



The Global Coalition for
Conflict Transformation

Bi-monthly GCCT Newsletter - September 2014

Introduction

TransConflict (www.transconflict.com) is pleased to present the ninth 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-November – 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. [Mobaderoon Network – Syria \(Middle East\)](#) – aims to promote peaceful coexistence through dialogue and understanding at global, regional and local levels. Mobaderoon is a pool of more than 5,000 social activists in eight governorates and a network for 52 local organizations, launched in Syria from 2010. These members were engaged and empowered to develop their own initiatives (local projects funded by the network) with focused capacity building programs, such as Peace Ambassadors, Social Leadership, and Active Citizens.
2. [Go Group Media – Georgia](#) – sees its mission as contributing to transformation of the conflicts in Georgia and broader South Caucasus by enhancing the quality of media and citizen journalism throughout the region. GGM's strong belief is that no formal political agreements can ever bring a lasting peace here unless these dangerous perceptions at the grassroots level change.
3. [Journeying Through Conflict](#) – UK – makes accessible to anyone with a smart device anywhere in the world the experience of others who have lived through violent conflict or are working with its legacy and seeking creatively to transform that violence or its legacy. The insights they have learned through their experience may be of help to others who are confronted by violent conflict and its legacy.
4. [Institute for Social and Political Research – Bosnia and Herzegovina \(The Balkans\)](#) – is a politically independent centre for advancing and developing expertise in the field of state organisation and governance. IDPI aims to contribute to the development of a democratic, multicultural and prosperous society in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its immediate neighbourhood, based on the rule of law, individual and collective freedoms, an efficient economy, and also based on European values of compromise, co-existence, peace and democracy.
5. [Peace Point Action – Nigeria \(Western Africa\)](#) - non-governmental, service-oriented organization founded in 2005 to address the needs of vulnerable communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria targeting the children, youth and women on issues of environmental justice, good governance, HIV and AIDS prevention, health and gender.

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

2) GCCT Members in Focus – Inside Out from Northern Ireland

Inside Out's mission is "to create, facilitate and promote opportunities for young people to work in partnership with adults to advance and realise the aspirations of young people living in rural areas." Inside Out does this by ensuring that "young People living in the broader Claudy area are connected, visible and have the means to make a positive and lasting contribution to their local communities in order to influence and shape provision available to them." One of the main projects through which this vision is achieved is entitled 'Leadership through Intercultural Dialogue'

Leadership through Intercultural Dialogue

The Leadership through Intercultural Dialogue (LID) Programme is an initiative co-ordinated by The Inside Out Programme in the village of Claudy, just outside Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, to provide international learning opportunities for young people, young leaders, youth workers and other practitioners (with a remit for young people).

The purpose of LID is to develop participants skills base, increase their knowledge and affect attitudinal change, which in turn enhances their capacity – and that of their organisation and ultimately the communities they work in – to contribute to the continued development of a shared society in Northern Ireland.

The rationale comes from the belief that 'the international' provides a much stronger context to explore and learn from with regard to building relationships between diverse communities in Northern Ireland.



A vandalised roadsign in Derry/Londonderry

LID has provided a wide range of programmes including Feasibility Meetings, Training Programmes, Job Shadows, Partnership Building Activities, Seminars, Large Scale Projects, Youth Exchanges, Youth Initiatives and Youth Democracy Projects.

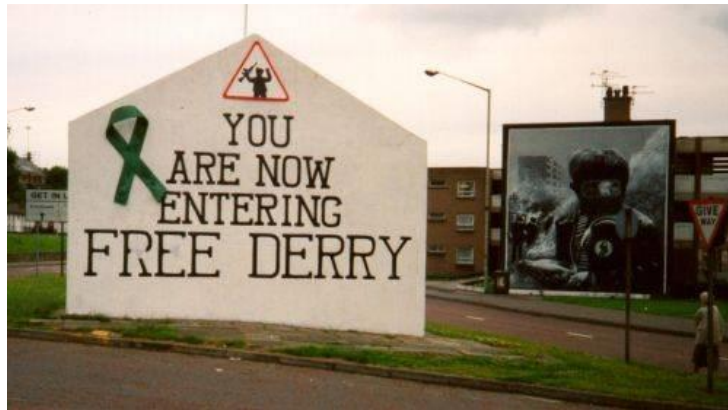
Themes have focused on culture, conflict and outdoor education, participation, self-organisation, citizenship, environment, photography, networking, EVS (European Voluntary Service), creativity, the arts, democracy and stress management.

