atrocities," enabling timely international response. Engagement with local actors helps ensure that peacekeeping missions are not only effective but also community-supported.

The findings highlight that while the R2P principle has gained normative acceptance, its operationalization through UN peacekeeping remains challenged by political, institutional, and conceptual constraints. Effective implementation of R2P requires clearer mandates, stronger political will, better coordination among international and regional actors, and greater engagement with civil society.

Respondents consistently emphasized that the success of R2P depends not on the doctrine alone, but on collective, consistent, and coordinated action—from the UN Security Council to grassroots organizations.

DISCUSSION

This study has critically examined the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine within the framework of United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions. The results highlight the multifaceted nature of R2P operations and the interplay between international institutions, regional actors, and state sovereignty. Key challenges have emerged in relation to political dynamics, legal ambiguities, operational constraints, and strategic rivalries.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Political Dynamics and Structural Challenges

One of the most influential obstacles to R2P implementation is the political entanglement within the UN Security Council, particularly among its permanent members (P5). The veto power of P5 members has often paralyzed timely intervention in situations of mass atrocities, reflecting how geopolitical interests frequently outweigh humanitarian concerns (Bellamy & Williams, 2011; Stamnes, 2016). This obstacle has led to inconsistent applications of R2P, undermining its credibility and efficacy.

Moreover, state sovereignty remains a core tension in operationalizing R2P. Many states—particularly in the Global South—are cautious about R2P being manipulated for political purposes, as seen in the aftermath of the 2011 Libya intervention. The requirement for host state consent further complicates interventions when state actors are themselves implicated in mass atrocities, leading to ethical and operational dilemmas (Thakur, 2016).

Institutional Capacity and Coordination

Regional organizations, despite being positioned as first responders, have suffered from limited military, financial, and logistical capabilities (Desmidt & Hauck, 2017). Their reliance on the Security Council for mandate legitimacy and resource allocation hampers autonomous and swift action. Similarly, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and hybrid tribunals face legitimacy and enforcement challenges due to political non-cooperation by major powers (Hurd, 2014; Clark, 2018).

In field operations, peacekeeping missions often operate under vague and evolving mandates, lacking specific guidelines and sufficient resources. This ambiguity has led to confusion on the ground and inefficiencies in mandate execution. As Karlsrud (2015) and Leuprecht et al. (2019) highlight, the dynamic nature of conflict demands clear yet adaptable mandates that can guide effective action without overreach or political bias.

R2P Complexity and Technological Adaptation

The R2P doctrine encompasses preventive, reactive, and rebuilding measures, making coordination inherently complex. New threats from non-state actors and

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

evolving technologies further complicate peacekeeping missions. Interview data corroborated the need for a more adaptive strategy that leverages emerging technologies—such as early warning systems and data analytics—while balancing diplomacy and cultural sensitivity (Karlsrud, 2015; Stamnes, 2016).

A transformative shift from military-centric interventions to preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding has been proposed. This approach prioritizes conflict de-escalation through mediation, capacity building, and normative leadership. The majority of respondents emphasized the need for moral integrity and impartial leadership within UN institutions, echoing the role of ethical decision-making in sustaining global peace (Kurze & Lamont, 2017).

This study shows that while the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is an important global commitment to preventing mass atrocities, putting it into practice remains challenging. Political divisions—particularly among powerful countries in the UN Security Council—often prevent timely action. Many peacekeeping missions also suffer from unclear mandates and insufficient resources. Some governments reject external intervention, viewing it as a threat to national sovereignty.

These challenges hinder the effective implementation of R2P. However, the study also finds that when countries collaborate, allocate sufficient resources, and engage local communities, R2P can succeed in protecting vulnerable populations.

RECOMMENDATION

To enhance the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in UN peacekeeping missions, several strategic measures are recommended.

First, there is a critical need to shift from military-centric approaches to preventive diplomacy. Peacekeeping strategies should prioritize diplomatic engagement, conflict mediation, and early warning systems. Both interview findings and academic literature emphasize that proactive peacebuilding offers a more sustainable and politically viable solution than reactive military interventions, which often provoke controversy and undermine long-term stability.

Second, the development of ethical and capable leadership within the United Nations is paramount. Leaders must demonstrate moral integrity, impartiality, and commitment to universal human rights to inspire trust among international stakeholders and populations in conflict zones. Strong leadership must be grounded in ethical

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

principles rather than geopolitical interests, as this is essential for fostering international cooperation and restoring the credibility of the R2P framework.

