



Bi-monthly Newsletter - February 2013

Introduction

TransConflict (www.transconflict.com) is pleased to present the first bi-monthly newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT) and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the GCCT and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between GCCT members themselves and with other interested parties.

- [Click here to learn more about the GCCT](#)
- [Click here for a complete list of GCCT members](#)

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To contribute to the next edition of the GCCT newsletter – which will be published in mid-April – please contact TransConflict at:

gcct@transconflict.com.

1) New members of the GCCT

The GCCT was pleased to welcome a host of new members in the past several months, including (click on the links below for further information):

- 1) [**EUROCLIO, the European Association of History Educators**](#) – promotes a responsible and innovative teaching of history based on multi-perspectivity, critical thinking, mutual respect, and the inclusion of controversial issues. The Association advocates a sound use of history education towards the building and deepening of democratic societies, connecting professionals across boundaries of countries, ethnicities and religions. It seeks to enhance the quality of history and citizenship education through capacity building for educators and producing innovative teaching tools. EUROCLIO has been able to define and pragmatically refine a methodology building on the practical work it carried out. Its approach is process-orientation centred and believes in reinforcing professional talents as fundamental resources for innovation and change.

- 2) [**Zanzibar Peace, Truth and Transparency Association \(Tanzania\)**](#) – ZPTTA’s activities have been inspired by the resurgence of political misunderstandings between ruling and opposition political parties in every multi-party election since 1995, result in conflict that distorts the social fabric in Zanzibar. ZPTTA is committed to addressing those political misunderstandings in order to safeguard Zanzibar communities. In this respect, ZPTTA brings together communities and co-operates with institutions to promote peacebuilding and conflict transformation through negotiation, reconciliation, dialogue forgiveness and building a culture of peace.

- 3) [**NGO Support Centre \(Cyprus\)**](#) – supports dialogue which contributes to strengthening Cypriot civil society and reinforces links between Cypriot Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on both sides of the divide, as well as links with international CSOs. The Centre also works to encourage dialogue which will lead to the reunification of Cyprus, upholding the principles of conflict transformation through:
 - i. **Dialogue** – engaging in discussions with civil society organisations in Cyprus for greater understanding between the divided communities;
 - ii. **Lobbying** – engaging decision-makers to work with grassroots communities during the on-going peace talks in Cyprus, encouraging grassroots groups to share their ideas and concerns with politicians;
 - iii. **Capacity Building** – working to build a strong civil society which works together across the divide in post-conflict Cyprus;
 - iv. **Trust Building** – seeking to develop greater trust through sustained engagement and interaction with community groups and individuals.

2) GCCT Members in Focus – Never Again Rwanda (NAR)

Each edition we will showcase a different member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation. This edition's featured organization is **Never Again Rwanda (NAR)**.

NAR was established to address the long history of conflict in Rwanda, particularly the devastating 1994 genocide in which one million were murdered in just one hundred days. There are important lessons to be learned from Rwanda's history; lessons that can contribute to improving understanding of conflict and genocide prevention globally. In the lead-up to genocide, youth were manipulated by extremist propaganda. Eighteen years on, a special parliamentary commission found in 2007 that genocidal beliefs still persist. NAR therefore works with, and seeks to support, youth as agents for positive change in Rwandan society.

Recognising that the roots of the Rwandan conflict are socio-economic and not ethnic – as many insist – NAR takes a multi-faceted approach to conflict transformation. NAR seeks to foster dialogue about Rwandan politics, history and culture, working to create an environment in which everybody understands and respects each other's culture. NAR educates youth about genocide and conflict transformation, teaching them the skills they need to become agents of change, capable of bringing about sustainable peace. NAR recognizes, however, that such peacebuilding efforts are extremely fragile while poverty and economic inequality persist. NAR therefore has a number of ongoing projects which aim to address these different areas.

Peace Building Institute (PBI)

NAR's Peace Building Institute (PBI) brings Rwandan and international students to Kigali with the aim of promoting understanding of different cultures, Rwandan history, genocide and global issues in peacebuilding and conflict transformation.



PBI participants learning traditional Rwandan dance

The most recent PBI involved 30 Rwandan and international university students from the USA, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong and South Africa. A number of workshops covered a broad range of peacebuilding themes, including how to identify a burgeoning genocide by

studying its root causes in a number of different historical cases. The participants learned how genocide develops over eight distinct stages, how to identify these respective stages and what can be done at each stage to prevent genocide. They also studied how people cope with the legacy of massive human rights abuses, and how societies rebuild in their aftermath. Participants were introduced to concept of transitional justice, in particular the role of the Gacaca court system, and the difficulties in bringing perpetrators to justice following the Rwandan genocide.

In addition, a number of field visits and meetings were organised at various locations significant to Rwanda's history, culture and genocide. Participants visited the Genocide Memorial in Kigali, the house of former president Juvenel Habyarimana, the seat of the Rwandan monarch and the national museum. Participants also visited the national parliament, where they enjoyed a question and answers session with the president of the Senate. This year, NAR is planning to run two separate PBIs – one in July and one in December.



PBI participants outside the Rwandan parliament with the President of the Senate, H.E. Dr. Jean Damascene Ntawukuliryayo (centre)

Empowering Young Women Entrepreneurs Project (EYE)

In 2009, NAR launched the three-year EYE Project, made possible by the generous support of USAID. EYE's goal is to contribute to the empowerment of Rwandan women through vocational skills and leadership training, enabling them to secure paid employment or establish their own businesses. Some 153 young women (aged between 18 and 24) have benefited from six months in-school training and three month internships. Of the 153 graduates, 62% (95 women) are either employed or self-employed. Additionally, three cooperatives have been formed – in Ngoma, Bugesera and Gicumbi Districts, respectively. NAR is in the process of connecting these women with micro-finance institutions to provide them soft loans to expand their businesses.