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Inside Out teams up with partners from overseas to deliver activities funded previously by the EU's Youth in Action which has recently been replaced by Erasmus+.

Between April 2008 and July 2014 it achieved the following:

- 70 different international programmes (24 hosted by The Inside Out Programme)
- 287 applications to attend 61 of the 70 programmes offered
- 152 different participants (42 young people, 47 youth workers and 23 young leaders and 40 other practitioners)
- Travel to 23 countries with over 40 participating nations (western, central, eastern and euro-med regions including North Africa)
- 55 organisations from across the UK (primarily NI) represented
- Participants drawn from 36 locations across the UK including 28 from around Northern Ireland
- 212 programme attendances, with 32 participants using LID on more than one occasion
- 84 Female and 68 Male applicants
- 15 different nationalities represented
- Religious make-up of 60% perceived Catholic and 40% non-Catholic



Graffiti in Derry/Londonderry

A recent evaluation of the programme concluded LID as making a significant contribution to enhanced cultural diversity, Interculturalism and good relations and is a good model for improving 'good relations' within local communities.

Some of the findings included:

- 100% of participants felt they had enhanced confidence and knowledge to assist in bringing about positive change at local level;
- 93% of participants felt more able to challenge stereotypes of their own and others' communities;
- The most common key learning related to Diversity, at 41% of all key learning identified;
- 38+ soft and hard skills were acquired or developed;
- The two foremost strengths of the programme identified were 'Enhanced Interculturalism' (29% of all responses) and 'Bringing People Together' (26%);

The LID programme has been successful because it:

- utilises the opportunities afforded under the EU's Youth in Action/Erasmus+ Programme in order to make a sustained contribution to local good relations in Northern Ireland

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- uses Youth in Action funding to support individual participation in LID activities negating the need to source funding from scarce local resources
- engages with a wide range of well-established international partners proficient in Youth in Action delivery to provide a wide range of opportunities on an annual basis
- focuses on and promotes positive approach to inter-culturalism and diversity which are viewed as essential to peace-building in Northern Ireland
- provides a diverse range of theme-based programmes ensuring opportunities are accessible to as wide an audience as possible
- creates networks that support practice and leads to the development of post-LID activities ensuring further investment in youth work provision in Northern Ireland
- motivates participants ensuring greater productivity in and commitment to service delivery

One Senior Youth Worker described LID as providing:

“...an essential platform that supports the sharing of ideas and information on youth work practice across Europe and a platform for developing longer term strategic and practical links. Many of our more radical developments in practice models have come from an idea or practice encountered through the LID programmes that provided the essential stimulus in practice development. For us in Ireland, the professional link to practice development seminars has a great impact in overcoming our physical isolation from other European countries. Money well spent!”

Paul Bradley, Senior Youth Worker, SEELB

Another participant said:

“I would argue that the impact of the first international training course can be immense in terms of overcoming barriers, opening hearts and minds and helping people to see the connections with other countries, This kind of experience makes the world seem smaller and more connected and improves confidence of participants so they feel much more ready to run projects of their own where before they just saw barriers and problems. People return from projects really believing that, if they can communicate with people from a different country and in a different language, then problems at home are nowhere near as big as they first.”

Inside Out continues to work to build consensus among young people regarding key issues for development, whilst facilitating and promoting interaction between young people from different backgrounds. Inside Out also works to identify learning opportunities for young people, whilst raising the profile of young people in the public sphere so as to improve their image and perception among the adult population.

[Please click here to learn more about Inside Out from Northern Ireland!](#)