Third, peacekeeping missions must be strengthened through enhanced resource allocation and clearer mandates. Operations often falter due to ambiguous objectives and insufficient resources. Well-defined mandates, backed by robust logistical and financial support, are crucial for aligning operational activities with strategic goals. Improved coordination among UN agencies and departments will further streamline the implementation of these mandates on the ground.

Fourth, it is vital to strengthen political will and institutional cooperation. The success of R2P largely depends on the commitment of UN member states and their willingness to act collectively. Diplomatic reforms should address power imbalances, particularly the misuse of veto powers by the Security Council's Permanent Five (P5). Such reforms are necessary to prevent paralysis during crises and to uphold the UN's mandate to protect vulnerable populations.

Fifth, the inclusion of civil society and local actors is essential to increase the legitimacy and effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. Local engagement ensures cultural sensitivity and enhances community trust, thereby fostering interventions that are relevant and widely accepted. Civil society organizations offer valuable insights into local conflict dynamics and can serve as early warning channels in crisis prevention efforts.

Sixth, efforts must be made to empower regional organizations. These bodies should be provided with autonomy, in-house training, and sufficient resources to respond swiftly to emerging conflicts. Strengthening regional capacity will enhance the responsiveness and adaptability of the international system, enabling localized solutions that complement broader UN initiatives.

Finally, it is necessary to reinforce international legal mechanisms. Institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) must receive stronger support through broader ratification of legal instruments and greater cooperation in enforcement. Effective legal accountability for mass atrocities underpins the moral authority of R2P, ensuring that perpetrators face consequences, deterring future violations, and supporting long-term peacebuilding efforts.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Acknowledgements
We like to thank all the participants of this research for helping the paper to be completed.

Funding
This paper has no funding.

Author contributions
All authors of this article were involved in the preparation of this manuscript.

Conflict of interest
There is no conflict of interest associated to this publication.

References

Bellamy, A.J. (2008). The Responsibility to Protect and the Problem of Military Intervention. International Affairs, 84 (4), 615-639

Bellamy, A. J., & Williams, P.D. (2011). The New Politics of Protection? Cote d'Ivoire, Libya and the Responsibility to Protect. International Affairs, 87 (4), 825-850

Berdal, M., & Ucko, D. H. (Eds). (2015). *Reintegrating Armed Groupd after Conflict: Politics, Violence and Transition*. Routledge.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). *Using thematic analysis in psychology*. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3(2)

Caballero-Anthony, M. (2010). *Expanding the 'population' in the R2P agenda: The role of civil society actors.* Global Responsibility to Protect, 2(2), 185-213.

Creswell, J.W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (4th ed).* SAGE Publications.

Hurd, I. (2008). After Anarchy: *Legitimacy and Power in the United Nations Security Council.*Princeton University Press.

International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. (2001). *The responsibility to protect*. International Development Research Centre.

Karlsrud, J. (2015). The UN at war: examining the consequences of peace-enforcement mandates for the UN peacekeeping operations in the CAR, the DRC and Mali. Third World Quarterly, 36(1), 40-54.

Karlsrud, J. (2019). *From liberal peacebuilding to stabilization and counterterrorism*. International Peacekeeping, 26(1), 1-27.

Koops, J. A., & MacQueen, N. (2014). *The Oxford handbook of United Nations peacekeeping operations.* Oxford University Press.

Kurze, A., & Lamont, C. K. (2017). *International Criminal Justice and Reconciliation in the Former Yugoslavia.* Routledge.

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

Mason, J. (2010). *Qualitative researching* (2nd ed.). SAGE Publications.

Pape, R. A. (2011). R2P out of Libya: Responsibility to Protect, Humanitarian Intervention, and the Struggle for a Post-Westphalian World Order. *Ethics & International Affairs*, 25(3), 287-291.

Stamnes, E. (2016). *Rethinking The Humanitarian-Development Nexus*. Policy brief for the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Thakur, R. (2016). *The United Nations, peace and security: From collective security to the responsibility to protect*. Cambridge University Press.

United Nations. (2005). *2005 World Summit Outcome*. A/RES/60/1.

United Nations. (2020). Report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect.A/75/982-S/2021/503.

Weiss, T. G. (2016). *Mobilizing the challenge to the responsibility to protect*. Global Responsibility to Protect, 8(2-3), 241-257.

Weiss, T. G., & Daws, S. (Eds.). (2018). *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*. Oxford University Press

eISSN 2600-9374
© 2025 Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia