

PEACE CAN

But how can peace be achieved?

 **20**
YEARS

zfd

Ziviler Friedensdienst
Civil Peace Service

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) is a programme aimed at preventing violence and promoting peace in crisis zones and conflict regions. It aims to build a world in which conflicts are resolved without resorting to violence. Nine German peace and development organizations run the CPS together with local partners. CPS is funded by the German Government. CPS experts support people on the ground in their commitment for dialogue, human rights and peace on a long-term basis. Currently, 330 international CPS experts are active in 45 countries.

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But how can peace be achieved?



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Foreword

The number of violent conflicts tripled between 2010 and 2016. Every fifth child worldwide lives in a war zone. In Syria, the civil war is in its ninth year. More than five million children have been internally displaced or have fled to neighbouring countries. Nine-year-olds know nothing but war!

Children in Yemen, Iraq or eastern Ukraine are also affected by fighting – they depend on our support, their schools are destroyed, their families have lost their economic existence. War destroys the future!

Peace is the prerequisite for sustainable development. This is also reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – our World Future Treaty, which was adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2015. It is the great commitment of our generation to our children and grandchildren: to make a life of dignity possible for all, without destroying the planet.

With our development policy we support the partner countries in creating the conditions for this: through crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peace promotion. In doing so, we rely heavily on the Civil Peace Service (CPS).

The first CPS experts left for the former Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Romania, Zimbabwe and the Palestinian Territories in November 1999. The aim was to support local organisations in their peace work. Since then, around 1,400 CPS experts have been committed in almost 60 countries.

The Civil Peace Service proves again and again to be a model of success for peace and conflict work. It is a unique programme in which state, church and civil society actors in development and peace work collaborate and work tirelessly for peaceful ways out of conflicts.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the CPS, this brochure shows what PEACE CAN. Examples from 20 countries illustrate that investment in peace and justice pays off, because it builds the future, gives hope and a perspective.

I thank all former and active CPS experts for their impressive commitment. My thanks also go to the CPS organisations: you make these missions possible in the first place.

We will continue to promote this important work along with you in the future as well.



Dr Gerd Müller
Federal Minister for Economic
Cooperation and Development

Peace can

Much can be done if there is an openness to dialogue and rapprochement. But in these times it often seems to be sorely lacking. Instead of overcoming old animosities, new ones are built up. In many places, populist voices aggravate tensions within and between societies. More than ever a counterweight is needed that unites instead of dividing. The Civil Peace Service can achieve that.

Through its preventive work, it supports its local partner organisations in bridging divides, preventing violence and initiating dialogue. In the 20 years of its existence, around 1,400 CPS experts have left Germany to promote peace and prevent violence in crisis and conflict regions. In almost 60 countries, they have contributed to civilian conflict resolution – with commitment, expertise and success.

20 Years of the Civil Peace Service clearly reveal that the impact of local peace work is not local, but that it promotes peace throughout society.

This is shown by practical examples: In the former Yugoslavia, reconciliation initiatives emerged from trauma work with war veterans.

Supported by the CPS, former soldiers work with young people there as witnesses of the time period, so that the cruel past does not return. In Colombia, CPS experts are working together with local journalists to promote conflict-sensitive media coverage that de-escalates rather than exacerbates conflicts.

20 selected projects in this publication show what peace work does and how powerful peace is. This makes it clear why it has been worth debating constructively for 20 years.

The projects have an impact and encourage us. When loud demands are made that Germany should do more for peace and security in the world, we can respond with deep conviction:

Germany has more to offer than military intervention. The CPS provides a programme for civil conflict transformation and crisis prevention that has proven itself in more than 600 projects worldwide in its 20 years of existence.

We wish you an inspiring reading.



Alexander Mauz



Jürgen Deile



Spokespersons of the Civil Peace Service Consortium

SAY YES TO JUSTICE
& PEACE



20 Years Examples





LOS HERMANOS LIDERES
CATEQUISTAS
ARNOLDO CHEN POOY Y
ALFONSO CHEN POOY FUERON
SECUESTRADOS EL DIA 13 DE
ENERO 1982 EN COBAN
SE TIENE LA ESPERANZA
DE PODER SER LOCALIZA-
DOS SUS RESTOS.



What can turn enemies into allies?

In the Combatants for Peace, former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian resistance fighters lay down their arms and work together for peace.

