



The Global Coalition for
Conflict Transformation

Bi-monthly GCCT Newsletter - February 2014

Introduction

TransConflict (www.transconflict.com) is pleased to present the sixth 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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**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. [Swat Youth Front – Pakistan](#) – an independent, flexible, democratic, non-profit youth organization working for poverty reduction, illiteracy, unemployment, women empowerment, peace and disaster management in Malakand Region, NWFP, Pakistan. SYF provides insight and analysis on conflict in the Swat Valley to a variety of national and international actors – particularly through Conflict Early Recovery Initial Needs Assessment (CERINA) and Rapid Needs Assessment Reports - that allow tailour-made responses to local needs and challenges, particular of victims and vulnerable groups.
2. [Peace and Human Rights Organization – Afghanistan](#) – focuses on mobilizing and utilizing local capacities to build relationships and create confidence among former adversarial groups through encouraging cultural fluency/exchange programs to facilitate dialogue and strengthen social coherence among culturally different communities, whilst promoting peace education in schools and higher educational institutions to re-define their cultural identities. PHRO focuses on identifying and revealing the root causes of conflict, structural and direct violence in Afghanistan and supporting a strategy of combating these sources of conflict through non-violent ways and promoting a strategy of transitional justice and national reconciliation on the basis of reducing structural injustices.
3. [Women And Children’s Empowerment Network in Africa – Uganda](#) – established with the purpose of addressing and alleviating the acute and long-term consequences of violence against the women and children of Uganda. WACENA gives priority to advocating for the human rights of the women and children and their invisible movements, groups or activities in their respective communities.
4. [Friends for Peace – Nepal](#) – a membership-based non-profit organisation composed of a team of professionals committed to the study and practice of conflict transformation and sustainable peacebuilding in Nepal. FFP is committed to ensuring that its activities reflect the genuine voices and concerns of people at the grassroots level, and facilitates greater participation of individuals and civil society organisations in bringing about a peaceful resolution of conflicts. FFP has conducted research at the district level to document peace initiatives in order to provide firsthand experience of conflict and people’s perceptions.

[If your organization is interested in joining the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation \(GCCT\), then please click here for further information on how to apply!](#)

2) GCCT Members in Focus – Peace and Conflict Resolution from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Blessed and cursed with enormous mineral wealth, the Democratic Republic of Congo has experienced a long and brutal civil war that has left over four million people dead and forced some two and a half million to flee their homes.

As Kirthi Jayakumar writes:

"the persistent fighting in the Congo is easily among the worst and most lethal conflicts since the Second World War. The International Committee of the Red Cross has put a number on the figure – noting that as many as 5.4 million people have died in the conflict. A cursory glance at the trajectory of DR Congo's political history reveals that land, language, ethnicity, migration, access to natural resources and national security are the most prominent of a host of factors that have helped protract the conflict. In the chaotic aftermath of the Rwandan civil war, refugees fled to the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). Some Interahamwe – a militia partially responsible for the Rwandan genocide – crossed the border to avoid prosecution for their crimes against humanity."



Photography courtesy of Peace and Conflict Resolution

Peace and Conflict Resolution was founded in Bukavu, South-Kivu - in the badly-affected, resource rich, eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo - by Pastor Samuel Muderhwa and his wife Faida in 2004 - both trained mediators - in order to "establish a society where people and communities are empowered with the skills to overcome conflict and take charge of their own destiny." PCR aims to create peace and promote reconciliation, bring broken families back together, give vulnerable children hope, and empower women who have been affected by the war. As they note, "the people of Eastern D.R. Congo have passed through unimaginable chaos caused by the wars that have taken place in the region." To this end, PCR's activities focus

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on education - with the goal of nurturing and promoting responsible decision-making and problem solving skills.

Peace and Conflict Resolution remains committed to breaking the cycle of violence and poverty that continues to fuel conflict in local communities, whilst promoting a culture that nurtures peaceful relations at the grass-roots level. PCR believes in the importance of collaboration, and aims to build strong networks with partner organizations who share its vision of peacebuilding and providing humanitarian support. PCR insists that it is vital to equip future generations with the necessary leadership capacities and peacebuilding skills to end the cycle of violence.



