

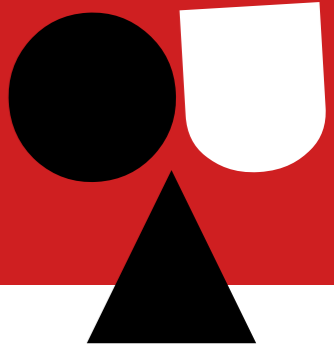
**COUNTERING
BACKLASH**
RECLAIMING
GENDER JUSTICE

CHESS FOR

COUNTERING

BACKLASH.

CHESS FOR COUNTERING BACKLASH



SITES

BODY FAMILY NATION NATION FAMILY BODY

	BODY	FAMILY	NATION	NATION	FAMILY	BODY
PAWNS (PADATI/BHATA)	Black	White	Black	White	Red	White
KING & QUEEN (RAJA & MANTRI)	White	Black	White	Red	White	Red
BISHOP/MULLAH (GAJA/ELEPHANT)	Black	White	Black	White	Red	White
KNIGHT (ASHVA/HORSE)	White	Black	White	Red	White	Red
ROOK/TOWER (RATHA/CHARIOT)	Black	White	Black	White	Red	White
	BODY	FAMILY	NATION	NATION	FAMILY	BODY

BACKLASH PLAYERS

- PAWNS (PADATI/BHATA)**
 - Men's rights groups
 - Manosphere communities
- KING & QUEEN (RAJA & MANTRI)**
 - Aspiring autocrats
 - Populist leaders
- BISHOP/MULLAH (GAJA/ELEPHANT)**
 - Faith power brokers
 - Fundamentalists
- KNIGHT (ASHVA/HORSE)**
 - Ethno-nationalists
 - Fascists
 - Militarists
- ROOK/TOWER (RATHA/CHARIOT)**
 - Hyper-capitalists
 - Wealthy elites

GENDER JUSTICE PLAYERS

- PROGRESSIVES**
 - Feminist and other social justice movements
 - Progressive community-based organisations
 - Progressive on-line communities
- LEADERS**
 - Democratic and representative politicians
 - Political parties for socio-economic justice
- EDUCATORS**
 - Feminist and social justice thought leaders
 - Progressive researchers and journalists
- PEACEMAKERS**
 - Anti-fascist, humanitarian and peace movements
 - Minority-rights/solidarity movements
 - Community-bridging mediators
- SPONSORS**
 - Feminist institutional funders
 - Progressive philanthropists
 - Crowd-sourcing communities

SITE FIXES

SITE DISRUPTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Name your 'players'/ 'pieces', and
2. Discuss and explore how they contest to reshape the spaces/sites of 'the body', 'the family' and 'the nation'.
3. Identify what kinds of language, narratives and tactics these different types of anti-feminist actors use about bodies, families and nations - and put it into the squares. Simple.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Flip chart, paper, coloured pens, post-it notes.

HOW TO PLAY:

This Chess - Shatranj or Chaturanga - game/ exercise can be played in various ways.

You can play this as an exercise - or a series of exercises - in a workshop setting. You can also do it at home or at your desk, to aid thinking and research.

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For examples of narratives and tactics used by backlash actors about these sites, read the inspiration for this exercise: "Grasping Patriarchal Backlash: A brief for smarter countermoves" on: counteringbacklash.org

Countering Backlash: Reclaiming Gender Justice
Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

This tool has been tested with Countering Backlash programme partners and others, with James P. Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JGSPH) in Dhaka and the Arab Institute of Women (AIW/LAU) in Beirut, in 2022 and 2023.

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Countering Backlash, Brighton: Institute of Development
Studies, DOI: 10.19088/BACKLASH.2024.002

STAGE 1:

Prepare and focus on the left-hand side - or the 'Backlash Chessmen' and 'Sites':

1. Prepare a large flipchart with the rows and columns.
2. Discuss how to describe the main Backlash protagonists (chessmen) in your setting and write them down under the categories (Pawns, Knights, Rooks, etc.).
3. For different types of chessmen (backlash protagonist groups) discuss 'how they play' to capture and portray the relevant sites of Body, Family, and Nation. Write this down on sticky notes to place them on the squares of the board. This makes it easier to move around.
4. Discuss how the chessmen engage in the different sites and how there may be connections and mutually supportive (or conflicting) moves. You could draw some of these connections between the moves.

STAGE 2:

Prepare and focus on the right-hand side - or the 'Gender Justice Defenders Chessmen and Sites':

1. Unless you had already prepared the entire 'board', prepare another large flipchart with the rows and columns on the left side.
2. Discuss how to describe the main Gender Justice (GJ) defenders ('chesswo/men') in your setting and write them down under the categories listed on the right-hand side. In this discussion, it is best to have completed Stage 1 on Backlash protagonists, since this may inform ideas about the important types of likely GJ defenders.
3. For different types of chesswo/men (GJ defenders) discuss 'how they do or -should - a play' (i.e., their apparent or advisable language and strategies) to address, open up, and renegotiate the relevant sites of Body, Family, and Nation. Then, write this down on sticky notes to place them on the squares of the board, as in Stage 1. Using different coloured sticky notes will help you see the Backlash moves and GJ Defender moves more clearly.
4. Discuss how the different GJ chesswo/men engage in the different sites and how there may be connections and mutually supportive (or conflicting) moves. You could draw some of these connections between the moves. What can you learn about the potentials and challenges of alliance building here?

FURTHER STAGES:

In further stages, you can take any number of routes, e.g.:

1. Having explored moves and countermoves (as well as any potential connections or contradictions between moves from the same side), you may want to assess/predict likely responses to those moves from 'the other side' to predict a second stage of contestations.
2. Consider what drives BL protagonists moves (their deeper incentives and material interests) and 'how' they operate to 'divide and rule' (what makes their moves effective?). Can you think of more effective ways in which GJ defenders might exploit the contradictions and weaknesses in BL chessmen's moves?
3. Most importantly, adapt the game and the rules to forge your own path in the struggle, and find the right allies!