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. [From Nigeria to Iraq – the on-going failure to protect women and girls in armed conflict](#) – *Karol Alejandra Arámbula Carrillo* – Armed conflicts like the one currently consuming Iraq, plus the actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria, continue to show that women and girls are among the most vulnerable actors, regularly subject to indiscriminate exploitation, discrimination and violence.
2. [Why youth policy is a key factor in preventing conflict](#) – *Heidi Green* – On International Youth Day, it is vital to acknowledge and understand the role of youth policies and the positive effect their implementation has on communities and countries, especially for the reduction and prevention of conflict.
3. [Bosnia and Iraq – cycles of calamity](#) – *Matthew Parish* – Whatever government structure is finally developed for an ethnically segregated Iraq it should not be as dysfunctional as the Dayton constitution proved to be for Bosnia. Avoidance of an equivalent post-conflict catastrophe must be the predominant goal of the international policymaker.
4. [Kosovo, Ukraine, Syria and Iraq](#) – *Gerard M. Gallucci* – The struggles by ethnic and religious groups left behind by empire cannot be resolved by outsiders. These competing groups need to find their own way – even fight their own way – to arrive at boundaries and arrangements they can live with. Any foreign intervention risks alienating one side or the other.
5. [Russia/China – containment?](#) – *Gerard M. Gallucci* – Any effort to contain Russian and China should accept that they will insist on their own regional interests and that none of us has anything to gain by recreating the Cold War.
6. [Michael Brown and social fission](#) – *David B. Kanin* – The bottom line is not that democracy is dead or activism is pointless, but that the accelerating decline of Western power creates unlimited possibilities for different forms of politics and the organization of power—to include forms that will look more like traditional structures than the fantasies of liberal, secular, or anti-Capitalist thinkers.
7. [Time to do a deal with Assad?](#) – *Gerard M. Gallucci* – The military options for the West vis-a-vis Iraq and the IS are limited without some ability to operate permissively in Syria. This would require movement toward a political settlement to the Syrian civil war and an arrangement with Assad. We would need to work with those we find in power rather than those we would wish to find there.
8. [Nigeria, Boko Haram and the ‘Sri Lankan Model’ of counter-insurgency](#) – *Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice* - As awful and as crude as it may appear, the ‘Sri Lankan model’ of counter-insurgency continues to be showcased around the world in seminars and presentations organized by the Sri Lankan military (for instance, in Burma, Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines).
9. [When fighting terror produces ever more radicals and sectarianism](#) – *Inga Schei and Lokman Slim* – At a time when Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria is on the cusp of being accepted as just another effort in the general “war on terror,” it is advisable to question the likelihood that a (Shia) “partisan” war on (Sunni) terror could well become a breeding ground for more “radicals” on both sides of the confrontation.

10. [A tale of two genocides](#) – *Chris Davey* – While approaches to “genocide” differ and the claimants voices are many, the historic legacy of genocide must be a starting point. One could conclude that both Palestinians and Yazidis are experiencing such a destructive process, albeit over different time scales and receiving opposing ideas of “support” and condemnation from Western powers. It must be clear, however, that any condemnation of genocide against one party must acknowledge the destruction of the other (in these cases).
11. [Understanding mass violence is the first step to reconciliation in the Central African Republic](#) – *Chris Davey* – Genocidal violence is by and large political; when these politics are understood, non-violent platforms can then be constructed that provide a route to reconciliation and, in the case of the Central African Republic (CAR), rebuilding important institutions and systems for human security.
12. [Turkey’s Kurdish peace process: dead end – part 1](#) – *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* – Turkey is gearing up for Presidential elections in August, and the Kurdish vote might determine the next president of Turkey.
13. [Turkey’s Kurdish peace process – framework law – part 2](#) – *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* – The framework law officially bestows the Turkish government with the responsibility of introducing necessary reforms that address challenges in the social, political, psychological and educational sectors. Whilst there is no clear description of how those reforms will look like, the draft law also does not mention the word “Kurdish” even once.
14. [Turkey’s Kurdish peace process – part 3](#) – *Dr. Ulas Doga Eralp* – The DDR roadmap that is expected to take shape by October will be the result of a tough negotiation process that will need to address the thorny issues of democratic autonomy, general amnesty and education in mother tongue. Yet one wonders how long the peace process will sustain its momentum if the parties continue to delay taking the necessary steps.
15. [Democracy, democratic representation and constitutional logic of ethnic electoral units in Bosnia-Herzegovina](#) – *Dražen Pehar* – TransConflict is pleased to present the first part of a three part paper analysing the ethnic electoral units in Bosnia and Herzegovina, produced by the Institute for Social and Political Research (IDPI), a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation.
16. [The elephant in the room – Bosnia and Herzegovina’s unmentionable Constitutional disability](#) – *Dr. Valery Perry* – Considering the experience of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina over 18 years, it is time to seriously question whether it will ever be possible for the best executed, most well-intended socio-economic projects, donations, investments and interventions to take lasting and sustainable root in the current constitutional and political structure.