In order to fulfil these commitments, Peace and Conflict Resolution works to educate the community about understanding and resolving conflict; provides trauma counselling for victims of war; provides knowledge to communities about sanitation, hygiene and health-care; provides sponsorship for the education and health care of vulnerable children; offers entrepreneurial training; and builds networks with peace organizations both locally and internationally.



Tackling sexual violence

Sexual violence remains one of the biggest challenges facing the Democratic Republic of Congo. As Kirthi Jayakumar notes:

"amidst death, displacement, disease and squalor, thousands of women were raped and mutilated in the DRC. Many can attest that the momentum to kill and maim is still in full swing despite a peace agreement signed in 2003. Sexual violence in Congo goes back to the beginnings of the conflict itself. The regular armed forces of all nations involved in the two wars, plus the numerous rebel groups, have widely used rape as a weapon of war. The Congolese regular army (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police Force (PNC) account for close to 20 percent of all sexual violence. The integration of former militia members into regular armed forces, with no mechanism for excluding human rights violators, has contributed to the problem. Those in positions of government authority are also among the perpetrators, and even UN peacekeepers have committed acts of sexual violence. As rape was adopted as the preferred weapon of control, so women have had to suffer the horrors of gang rapes, torture, sexual slavery, sexual abuse and harassment."



Peace and Conflict Resolution - in conjunction with associates, Kim Haxton and Meaghan Farquahrson - have provided Trauma Counselling Training to local Congolese women. The "self-sustaining" training "is centred upon trauma counselling training for women and adds capacity building for future projects focused on community wellness, sustainability and self-sufficiency" and "will help local communities create better lives for the people in Bukavu".

A host of challenges remain for the Democratic Republic of Congo. As PCR note, peacebuilders are doing a lot to train people on how to live peacefully, but because of bad leadership and selfishness of politicians it is difficult to achieve. Furthermore, local people continue to distrust the UN peacekeepers, MONUSCO. PCR remains committed to fostering strong peacebuilding leadership and providing support to war victims.

[Learn more about Peace and Conflict Resolution](#)

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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. [**Nagorno-Karabakh – time to end the ceasefire violations**](#) – TransConflict is pleased to present an open letter by Edgar Khachatryan, director of Peace Dialogue from Armenia, a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation, addressed to all those individuals and organizations involved in the negotiation process related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
2. [**Rwanda after genocide – building peace through art**](#) – by [**Never Again Rwanda**](#) – The ‘Peacebuilding after Genocide’ mobile exhibition used story-telling and dialogue methodologies to educate people about the 1994 genocide, to examine what causes violence and to send messages of peace and social cohesion.
3. [**The new UN peacekeeping**](#) – by *Gerard M. Gallucci* – UN reform of peacekeeping seems to mean mainly focusing on two instances – when civilian deaths in a conflict or failing state are actually or potentially bad enough to make it too politically embarrassing to appear to be doing nothing, and when a UNSC mandate can provide cover for counter-terrorism.
4. [**The new UN and peacekeeping**](#) – by *Julian Harston* – The return to robust peacekeeping is a disconcerting development since it raises the whole question of the need for impartiality if peacekeepers are to have real legitimacy and it puts the humanitarians and others who work with the UN in greater peril.
5. [**Managing conflict as America declines**](#) – by *David B. Kanin* – Those seeking to better manage America’s important but diminished role in the world need to consider a number of questions concerning, for instance, its own interests, capacities and vulnerabilities; trends in conflict and co-operation; and international commitments, the missions required to uphold them, and the mix of military and intelligence capabilities needed to pursue them.
6. [**For Syrian refugees child marriage is a necessity**](#) - by *Kirra Hughes* - Research by women’s right organizations purports that the prevalence of child marriage is not due to lack of awareness about the concerns of the practice, but due to the social prejudice that girls face. While reports are inconclusive as to the rate of increase of child marriages among refugee populations, it is still an issue that requires immense scrutiny.
7. [**Engendering the Responsibility to Protect doctrine – time to include rape and sexual violence?**](#) – by *Kirthi Jayakumar* – Engendering the Responsibility to Protect doctrine

would be an effective strategy in response to the hitherto unhindered trend of sexual violence and rape in war.

