Bi-monthly GCCT Newsletter - June 2014

Introduction

TransConflict (**www.transconflict.com**) is pleased to present the eighth 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**

Index

1) **New members of the GCCT** – learn more about recent additions to the GCCT.
2) **GCCT Members in Focus –** the Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) from Zimbabwe
3) **GCCT Insight and Analysis –** an overview of insight and analysis produced by members of the GCCT on a variety of conflict and conflict transformation related topics.
4) **GCCT Activities, Research and Requests –** members to share information about their activities and research, plus calls for partnership and support, thereby strengthening exchanges between GCCT members.
5) **GCCT Advocacy –** Protecting schools from attack in Nigeria and beyond – how to support community-based Responses
6) **Follow the GCCT and TransConflict**

To contribute to the next edition of the GCCT newsletter – which will be published in mid-September – please contact TransConflict at - gcct@transconflict.com.

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

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. **Horiyat Group for Development and Human Rights** - **Libya** (**Northern Africa**) - engages in peacebuilding projects in post-war areas which have been exposed to the adverse effects of conflict. Horiyat provides training programs on dialogue and mediation and conflict transformation, supporting the transformation by working with the respective conflicting parties. Horiyat trains these conflicting parties about the culture of dialogue, acceptance of others and building a common ground. Horiyat's main aims and objectives are to promote peace issues; define the importance of co-existence; achieve respect for different cultural components; promote dialogue and acceptance of others; and build a culture of respect for rights and freedoms.

2. **Smile Again Africa Development Organization** - **South Sudan** (**Northern Africa**) - focuses on conflict transformation in order to achieve its main goal of promoting a culture of peace, enhancing democratic values and acting as a catalyst for non-violent communication between all levels of South Sudanese society. Through the scope of its work, SAADO applies and upholds the principles of conflict transformation by enhancing the capacity of members of the South Sudan society, especially women and youth in conflict resolution and civic, political, social, economic, and environmental rights and responsibilities; contributing to strengthening civic peace, national unity, national identity, citizenship, peaceful dialogue and tolerance among the different political and social segments of the South Sudan society; and, promoting concepts of good governance, rule of law and transparency in public and private decision-making processes among South Sudanese.

The Global Coalition for
Conflict Transformation

Please click here for further information on how to join the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

2) GCCT Members in Focus – the Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) from Zimbabwe

With Robert Mugabe having ruled Zimbabwe since independence, the country remains beset by grave violations of human rights, deeply-rooted corruption and widening social and economic divisions.

The **Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT)** was established back in 2002 as the Coalition on Conflict Management Trust, before changing its name in 2003. CCMT's mission is to enhance communities' capacity do deal with conflicts by raising awareness and creating synergies among decision makers and local stakeholders in conflict processes, thus building sustainable and constructive impacts towards transforming conflict and enabling a stable and durable peace.

The CCMT works to transform the ways in which societies deal with conflict, "away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative problem solving. Using a multi-faceted approach…to find culturally appropriate means to strengthen societies' capacity to deal with conflicts constructively."

CCMT focuses on:
- Conflict issues that affect large parts of the community and cause polarization of community groups;
- Conflict issues that have been or have the potential to be destructive or violent.

In pursuit of its goals, CCMT:
- Provides relevant and quality training services to various organisations and groups in society;
- Established a resource centre through which interested members of the public can access information on conflict transformation;
- Provide conflict intervention services to individuals, groups, private sector companies and organisations;

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

- Conduct research and document traditional and non-traditional conflict transformation approaches relevant to social conflicts in Zimbabwe.

CCMT's unique approach

CCMT's work is guided by a unique approach, grounded in the following principles.

1. **Non-prescriptive method -** CCMT only carries out interventions "through responding to requests from the communities that approach CCMT themselves for the provision of conflict intervention services."
2. **Sensitization visits prior to an intervention –** this ensures that communities are aware of CCMT's services.
3. **Development of conflict interventions for a specific community issue –** CCMT works with the communities, upon submission of a request.
4. **Assisting communities to recognise the value of working constructively with the conflicts they are experiencing –** CCMT emphasises that working to transform conflicts will make communities function more effectively. CCMT explains that, "by working with communities on real conflict issues that they are grappling with and transforming these, they begin to appreciate the value of their conflicts as opportunities for positive change."
5. **Developing conflict transformation skills to ensure the sustainability of CCMT's intervention.**

Direct and indirect interventions

CCMT conducts both direct and indirect interventions. The former - which are carried out "upon request by the parties themselves or observers who recognise the need for outside assistance" – have mostly occurred in community conflicts. In such instances, CCMT employs a holistic approach that includes mediation, negotiation and dialogue. Examples of such interventions including in the Buhera District of Manicaland Province; Chirumanzu, Tongogara and Vungu Districts of Midlands Province, plus the Zaka district of Masvingo Province.

Indirect interventions, on the other hand, are co-facilitated with other respective organisations and communities, who take ownership of the process under CCMT's guidance; guidance that includes conflict analysis and the provision of relevant conflict transformation skills.

Driving a community-driven reconciliation process in Zimbabwe

Research conducted by CCMT in 2004 concluded that, "the national level conflicts that had affected communities across Zimbabwe since colonial times, had in many cases, been given their colour and texture by the discordant relationships that were already existing in the various communities they were being played out in." This prompted CCMT to develop trainings to equip ordinary people with the necessary skills to reduce the intensity of conflicts at the community-level.

CCMT supported the establishment of Community Associations – establishing 10 associations in the provinces of Harare, Masvingo and Midlands by 2007 – to offer quality and sustainable trainings to local communities. Further Associations were eventually born in Chitungwiza and Epworth, with Associations specifically for women being established in Kuwadzana, Mabvuku/Tafara and Highfeil. Further expansion lead to four Associations being established in Gweru and Masvingo, two in Mkoba North and Mkoba South, and two in Rujeko and Mucheke.

The Associations – whose skills were continuously enhanced in areas such as conflict transformation, mediation and dialogue – worked to convene dialogues on issues of concern to local communities, such as water, electricity and service delivery. CCMT itself ultimately benefited firsthand from the experiences of the Associations – which became officially independent in 2011 - and these dialogues. For CCMT, the Associations' "beacon of hope is bright enough for them to light the way for their communities to deal with conflicts constructively."

Testimonies of success

The following testimonies demonstrate the effectiveness of CCMT's approach:

> *"I learnt that seating arrangement is crucial in dialogue. The set-up has been replicated at home with my family"* - Community member, Chirumanzu district

> *"I learnt that when you're a moderator you're not supposed to take sides. People in conflict situations must resolve their differences themselves"* - Social Services employee, Gweru

> *"My job is to handle conflict from different angles. Applying the dialogue tools has helped me in my role as a chief"* - Village Headman, Gweru

Through these carefully conceived and constructed processes, CCMT is making a vital contribution to achieving its vision for Zimbabwe of a society "where people actively participate in creating social and economic justice by managing and transforming all forms of conflict constructively."

Please click here to learn more about the Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) from Zimbabwe!

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

3) GCCT Insight and Analysis

This section provides an overview of the insight and analysis produced and published 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. **Never again – a reality or dream for Rwanda?** - *by Ingvild Gundersen* - The Rwandan youth – who represent the majority of the population – are actively involved in preserving peace and prosperity in their nation. Through participating in Never Again Rwanda's commemoration activities where their voice is heard, appreciated and taken into account, NAR fights to always make never again a reality.

2. **Marc Ndarigendane – a Burundian peace maker** - *by Karoline Caesar* - Burundi has been hit by several cycles of violence since its independence in 1962, with 1965, 1972, 1988 and 1993 associated with massacres and a civil war between Hutus and Tutsis. Last month the Burundian parliament adopted a law on a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which could be the beginning of a long due official process of uncovering the truth about the crimes of the past. The perspective of a Burundian brick layer and peace maker, Marc Ndarigendane, provides a personal record of Burundian history.