Hardened positions. Religiously and emotionally charged, militarised, complex, deadlocked – these are the characteristics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its violent history has stretched over seven decades. The occupation of the Palestinian territories, Israeli settlement activities, the closure of the Gaza Strip and the lack of implementation of international law are causing the conflict to continue. Peace negotiations seem unthinkable at the moment. The positions have hardened, wounds and hatred are deep. Almost every Israeli and Palestinian family has lost a loved one in the Middle East conflict. The more tragic the losses, the greater the desire for retaliation.

There are hardly any social spaces of encounter that have not been negatively influenced. Resignation and hopelessness are spreading on both sides.

Discover the human in the other. An end to violence is the prerequisite for people in Israel and the Palestinian territories to work constructively on their conflicts and live together peacefully. "Reconciliation is only possible if we see another human in the other," says Sulaiman Khatib. He is one of the founders of the Combatants for Peace (CFP), a bi-national peace movement founded in 2006 by former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian resistance fighters. The Combatants are constructively advocating an end to the occupation, non-violence, justice and dialogue. The core of the work is the annual "Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day". The joint mourning ceremony commemorates the victims of both sides. That alone is a sheer provocation for many. "It's a call for more humanity," responds Khatib.

From a few hundred to many thousands. Many people change their attitude after a personal encounter: they realise that the violence can only be ended jointly. The Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day offers space for former opponents to meet and rediscover themselves. At the beginning there were only a few hundred, however around 9,000 people attended the 14th Memorial Day in 2019.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Israel and the Palestinian territories with 27 experts from five agencies. This project is run by AGIAMONDO.

Learn more:
www.cfpeace.org

What can turn ruins into a home again?

Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees worldwide in relation to its own population. An extreme challenge for a country that has enough of a struggle itself. The CPS and its partner organisations are working to reduce tension.

The heavy burden of civil war. From 1975 to 1990 a civil war raged in Lebanon, which claimed more than 150,000 dead. The following years were characterised by occupation, foreign rule and unrest. To date, the political situation is unstable. The violent past has left its mark on the social fabric of a society already deeply divided along sectarian lines. There are few initiatives that are independent of religious, political, regional or family colouration. The domestic political crisis continues. The future is uncertain, the economic situation remains poor. All this makes the situation highly explosive. Conflicts periodically turn into violence. Since 2011, the civil war in neighbouring Syria has also hit Lebanon. Around one million Syrian refugees have been registered. In some communities, the population has doubled. The infrastructure is overloaded, and the economic pressure is intensifying. The initial helpfulness of the Lebanese population is increasingly giving way to a negative attitude.

Recycling for a good neighbourhood. The CPS provides assistance to civil society actors and refugees in the north and east of Lebanon in coping with the difficult situation. Currently, the CPS and its partner organisations are working in five communities with a high proportion of Syrian refugees. They create spaces in which refugees and locals talk about their living and working conditions and can find ways of improving them together.

Initiatives such as the “Cedar and Jasmine” recycling project of the Basmeh & Zeitooneh organisation bring together people from both sides to join efforts to make a difference in the community. “We want to reduce tensions in Bar Elias and bring both populations closer,” says Alaa Alzaibak. The project team has provided the population with special bins. The families separate their waste and sort out metal and plastic, which is then sold. The people in the district decide on the use of the proceeds.

Violence prevention. “Cedar and Jasmine” is an example of how tensions between locals and refugees can be reduced. So far, the project has trained more than 20 community activists in civil conflict resolution, project management and mediation. They analyse emerging conflicts and plan de-escalation measures.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Lebanon with 15 experts from two agencies. This project is run by forumZFD.

Learn more:
www.basmeh-zeitooneh.org





What can turn bitterness into empathy?

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, war veterans of the former conflict parties are engaged in joint peace work. The CPS supports them because reconciliation knows no bounds.

Divided society. The atrocities during the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s left lasting wounds in the countries of the Western Balkans, including Bosnia-Herzegovina. The armed conflicts with thousands of dead and missing persons, displacements and war crimes have deeply divided society. Former parties to the conflict still look back on the past with hatred and bitterness, and rapprochement of the various groups affected by the conflict is difficult. In many places the past has not been constructively dealt with. The result: ethnic and national hostilities continue to smoulder; old animosities remain unprocessed and are passed onto the next generations. This provides fertile ground for radicalisation and new conflicts.

Overcome old animosities. How can old animosities be overcome, and how can the perpetrators take responsibility for their actions? – This question was asked by Nenad Vukosavljević, founding member of the Centre for Nonviolent Action (CNA). Since 1997, the centre in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been committed in peace work, including many years working together with war veterans.