Four women from the icyizere Cooperative, established through the EYE project

Dealing with the past

NAR engages youth in constructively dealing with the past through trainings, workshops, conferences and dialogue on reconciliation, plus commemoration policy and practice. NAR works to build a platform for Rwandans to participate in inclusive commemoration as a means of promoting healing. This complements other efforts, such as visits to genocide memorial sites, to help young people learn about what happened during the 1994 genocide perpetrated against Tutsis. All NAR's initiatives aim to spur changes in youth perceptions and attitudes, encouraging youth to become agents of conflict transformation.

Youth Initiated Projects (YIP)

NAR-affiliated youth club and association members learn and use a step-by-step process for identifying, developing and implementing projects that positively contribute to the community, while strengthening their leadership skills. In addition to training and on-going technical support, NAR youth members can apply for project seed financing to support innovative projects – such as theatre, dance, goat/pig rearing and handicrafts – whilst NAR provides a platform through which groups can communicate their activities across Rwanda.



Members of NAR youth clubs and associations at the End-of-Year celebration

**[Please click here to learn more about and contact
Never Again Rwanda](#)**

[Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation \(GCCT\)](#)

3) GCCT Insight and Analysis

This section provides an overview of the insight and analysis produced by members of the GCCT on a variety of conflict and conflict transformation related topics (click on the links below to read the entire article):

- 1) [Former prisoners and conflict transformation in Northern Ireland](#) – by *Dr. Orna Young* – The changing dynamics of ‘post conflict’ political discourse, coupled with the emergence of a new generation who did not necessarily live through the thirty year conflict, requires a re-imagining of conflict transformation by former prisoners. They need to move beyond discourses which informed their journey to the prisons and re-evaluate their roles in the current socio-political context.
- 2) [Conflict transformation – a long-term, gradual and complex process?](#) – **TransConflict** is pleased to present contributions to the fourth Peacebuilders’ Panel, which is designed to stimulate debate about peacebuilding and conflict transformation, focusing on the principle that "conflict transformation is a long-term, gradual and complex process, requiring sustained engagement and interaction.”
- 3) [Addressing the culture of violence in Kenya](#) – by *Kisuke Ndiku* – **TransConflict** is pleased to present a two-part analysis of the drivers of conflict in Kenya, focusing initially on the need for restorative justice – particularly where land matters are concerned – in order to address the emerging culture of violence.
- 4) [Kenya – the quest for restorative justice](#) – by *Kisuke Ndiku* – One clear element is that violence in Kenya has to do with community identities, particularly where the young males of society are concerned.
- 5) [Conflict in Rwanda – definitions and drivers](#) – by *Never Again Rwanda* – the sources of conflict in Rwanda – and in Africa’s Great Lakes region, in general – can be divided into three categories: its colonial heritage, chronic bad governance and conflict-generating political systems.
- 6) [Rwanda – working for sustainable peace](#) – by *Never Again Rwanda* – Rwanda has shown ingenuity in conflict transformation thanks to the policy of National Unity and Reconciliation, as well as to the participatory and innovative justice system known as Gacaca.

**To contribute analysis and insight to TransConflict.com,
please contact us at office@transconflict.com**

4) GCCT Research

In this section, GCCT members are invited to showcase both academic and field research, undertaken either individually or in conjunction with other organizations/institutions.

[Human security through civil society in post-war Kosovo](#)

This research identifies and explores the challenges to building gendered human security through local and international NGOs in Kosovo's post-war NGO boom period.

Abstract

Kosovo's transitional period was not just post-war, but post-communist; it lacked not only basic infrastructure, but a functioning political system. The international community, development theorists and academics focused Kosovo's post-war reconstruction and development efforts towards the creation of a strong civil society, as it was and is a necessary and "stabilizing factor, and an instrument to bring about social cohesion" (Nietsch 2006: 6). Civil society is lauded as representative of the interests of citizen groups, including the marginalized and disadvantaged, as capable of monitoring human rights, being a ballast to the government, and capable of building bridges between communities.

Civil society is a fundamental part of a healthy, secure, democratic society. It is comprised of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which I divide into three categories: 1. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs); 2. Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGOs); 3. Community Based Organizations (CBOs). Many development-focused CSOs aim to promote democracy, peace, stability, or human security through their interventions, especially in post-crisis situations. Transcending human rights, human security provides a more holistic way of looking at security for nations and individuals, because to focus on the "real security needs of living people" is to focus on the needs of a nation (Licht 2006: 201). As a major pillar of human security is the respect for women's human rights, customized ways of responding to gendered human security is critical in a post-crisis/post-war context because of the unique set of challenges women face.

In a 'donor boom', newly-created LNGOs (at times formed from a parent INGO) must build gendered human security into their organizational design as much as into their projects. To have scalable and sustainable interventions, to create a longer-term positive impact and 'do' more effective development, organizations must engage with human security to thrive. But what must they do to survive? This research identifies and explores the challenges to building gendered human security through LNGOs and INGOs in Kosovo's post-war NGO boom period, focusing on five principal areas that threaten the survival of organizations.

About the author

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5) GCCT Activities

In future, this section will allow members to share insights into their conflict transformation activities and initiatives from the prior two months.

To submit information about your own organization's activities, please contact the GCCT at gcct@transconflict.com.

6) Follow the GCCT and the TransConflict

To follow the GCCT, please click on one of the following buttons:



To follow TransConflict, please click on one of the following buttons:



[Click here to add your name to TransConflict's e-Declaration in support of the principles of conflict transformation](#)



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