



The Global Coalition for
Conflict Transformation

Bi-monthly Newsletter - April 2013

Introduction

TransConflict (www.transconflict.com) is pleased to present the second bi-monthly Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT) newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the 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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- 5) **Follow the GCCT and the TransConflict**

To contribute to the next edition of the GCCT newsletter – which will be published in mid-June – 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. [Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania \(PATRIR\)](#) – PATRIR is committed to a world in which conflicts are transformed constructively, through peaceful means – in which individuals, communities, countries and local, national, regional and international organisations and actors are empowered to address conflicts effectively, and work together to do so. PATRIR’s mission is to transform the way the world deals with conflicts, working at the local to the global levels, in partnership with communities, countries, national and international organisations – to make peacebuilding and the constructive transformation of conflicts the basis for sustainable peace.
2. [Modus Operandi for Conflict Transformation](#) – Modus Operandi is an independent Institute that works towards conflict transformation through research, training and debate. It works with a broad definition of conflict, from social to armed conflict, with a special focus on political crises. Modus Operandi approaches conflict as an opening for social transformation. In order to untangle conflictual relationships and to establish lasting peace, a period of political transition needs to be accompanied by the political transformation of conflicts. Modus Operandi works with local stakeholders as well as international networks, with modes of action such as face-to-face teaching, online training, meetings and rounds of dialogue as well as publications.
3. [Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation \(ACGRC\)](#) from [Armenia](#) - works as both a think-tank and an advocacy group, aiming to promote democratic values, strengthen civil society and the rule of law, and promote regional integration and the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. ACGRC supports public sector reforms and the development of good practices in local governance, disseminates knowledge on legal issues, produces expert assessments and analysis of conflict transformation and regional cooperation issues, and supports initiatives that foster an atmosphere of trust and peace in the South Caucasus. ACGRC’s research interests include globalisation issues, global processes and their influence on regional cooperation, and the protection of human rights within the globalisation processes. ACGRC has been one of the active supporters of the process of normalisation of relations with Turkey.
4. [CommonWell Institute International, Inc. \(USA\)](#) – a global institute of research, training, advocacy, and conflict transformation for women and children in conflict and post-conflict areas, including Afghanistan and Rwanda. We inspire sustainable lives through education and economic empowerment for women and their children. We vision a new era that promotes peace and is dedicated in spirit and action to the wellbeing of ALL citizens of the global village. We provide economic grants and micro-investment for women in Afghanistan as well as programs of social justice and peacebuilding based on the CONTACT model of School for International Training and Karuna Center for Peacebuilding.

2) GCCT Members in Focus – African Youth Peace Initiatives – Uganda

The context of youth in Uganda

Uganda has the youngest population in the world, with an estimated 6.5m people aged between 18 and 30 according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. This situation poses a great threat to the country's socio-economic and political stability. Uganda is one of the most conflict prone states in Africa. Peace remains fragile, with many unresolved points of contention – political, economic and social – that are roots in its history. The risk of violence recurring is very real.

The youth are an essential resource for peacebuilding and development; and therefore for the destiny of Uganda and Africa at large. However, young people in Uganda are faced with enormous challenges that inhibit them from actively participating in development processes. Unemployment, under-employment and chronic poverty persists despite government development interventions and the programmes of international development agencies. This situation has resulted in high crime rates, political and ethnic violence, and the rising prevalence of HIV/AIDs amongst young people.



A strategy for overcoming the above challenges involves setting in motion a process that would holistically engage youth in peacebuilding, governance and development interventions, especially within the poorest and most-deprived communities of Uganda.

2. African Youth Peace Initiatives Background

AYPI arose out of a desire to change the prevalent culture of violence embraced by the youth to one of non-violence. AYPI is an independent and equal opportunities NGO, dedicated to empowering young people, organizations, institutions and communities at the grassroots through initiatives that promote a culture of non-violence, peace and sustainable development.

When peaceful and constructive approaches to transforming conflicts break down and violence escalates, it is young people in particular who bear the brunt. Given their enormous creativity and innovation potential, however, sustainable development efforts should be focused upon young people. Investing in youth across Africa can help transform the continent.