3. **Winners and losers in the Balkans wars – lessons for Ukraine and the Levant** - *by Matthew Parish* - Absent genuine geopolitical interest in another country's conflicts, the West should stay out of others' civil wars lest it risks exacerbating them and contributing to chaos through elicitation of false hopes.

4. **The Ukrainian lesson – challenges for a new European peace movement** - *by Gert Röhrborn* - To use this chance means to define the tasks of a renewed, truly Pan-European peace movement; an integral movement reviving the best ideas of former Central European dissidents for healing human interaction on the political, personal and eschatological level and applying them to the Common European Home in its entirety, in both Eastern and Western Europe.

5. **Kosovo and Crimea – what's the difference?** - *by Matthew Parish* - The only discussion of principle emerging from the debates over Kosovar and Crimean independence is that initiated by Woodrow Wilson towards the end of World War One, about whether national minorities have the right to self-determination. Can a smaller group be compelled to be part of a larger state, or should they be permitted to secede? To what extent do minority rights amount to a freedom to determine one's own sovereignty?

6. **Russia – 'keep silent or confess that you are a foreign agent'** - *by Edgar Khachatryan* - By presenting the activities of human rights defenders as a betrayal of the nation and its values, the Russian authorities are trying to silence those who think differently, whilst proposing to export such practices to partner countries such as Armenia.

7. **Natural catastrophe as possible inflection point** - *by David B. Kanin* - Signs that local authorities, patronage figures, and citizens are cooperating to pressure central and entity governments to reconstruct mutually beneficial infrastructure could indicate—finally—a determination to build the local markets essential to eventual economic growth.

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

To contribute analysis and insight to TransConflict.com, please contact us by clicking here.

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

4) GCCT Activities, Research and Requests

Collaborative Conflict Transformation – Uganda

TransConflict is pleased to present the first contributions from our recently-established Collaborative Conflict Transformation initiative, providing a thorough overview of all aspects of conflict in Uganda.

Members of the **Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation from Uganda** - ably facilitated by TransConflict's Conflict Collaborative Conflict Transformation Co-ordinator for Uganda, Ms. Mary Murungi – have collaborated to provide a thorough overview of the background to conflict in Uganda, its present drivers and ideas for future conflict transformation efforts.

In order to promote and facilitate further collaboration between peacebuilding academics, practitioners and enthusiasts alike, anybody is able to edit the respective documents in order to contribute their perspective on conflict in Uganda. It is hoped that this living document will help guide and co-ordinate the work of governments, donor agencies, international organizations, academics, peacebuilders and other interested parties.

Collaborative Conflict Transformation - Uganda

1. **Conflict Background**
2. **Conflict Analysis**
3. **Conflict Transformation**

About Collaborative Conflict Transformation

Using innovative collaborative technologies, TransConflict aims to provide the means through which peacebuilding practitioners, academics and enthusiasts alike can share their respective insights on:

- **Conflict Background** - the key issues, events and stakeholders that contextualise the conflict in question;
- **Conflict Analysis** - identify the proximate, intermediate and root drivers of conflict, whilst also employing Johan Galtung's conflict triangle, in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current situation;
- **Conflict Transformation** - concerned with five specific types of transformation, focusing upon the structural, behavioural and attitudinal aspects of conflict – namely, Actors, Contexts, Issues, Rules and Structures.

To participate in other CCT initiatives, please visit the following links:

1. **Bosnia and Herzegovina Collaboration**
2. **Kosovo Collaboration**
3. **Northern Ireland Collaboration**

TransConflict greatly values your feedback regarding this initiative, particularly in terms of relevance and ease of use, and welcomes your ideas for how to further improve Collaborative Conflict Transformation, with a view to focusing on a wider number of countries.