8. [**Temperance in the Arab Spring – averting catastrophe through great power politics**](#) – by *Matthew Parish* – The world’s most politically volatile region, the Middle East, has been stabilised through the collective common sense of three Great Powers – the United States, Great Britain and Russia – applying regressive yet pragmatic foreign policy.
9. [**Turkey’s rapprochement with Iraqi Kurdistan – an obstacle to the Kurdish peace process?**](#) – by *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* – The decision by Turkey’s prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to pursue rapprochement with the president of Iraqi Kurdistan could prove a profound obstacle to the Kurdish peace process.
10. [**Nagorno-Karabakh – using theatre to confront stereotypical perceptions of history**](#) – by [**Peace Dialogue**](#) – Using the theatre and theatrical techniques as a mean for creating a safe space for young participants from societies involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict helped breakdown existing stereotypical perceptions of history.
11. [**Transforming conflict across borders – the case of Kenya and Uganda**](#) – by Lokiru Francis Dowan - **TransConflict** is pleased to present a concept for transforming conflict between the Pian, Pokot and Sabinu communities, which primarily results from cattle raiding and often violent competition for scarce pasture and water resources.
12. [**Time to begin thinking about world government?**](#) – by *Gerard M. Gallucci* – What might a world citizen look like while there is still no world government? The first example might be Edward Snowden. Whether he meant to or not, his disclosures have served the interest of people around the world in the privacy of our communications. In other words, world citizens may think and act outside the confines of the sovereign entities they inhabit.
13. [**Peace education for the culture of peace in Macedonia**](#) – by *Mirjana Kosić* – Although the wars have passed, the need for peace education in the former Yugoslavia remains more pertinent than ever. The First Children’s Embassy in the World Megjashi is a local organisation tirelessly promoting peace and advocating for the rights of children in Macedonia.
14. [**Bridging divisions in Bosnia-Herzegovina’s society**](#) – by *Mirjana Kosić* – Ethnic divisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina are possibly greater than ever before. The Genesis Project, though, shows that reconciliation is not an impossible dream.

[**To contribute analysis and insight to TransConflict.com,
please contact us by clicking here.**](#)

4) GCCT Activities, Research and Requests

New modules from Global Operational Peace Support

TransConflict is pleased to present information about new modules from Global Operational Peace Support (Global OPS), launched by the [Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania \(PATRIR\)](#).

Background

If you're working in the field in a key area of peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping operations, security sector reform, governance, violence prevention, or post-war stabilization, Global OPS Modules are for you. They are designed for professionals, practitioners, experts, policy makers and senior leadership and government officials to ensure you have the support you need, where you need it, when you need it. OPS Modules are 'hands on', providing direct, customized support, tailored professional coaching and technical assistance to staff and mission leadership in your location, rather than needing to travel abroad or out of context for trainings. Most of all: Global OPS Modules are practical and customized. Module Leaders are amongst the leading experts and practitioners in their fields worldwide, with in-depth experience and knowledge in their areas.

Details

The March 2014 semester of Global OPS provides the following modules:

- Comprehensive Conflict Analysis for Improving Design, Impact and Effectiveness of Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Strategies (7 weeks)
- Supporting Local & National Capacities for Peacebuilding (4 weeks)
- Early Warning, Early Response and Contemporary Peace Operations (12 weeks)
- Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (10 weeks)
- Integrated Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation: The Link from Project Cycle Evaluation to Improved Design and Implementation of Peacebuilding, Stabilization & Peace Support Operations (5 weeks)
- Making Gender Mainstreaming Effective in Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Development Programmes (6 weeks)
- Engaging Marginalized & Hard to Reach Youth in Peacebuilding (8 weeks)
- Engaging Identity, Recovery & Peace Consolidation After War (8 weeks)

To contact Global OPS please visit www.globalopsonline.org or write to Adelina Decean at Adelina.decean@globalopsonline.org.