“We were aware that it was risky to work with ex-combatants, that we would face enormous animosities towards enemy soldiers from all ethnic groups,” said Nenad Vukosavljević. The CNA took a chance with the experiment and prepared former combatants for their role in peace work. Countless meetings between victims' associations and veteran groups were necessary before various affected persons could visit a war crime memorial together. Since then, many visiting programmes have been organised at memorial sites. Mixed-ethnic teams

of ex-combatants and peace activists hold conflict transformation workshops and work for peace and reconciliation in education and public outreach.

Rapprochement through dialogue. Serbs, Muslims, Croats and Bosniaks visit memorial sites today and get closer to each other again. Talking about their war experiences, the ex-combatants are changing the attitude of young people towards war and violence and helping to prevent the atrocities of the past from repeating.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Bosnia-Herzegovina with four experts from two agencies. This project is run by KURVE Wustrow.

Learn more:

<https://nenasilje.org/en>

What can turn rejection into cohesion?

North Macedonian society is riven. There is little contact, but a lot of misgivings between people of different ethnicity. CPS' partner LOJA focuses on dialogue and education to improve cooperation.

Lastingly damaged relationships. Since its independence in 1991, North Macedonia has been struggling for inner peace and development. About two million people live in the country, of which about 64 percent are ethnic Macedonians. The largest of the various minorities are Albanians, with around a quarter of the population. In everyday life people of different descent hardly have any contact with each other. Since 1991, mutual resentments have increased as much as the frustration of minorities over the discrimination they face. In 1991, this led to a dispute, which intensified during the Kosovo War of 1998/99. In 2001, clashes broke out between Albanian rebels and Macedonian security forces in (north) western North Macedonia. In other parts of the country, there were attacks on the Albanian minority. The Ohrid Framework Agreement ended the armed conflict. But the horrors of those days have seriously damaged social relations, and the danger of a renewed escalation has not been averted.

Social change begins with the children. To ensure its bloody past is not repeated, North Macedonian society must grow together. It is necessary to overcome ethnic prejudices. Services offered by civil society contribute to this. The "Center for Balkan Cooperation LOJA" brings young people of different ethnicities into contact with cultural and educational opportunities. To change a country, it is not enough if only individuals change. The change in society must also be borne by its institutions. Therefore, LOJA addresses universities, trains prospective teachers in non-violent communication and puts peace education on the lesson plan.

Children and young people should learn from an early age that a peaceful society needs the cohesion of all.

Multi-ethnic education – a model of success. Within ten years, LOJA succeeded in revolutionising the North Macedonian educational landscape. Multi-ethnic education is now an integral part of teacher training at most universities. "Through our activities, a culture of active civil society has grown. More and more people are becoming voices of change. Our cooperation with universities has also produced a sustainable instrument for preventing violence", says Bujar Luma, LOJA Managing Director.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in North Macedonia with five experts from two agencies. This project is run by KURVE Wustrow.

Learn more:

www.cbcloja.org.mk



ЯЦІЗАЦІЯ



вернула
9-д

Коли я зайшла в коридорі. Усі прохали мене, як повзати. Ніхто ані слів не запитав, ані бачити мене м

ході мене вразило, що я, яких я вважала друзями, стали по інший бік бар'єру після Криму. Я ніколи не подумала, що товаришів, якими я могла випити чашку

What can uncover war crimes?

Civil society organisations in Ukraine document the human rights violations of all the warring factions in the east of the country. The CPS supports the work, because only those who know the extent of the war crimes, can learn for the future.

Traumatised and left alone. The war in eastern Ukraine has almost disappeared from the headlines of the international media. It has not calmed down. People die in the conflict area almost every day: soldiers, combatants and civilians. Since 2014, a 470-kilometre front line separates the areas occupied by pro-Russian separatists in the Donbass from the rest of Ukraine. Almost two million people have lost their property, fleeing their homes because of landmines and shell fire. They have become refugees in their own country. Many have been injured, they are traumatised by their experiences of violence. Most have not received any compensation for their losses yet. Many persons affected feel left alone with their problems.

Revealing the suffering of the people. The "Justice Coalition for Peace in the Donbass" works to ensure justice for the victims, documents their psychological and physical injuries, and wholeheartedly reveals the consequences of the war. 17 Ukrainian organisations have joined forces. They are documenting human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict in the course of the war. They want an open debate and to bring the suffering of the people out of anonymity. "It's important to give the victims a name," says a coalition member. "We need a comprehensive understanding of the extent of the war crimes." To do so, the activists are systematically documenting the horrors of war, conducting interviews with victims and collecting countless individual fates. They hope the materials will help enforce justice and law in case of legal action.