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

AYPI's Vision and Objectives

AYPI pursues a peaceful and empowered youth for sustainable development in Uganda and Africa, through its core values of participation, accountability, integrity, team work, transparency and humanity.

The long term objectives of AYPI include:

- To address the root causes of violence and its effects among communities through promoting community-based projects in education, health, environment and agriculture;
- To research, document and disseminate information on topical issues and concerns affecting young people and communities at large;
- To promote meaningful youth participation in governance and human rights protection within grassroots communities.
- To mobilize human, financial and other resources to support community initiatives and projects.

AYPI Programs

AYPI's main interventions are within the following strategic program areas.

Human Rights and Good Governance

Enhancing local capacities in rights-based approaches, participatory resource-monitoring and budget tracking to empower local communities to demand, participate in and monitor development programs within their localities.



AYPI advocates for the active role of the youth in the promotion of fundamental human rights among communities, institutions and families.

Conflict Transformation and Peace Education

AYPI addresses the root causes of violence and its effects on communities by preventing, managing and transforming conflict.



Training, research, documentation and networking with key partners and stakeholders

AYPI conducts periodic trainings and research, whilst issuing publications on topical and emerging community issues. AYPI uses the media and newsletters to create awareness and to disseminate information to influence opinions and positively affect attitudes.

Child care and support program

AYPI promotes education, rights and welfare of orphans and vulnerable children through its established community schools and partner institutions in under-privileged communities.



Youth entrepreneurship and job skills training

AYPI works to empower young people through skills development for self-help and employment. The programme is intended to improve livelihoods through learning practical job skills and engaging marginalized youth in poverty eradication programmes.

Environment, sanitation, health and agricultural development

AYPI promotes awareness raising and youth involvement in tailor-made initiatives to combat climate change, health, HIV/AIDS prevention, sanitation and agriculture.

[Please click here to learn more about and contact African Youth Peace Initiatives - Uganda](#)

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. [Promoting responsible history education – the case of EUROCLIO](#) – by *Joke van der Leeuw-Roord* – EUROCLIO, the European Association for History Educators, propagates an approach to history education that smoothes out the ragged edges of nationalism and other ideologies, deconstructing historical myths and negative stereotypes and putting traditional enemy-images into perspective.
2. [Can reconciliation be pursued through history teaching?](#) – by *Joke van der Leeuw-Roord* – EUROCLIO offers a successful model for many history educators in Europe to address innovative, and often controversial, content as well as collaborative, active, meaningful and effective ways of learning and teaching.
3. [Turkey and the Kurdish conflict – domestic agenda meets regional concerns](#) - by *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* - Though a possible peace deal with the PKK has a lot to offer to Turkey, the process is still susceptible to spoilers. Should the rumoured PKK ceasefire on 21st March hold, then spring may well be the beginning of a long anticipated peace in Turkey.
4. [Serb municipalities in Kosovo and Kurdish reform in Turkey](#) – by *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* – The ethnic-oriented Dayton constitution and Sejdic-Finci imbroglio is a great example of how the ethnicization of constitutions further divides a post-conflict multi-ethnic society. Turkey and Kosovo should indeed be very focused on providing civic solutions to ethnic problems, not vice-versa.
5. [Turkish-Serbian relations – a rising strategic axis in the Western Balkans](#) - by *Dr. Doga Ulas Eralp* - The strategic relations between Turkey and Serbia is an important case of how a century of negative peace could transform via economic cooperation and development.
6. [Serbia and Syria](#) – by *Julian Harston* – There has been a failure of public diplomacy by the US, the UK, France and Germany to serve the interests of stability in either Serbia or Syria, and thus a failure to strengthen or secure both ‘western’ interests, and the interests of the poor people of these two countries.
7. [Arab Spring – what does the West expect after two years?](#) – by *Nicolamaria Coppola* – The Arab Spring could not be avoided; the old geopolitics of the region is permanently changed. Hence we must begin re-imagining the moral map of the Middle East, considering that we are at the beginning of a new era; one in which the problems that the new political institutions have to deal with are enormous.

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

4) GCCT Research and Activities

In future, this section will allow members to share insights into their conflict transformation research, 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.

5) 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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