[Please click here to learn more about Global Operational Peace Support \(Global OPS\)](#)

International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC) training courses

TransConflict is pleased to present information about new training courses offered by the International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC), which was established by the [Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania \(PATRIR\)](#).

Background

The International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC) is inviting expert professionals, policy makers and practitioners for its upcoming Spring Onsite Programs. The programmes are designed for UN agencies, governments and national and international organisations. IPDTC programmes have been ranked by participants and their agencies as amongst the most professional, intensive and high quality in their field. They provide participants with the opportunity to train together with an exceptional group of experts and practitioners from around the world, coming from governments, community-based, national and international organisations, military and security forces, donors and others. The programmes are thorough, rigorous and dynamic, drawing upon lessons learnt in the field and training people in practical skills, knowledge and capabilities to directly improve their own and their organisations capacities for peacebuilding, prevention and post-war recovery, designing of peace programmes and peace support operations.

- Improving Strategic Impact, Quality and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding & Peace Support Operations (ISI), Executive Leadership Programme (ELP) - 31st of March – 2nd of April, 2014
- Designing & Implementing Effective Monitoring and Evaluation for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Programmes, UN Missions & Post-War Recovery & Rebuilding, Executive Leadership Programme (ELP) - 3rd – 5th of April, 2014
- Collaborative Approaches to Diversity in Conflict Settings (CoSCAD), Advance Certificate Programme (ACP) - 5th – 9th of June, 2014
- Systemic Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post-War Recovery & Reconciliation, Advance Certificate Programme (ACP) accredited by COTIPSO - 9th – 13th of June, 2014
- Developing and Applying Early Warning and Early Response Systems: Challenges and Response, Advance Certificate Programme (ACP) - 16th – 20th of June, 2014

IPDTC Programmes are specifically created for senior leadership, government officials, conflict parties, experts and practitioners in the field. If you know organizations, agencies, ministries or individuals which you believe may benefit from these programmes, please share this announcement further with them or send them directly to IPDTC's web-site at www.patrir.ro/training or write to training@patrir.ro

5) GCCT Advocacy

Why young peacebuilders must be included in the post-2015 agenda

The promotion of a culture of peace includes peace education and recognising and addressing structures of violence such as gender discrimination, ethnic marginalisation and poverty. Above most, a culture of peace needs to involve all actors in society but crucially young people who often remain outside of the normative security framework.

By Laura McManus

In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will expire and a new global agenda, one that addresses the most urgent environmental and development needs, will come into effect. While the MDGs have had a tremendous impact worldwide in reducing child mortality, safeguarding primary education, and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, only 20 conflict affected or fragile states have met one or more of the eight MDGs. Considering that 1.5 billion people live in conflict affected and fragile states and these areas have predominantly young populations, it is time to put young people and the forefront of peace, security and development agendas.

The [United Network of Young \(UNOY\) Peacebuilders](#), with 60 member organisations in 35 countries around the world, is leading the campaign for the inclusion of youth and a positive peace framework in the post-2015 agenda. Through the work of their Youth Advocacy Team, UNOY conducted a global consultation among its members to learn how young peacebuilders can and want to contribute to a goal on peace and security beyond 2015. The consultation revealed how young peoples participation in peacebuilding remains under recognised by development mechanisms despite the enthusiasm of young people and youth organisations to work in peacebuilding.

From a peacebuilding perspective, the most striking feature of the MDGs was that not one of the goals aimed to end violence or promote peace. The High Level Panel Report of Eminent Persons acknowledged that the MDGs “were silent on the devastating effects of conflict and violence on development”, (2013, Executive Summary) and recommends any future goals be “widely applicable in countries with different levels of income and in those emerging from conflict or recovering from natural disaster” (14). Without an end to violence and freedom from fear, no society will make marked progress to other development indicators. Peacebuilding must, therefore, be considered as integral to the achievement of all other goals. Although peace has been identified as a crosscutting issue of the post-2015 agenda, the any goal to build peace and effective governance must incorporate a holistic approach to positive peace.