A new culture of remembrance. The documentation and joint review of the case histories is a first step towards a new, ideology-free culture of remembrance for those affected by the conflict and survivors of war violence.

At the same time, the materials collected form the basis for places of learning and remembrance. These places inform about the crimes free of ideological bias and adequately acknowledge the suffering of those affected.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Ukraine with nine experts from three agencies. This project is run by KURVE Wustrow.

Learn more:
<https://jfp.org.ua>

What can turn silence into dialogue?

The Maison de la Presse in Bujumbura creates radio formats that bring conflict parties together and dare debates on controversial issues even in times of crisis. The CPS supports the press centre because peace and freedom of expression go hand in hand.

Media under government control. The African Great Lakes region has been shaken by political instability, civil wars and resource conflicts for decades. The recent crisis in Burundi has been smouldering since 2015, triggered by the announcement of an unconstitutional third term in office by the president.

There were clashes and a coup attempt with violence by both sides. Countless members of the opposition were arrested, abducted, killed or exiled – including more than 100 journalists. As so often in the struggle for power, the anger of the conflicting parties was directed against the media: a government-friendly radio station was devastated, critical and independent media were destroyed or banned. The reopened broadcasters are today under strict government control. Discussing sensitive topics is a dangerous tightrope walk.

Censorship makes you inventive. The Maison de la Presse uses their tiny remaining scope to promote dialogue on sensitive issues. It trains journalists in conflict-sensitive reporting and works on innovative formats that build bridges – between people from different political camps and conflict parties.

In live interactive radio debates, guests from civil society, government, educational institutions, the police and military discuss current political issues. Listeners from all parts of the country are connected and have a say. That's not always easy: "much has happened in the past, from arrested journalists to sabotage. But the response is positive", says the director of the press centre, Nestor Ntiranyibagria. "In 2018, there were no

more threats, no sabotage, even in debates on very sensitive issues such as the constitutional amendment in favour of the ruling party."

The persuasion bears fruit. Dialogue formats have re-established contact between exiled and remaining journalists who are often hostile to each other. Interactive radio debates create space for dialogue in the Burundian conflict situation, where previously tense speechlessness prevailed. This is not least the result of intensive advocacy work with the Ministry of Information and Media.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Burundi with seven experts from three agencies. This project is run by EIRENE.

Learn more:

<https://www.facebook.com/PresseBurundi>





Votez ALFA COMBES

What can turn crisis scenes into marketplaces again?

Bad governance, poverty, lack of prospects. More and more people in Guinea are taking to the streets. The protests often escalate. The CPS helps to prevent violence. The focus is on the dialogue between security forces and civil society.

When a lack of prospects turns into violence. Authoritarian regimes have run down Guinea for decades. Serious human rights violations have hardly been dealt with until today. The transition from military to civilian government at the end of 2010 brought hope for the rule of law, economic development and social reconciliation. However, political unrest, state arbitrariness, corruption, violence against civilians and opposition as well as violent conflicts continue to be the order of the day. Great potential for conflict lies in the general frustration with poor living conditions and the resulting lack of prospects. Above all, Guinea's youth is not willing to accept this any longer passively. The decades of oppression have left a climate of violence. When violent demonstrators clash with no less violent security forces, the situation escalates rapidly.

Arguing with words instead of weapons. So that discontent does not continue to erupt violently, more dialogue, more economic development – and strategies that prevent violence are needed. This is where the Civil Peace Service comes in. In the CPS programme “Democracy without Violence” the “National Peace Coalition” has set up a nationwide network for the prevention of violence through civil conflict resolution. It mediates in communal conflicts with ethnic, religious, political-military and economic backgrounds. One of the focal points is the dialogue between security forces and militant groups in cooperation with a network of former street fighters, the “Youth for Democracy and Development”.

In workshops, young protesters learn how to voice their frustration publicly without violence, and how to de-escalate conflicts. “The gendarmerie and violent teenagers faced each other with pistols and slingshots. Now they sit together at the table and talk to each other,” says CPS expert Susanne Souaré.

Formerly militant – now networked for peace. The CPS has set up a nationwide network for the prevention of violence together with the National Peace Coalition. 35 formerly militant groups have joined together in a youth association, which the CPS gives support to. All regions and cities have peace committees made up of respected members of the community with different social, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. They settle conflicts non-violently and prevent violent escalations.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Guinea with four experts from the World Peace Service.

Learn more:

www.democratiesansviolence-guinee.org/cnpg

What can give new security?