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

4) GCCT Activities, Research and Requests

The Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation – An Update

Since its establishment, the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation has progressed on a number of fronts:

1. The GCCT now has over [120 member organizations](#) from a host of places, including [Iraq](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [South Sudan](#), [Palestine](#) and [Sri Lanka](#), with new applications for membership being received on an almost weekly-basis. The Coalition has recently been delighted to welcome members from [Syria](#) and [Libya](#), respectively.
2. TransConflict has, to date, published [eight editions of the GCCT newsletter](#), which is designed 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.
3. Earlier this year, TransConflict launched a new initiative, entitled '[Collaborative Conflict Transformation](#)', which lays the foundations for collaborative conflict transformation by facilitating the sharing of perspectives on specific conflicts. TransConflict recently presented the first contributions from the CCT initiative, providing a thorough overview of [all aspects of conflict in Uganda](#).
4. Over 1,000 people have signed the [Principles of Conflict Transformation Declaration](#), contributing to awareness raising about conflict transformation amongst peacebuilding practitioners, academics, students and enthusiasts alike.

Next steps?

In light of this progress to date, TransConflict welcomes your suggestions for how we can continue to strengthen the work and relevance of the GCCT. In this regard, we are particularly keen:

1. To strengthen the 'Collaborative Conflict Transformation' initiative, both by attracting additional contributors to on-going collaborations in [Kosovo](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Uganda](#), whilst establishing new collaborations in suitable contexts.
2. To continue to grow the GCCT through new members, with a target of securing eight organizations in each territory, whilst branching-out into new contexts such as the Central African Republic.
3. To secure more analysis and insight from members of the GCCT, particularly on the specific areas and approaches of their work, in order to further enhance exchanges of information, knowledge and ideas.

To share your ideas and suggestions for how the [Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation](#) can be further expanded and strengthened, please do not hesitate to leave a comment below or contact us by using the on-line contact form, available by [clicking here](#).

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 \(PATRIR\)](#), a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation (GCCT).

1) Designing Peacebuilding Programmes: Improving Sustainability, Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding & Peace Support Operations (DPP), 27-31 October

Designing Peacebuilding Programmes is an in-depth operational training in program development, design, planning and implementation, drawing comprehensively on best-practice approaches from peacebuilding, development and humanitarian aid, and recovery, as well as methods and approaches for strategic planning and program and organizational development. Incorporating the work of the OECD-DAC and lessons learned and approaches from national and international agencies, the DPP provides organizations and participants with methods to significantly improve the quality, relevance, and impact of their programs. Most importantly: participants engage with their actual programs and operations and use the framework of Designing Peacebuilding Programmes to learn leading methodologies while improving actual work in practice.

2) Developing and Applying Early Warning and Early Response Systems: Challenges and Responses, 24-28 November

This five-day course, “Developing and Applying Early Warning and Early Response Systems: Challenges and Response” is designed to introduce the world of EW/ER in complex integrated emergency situations. The course will introduce participants to the different aspects and indicators of early warning and early response, the discussions surrounding early response, and the selection, evaluation and validation of a number of EW/ER tools.

Participants will learn to become comfortable in selecting and using appropriate analytical tools, using them correctly and accurately assessing their strengths and weaknesses in light of their individual goals. An important outcome is to focus on how early warning will work in practice.

The course is suitable for civilian, police and military United Nations and EU staff dealing with response mechanisms in times of crisis; international NGO staff; those wishing to enter a career in international development and post-conflict reconstruction; and others who have an academic or personal interest in the subject.

3) Making Prevention Work: Improving Operational and Strategic Effectiveness in the Prevention of State Collapse, 1-3 December 2014

Making Prevention Work is a three-day intensive program designed for policy makers, diplomats, IGO, INGO and NGO staff and leading experts and practitioners to provide an operational and global overview of key lessons learned / identified for effective prevention.

The program will look at operational, structural and systemic approaches to prevention drawing from real situations and helping to identify practical methodologies and approaches which can be of value to those working to prevent deadly conflicts and outbreaks and strengthen capacities to transform conflicts constructively. Attention will be given to developing and strengthening local, national, regional and international Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) and the necessary capabilities to make prevention work in practice.

Additional information

The programmes will be held at the Global Academy of IPDTC and are intended for senior to executive level experts and practitioners working in peacebuilding, crisis prevention and management and recovery and stabilization operations from governments, UN agencies and inter-governmental organisations (EU, OAS, AU, ASEAN, Commonwealth, OSCE) and national and international organisations.