As Paula, a young peacebuilder for Colombia, explained in UNOY Peacebuilders’ consultation:

“If people, if communities, if young generations are educated to live and promote a culture of peace where mutual respect and understanding of oneself, others and nature is a must, then the application of the Post-2015 MDGs will have sustainable and fertile ground to thrive” (Paula Ramirez, in UNOY Peacebuilders, 2013, 28.).

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Positive peace is that which sustains peacefulness beyond just the absence of war. It is systems put in place that actively seek to cultivate peace rather than simply address or divert violent conflict. It is applicable to all young people, not just to those in conflict affected and fragile states, but to youth worldwide who respect diversity, tolerance and difference. The promotion of a culture of peace includes peace education and recognising and addressing structures of violence such as gender discrimination, ethnic marginalisation and poverty. Above most, a culture of peace needs to involve all actors in society but crucially young people who often remain outside of the normative security framework.

There must be a shift in normative thinking on youth in peace and conflict. Current discourse places rule of law, institutions and security sector reform at the heart of the peace and security agenda. The targets in illustrative goal 11 proposed by the HLP reflect this top down and institutionalised approach; Ensure justice institutions are accessible, independent, well resourced and respect due process rights, and Enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary.

But lasting peace is more than the sum of police officers or judges. While this reform necessary, it remains just one component of intimately interconnected societies. Reform needs to take place across horizontal and vertical structures, and in public and private spheres. Infrastructures that enable economic growth, social cohesion and political legitimacy must be promoted and sustained. Young people are instrumental in these processes – their innovation and creativity is essential for entrepreneurship, their flexibility to change makes them effective agents of trust building, and their desire for good governance can overturn dishonest leaders:

“Young people can make a huge change in the society they live in. They have enthusiasm, motivation and creative minds in promoting development. Young people can take lead in any development efforts. Young people can inspire others, involve in action and promote peace and development” (Bhuvan Poudel, in UNOY Peacebuilders, 2013, 28).

The Post-2015 Agenda will set new goals and targets that will inform the programing and funding of governments and non-governmental organisations for the next 15 years. Now is the time and place to ensure positive peace goals compliment negative peace efforts. To realise a truly transformative shift that positively impacts development in conflict affected and fragile states, young peacebuilders must be given a space to act in a global agenda beyond 2015.

As such, we urge member states to:

1. Include peacebuilding and targets for positive peace in a goal on peace and security in the post-2015 development agenda.
2. Mainstream youth and peacebuilding among all future goals, targets and indicators in the post-2015 development agenda.
3. Recognise and include young people as specific stakeholders in a goal on peace and security, noting that they are both affected by conflict and instrumental to peacebuilding.

4. Recognise and include the role of youth-led and youth-based peacebuilding organisations in peacebuilding activities and promoting a culture of peace.
5. Create a participatory monitoring framework that has built in mechanisms to ensure young people's active participation in evaluating the post-2015 agenda.
6. Commit to funding resources and mechanisms for raising awareness and extending the outreach of the post-2015 agenda to all young people, especially to vulnerable or marginalised groups of young people.

This is the campaign to lobby national governments to expand the parameters of the goal on peace in the Post-2015 Agenda. 2014 will be there year when decisions are made. For young people this means so there is still time to act to tell your government what peace means to you.

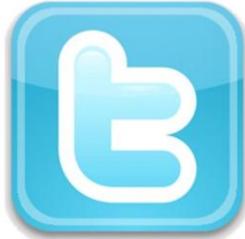
Laura McManus is the Project and Fundraising Coordinator at [UNOY Peacebuilders](#) and is the networks focal point on the Post-2015 process.

[Please click here to learn more about UNOY Peacebuilders](#)

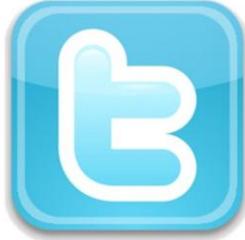


6) Follow the GCCT and the TransConflict

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



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



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