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

5) GCCT Advocacy

Protecting schools from attack in Nigeria and beyond – how to support community-based Responses

The abduction of close to 300 girls by Boko Haram from a school in Borno state, Nigeria in April, and the closure of schools due to insecurity in the region, highlight the urgent need to find practical solutions to prevent and respond to attacks on education.

Local knowledge and skills are crucial in the fight to protect students, educators, and schools from attack, said the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) in a **newly-released study**. The abduction of close to 300 girls by Boko Haram from a school in Borno state, Nigeria in April, and the **closure of schools** due to insecurity in the region, highlight the urgent need to find practical solutions to prevent and respond to attacks on education.

> *"As the world focuses on bringing the Nigerian girls home, it is important to recognize the role that communities themselves can play in safeguarding schools and to provide them with the support they need to maximize their resources and strengths," said Diya Nijhowne, director of GCPEA.*

GCPEA's study, ***The Role of Communities in Protecting Education from Attack: Lessons Learned***, examines how organizations supporting education programs have engaged communities to protect schools, students, and teachers in countries experiencing attacks on education. GCPEA has **documented a pattern of attacks** in 30 countries in the last five years.

The report is intended as a guide for people working in the field. In it, GCPEA urges international and local organizations to seek guidance and input from affected communities when working to prevent and respond to violent attacks on education.

> *"Humanitarians must be accountable to those whom we seek to assist. In most emergency settings we see parents, teachers, and communities self-organize to respond to education needs. This research provides us with a blueprint on how to better build upon the strengths that community approaches represent, while emphasizing the importance of establishing trust," said Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, a member of GCPEA.*

Drawing from reports by international agencies, interviews with practitioners, and field research in Côte d'Ivoire, the study synthesizes lessons learned in community-based efforts to protect education in 21 countries. It presents 12 steps that organizations can take to collaborate with communities in designing protection programs. These include: coordinating with local education actors; mapping community resources; assessing risks; developing a jointly agreed plan that reflects community concerns; and working with community members, including children, in monitoring and evaluating programs.

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

"Local community members are the ones who experience the physical and psychological impacts of attacks on education firsthand," said Nijhowne. *"And they have some of the most relevant knowledge and innovative ideas about how to prevent, mitigate, and respond to these attacks."*

Engaging communities in keeping schools safe may be beneficial for several reasons: community members can fill a service gap where governments lack the capacity to protect education fully, and community ownership over education can distance schools from the political fray and emphasize their neutrality.

In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, students and parents in urban areas used text messaging via mobile phones to check on the safety of family and friends and send advance warning of attacks. Ivorian communities also provided volunteer teachers, donated materials and labor to rehabilitate school buildings, and mobilized themselves to establish informal learning spaces that may have been less of a target because they were not associated with the government.

Community members can also be well placed to negotiate with belligerent groups to keep schools off limits, although such negotiation is not without risk. They understand the local context and conflict dynamics, and some may have personal knowledge of the individuals involved. In Nepal, for example, community members negotiated codes of conduct with insurgents in secret, "back door" discussions, minimizing the exposure of individual negotiators.

"Almost two months have passed since the mass kidnapping in Chibok, Nigeria, and the girls are still missing. As the government, with support from the international community, develops plans for making education safe from future attacks, community-based interventions must be part of the solution," said Nijhowne.
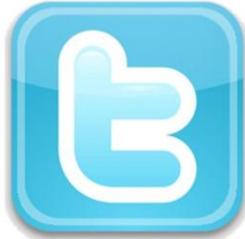
*The **Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA)** is a unique coalition of international organizations including CARA (Council for Assisting Refugee Academics), Human Rights Watch, the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, Save the Children International, the Scholars at Risk Network, UNHCR, and UNICEF.*

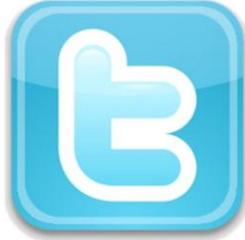*TransConflict is an affiliated organization of the **Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack**.*

Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT)

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!**](#)

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