IPDTC has an international pool of leading experts and practitioners covering a wide range of issues in peacebuilding, prevention, recovery and related issues. We work with requesting organizations, agencies, missions and ministries to customize programmes for your exact needs, context and conditions. For references on our training programmes, please see the Review and Feedback section of our site.

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



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**[Please click here to learn more about the
Peace Action Training and Research Institute
of Romania \(PATRIR\)](#)**

5) GCCT Advocacy - Safe Soldiers for a Safe Armenia

Peace Dialogue, a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation, is implementing a two-year project, 'Safe Soldiers for a Safe Armenia', which aims to prevent human rights violations in the armed forces and to increase not only the security of Armenia but the security of the soldiers protecting it.

By Edgar Khachatryan

For many years, the issue of human rights in armed forces remains one of the most urgent priorities for human rights groups. Today the situation in the relatively young Armenian army concerns civil society representatives and some international organizations. In their reports, various independent public organizations indicate a high degree of mortality among soldiers, expressing their concern about regular violations and inaction by military investigative bodies and a number of responsible military structures.

Armenia's human rights activists estimate that since the cessation of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1994, as many as 1,500 young men have died while serving in Armenian armed forces. The Armenian Army was established in the early nineties as a result of the war with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. The war is not technically finished, despite the ceasefire. Regular ceasefire violations and constant information warfare indicate that the previously open war has become a hidden war. In 2013, approximately 30 to 31 people died during so-called non-combat situations, but only five of these were the result of ceasefire violations. The rest of the fatalities were the result of murder, a lack of access to medical service for soldiers with health issues, accidents and suicides. The fatalities continue to happen until now and other negative occurrences are increasing in frequency too.

In response to inquiries from watchdog groups in the country, the Armenian Ministry of Defence states that these fatalities are just solitary instances. A major part of society remains loyal to the Armenian military, as the Army remains the main guarantor of security for the conflict-affected country.

At the beginning of 2013, Peace Dialogue NGO has launched a new website entitled 'Safe Soldiers for a Safe Armenia'. It contains a database on non-combat fatalities, deceased soldiers and human rights violations recorded in the Armenian Armed Forces since the signing of the cease-fire after the Nagorno-Karabakh war. As of today, the on-line database includes more than 550 fatal cases.

The compilation of the database became possible due to information received from media and watchdog groups working on human rights protection in the armed forces, from victims' relatives and successors, as well as from information received from state bodies (the Ministry of Defence, military investigative service, etc) in response to numerous inquiries.

The aim of the database is to collect and spread information about each fatal case and human rights violation in the Armenian Armed Forces. In other words, according to the implementing staff, after a while the website will become a full database that will help to:

- Increase the sensitivity of the government towards the issue;
- Breakdown public indifference towards human rights violations and abuses in the Army amongst local and international society;
- Involve international experts, local civil society representatives, and independent researchers in studying the issue from different perspectives and in designing alternative models that will best fit the Armenian context.

Visitors can also make their contribution to the completion of the database by posting information or uploading photos or media materials about fatalities or human rights violations in the army that have not been recorded yet in the website or elsewhere. The staff working on the website tried to list descriptions of the cases (places, dates and causes etc.), the investigative processes initiated in regards to those cases, as well as the following investigative and trial processes and the violations revealed during those processes.

According to the implementing team, the ultimate effect of the website will, for example, be the fact that quick updates about illegalities and human rights violations recorded in any of the units and posted by the witnesses can serve as an alarm for the authorities to take necessary actions after they are clarified and approved.

In addition, the staff will continue to update various human rights-related announcements and news releases. Certain sections of the website include Armenian legislation regulating the relationship between the armed forces and citizens; international agreements, local regulations, documents, reports and publications, as well as various research and expert opinions related to the topic.

As a result of this project, Peace Dialogue aims to raise awareness in Armenian society about the troubling human rights situation in the armed forces in order to create public demand for the solutions of the problems and to mobilize and include local, national and international actors who can have positive influence on current situation.

Edgar Khachatryan is the director of Peace Dialogue, a member of the Global Coalition for Conflict Transformation. He specializes in international peacebuilding trainings, consultancy and expertise in gender and peace processes, violence prevention, and post-war stabilization and recovery.

The website is prepared within the project Safe Soldiers for a Safe Armenia of Peace Dialogue NGO, supported by Dutch organization Pax.

[Please click here to learn more about Peace Dialogue from Armenia!](#)

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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!](#)