Mali has experienced violence for decades. In 2012, the military overthrew the government, and rebels took control of the north. This was followed by a military intervention with a UN mandate, which so far has not been able to bring about a stable peace. The CPS and its partners are looking for ways out.

A fragile entity. Mali is a country full of potential: with a great cultural wealth, a young population, rich mineral resources and ancient mechanisms for conflict resolution. But the land remains a fragile entity within artificially drawn colonial borders. Poverty and discontent are high, especially in the north.

The region has long been neglected; the nomadic population feels especially discriminated against. Organised crime and Islamist groups aggravate the situation further. In 2012, the crisis escalated in Mali. A military coup overthrew the government. Rebels took control of the north. This was followed by an ongoing military intervention with a UN mandate, in which Germany is participating.

The peace agreement reached in 2015 is only slowly being implemented. The causes of the conflict have not been resolved. Society is more divided than ever.

Media for peace and non-violence. Augustin Cissé, secretary-general of CPS' partner organisation ORFED, is convinced that "resolving conflicts is a civil society task and not a military one." ORFED and the CPS are committed to peaceful coexistence of the different population groups in northern Mali. They focus on dialogue and reconciliation, civil conflict resolution and creativity – in schools, in dialogue forums in the communities and in youth work.

Constructive journalism is also an important pillar of peace work. In 2007, journalists founded the "Journalists for Peace and Non-violence", which has since been supported by the CPS. In the gold mining areas in the south, CPS' partner FDS brings the various players to the table so that gold mining is conflict-sensitive, socially and environmentally compatible and promotes the development of the region.

40x expertise in civil conflict resolution. Before the crisis began, the CPS pre-emptively trained around 40 Malian experts in non-violent conflict resolution. During the crisis many of them were able to help prevent conflicts at the local level from escalating further. After the crisis, many supported the local dialogue and reconciliation forums organised by the Ministry of National Reconciliation.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Mali with an expert from EIRENE.

Learn more:

www.orfedmali.wordpress.com





What can give plans for the future space?

Strengthening trust, promoting cooperation and dialogue between conflicting parties – these are lengthy processes that the CPS and its project partners in Zimbabwe support.

A country before the collapse. Zimbabwe used to be the breadbasket of southern Africa. Three decades of autocratic rule under ex-President Robert Mugabe ruined the country politically, socially and economically. After a land reform in the 2000s, accompanied by the eviction of hundreds of white farmer families, rural communities were left to their own devices. Schools, clinics and traffic routes fell apart, many municipalities remained without electricity or drinking water supply. The neglect of rural areas, coupled with the repression of the Mugabe regime, led to disputes over land and resources in many districts. At the end of 2017, a military coup led to the resignation of Mugabe. But reforms are slow in coming.

The economy is facing collapse. There are regular strikes, protests and violent clashes due to the desolate living conditions. Dealing constructively with the conflicts, often requires lengthy mediation processes.

Step by step to the peaceful way out. The Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) has a strong reputation in Zimbabwe's Midlands Province thanks to its many years of experience in conflict resolution and the discreet conduct of negotiations. In the event of disputes in the communities, the CPS partner brings the conflict parties together and moderates the negotiation processes. All concerned parties – community members, local authorities and officials – are included equally in the discussions. If causes of conflict refer to more comprehensive problems in governance, working groups are convened at a higher level. Together with representatives of the districts and provincial administration, alternatives to controver-

sial development plans and guidelines are developed. Thus, the CCMT is gradually achieving constructive conflict management and contributing to more democratic governance in the Midlands Province.

Successful dispute resolution. With one intervention, the CCMT caused a stir in the province: After years of dialogue work, it was possible to resolve a 20-year dispute over the relocation of a community with all parties by mutual agreement. "I call the result our development compass. From now on, we are all better calibrated," the traditional chief of the community praises the outcome of the negotiations.

The Civil Peace Service is involved in Zimbabwe with five experts from the World Peace Service.

Learn more:
www.ccmt.org.zw

What can transform frustration into self-confidence?

The CCMN media network is committed to journalism that defuses conflicts instead of fuelling them. Through this, a propensity to violence is replaced in the long-term by a willingness to engage in dialogue. The CPS partner DMJ is fighting against radicalisation with preventive youth work.

Resigned youth. For a long time, Cameroon was relatively stable compared to its neighbours. Nevertheless, the north has been terrorised by the Boko Haram militia for some years. There have been violent clashes in the north and southwest provinces since the end of 2016. Ostensibly, it is about a conflict between English and French speakers. Behind the scenes, poverty, social injustice, a lack of political participation and land conflicts have been causing discontent for some time. Frustration and resignation have spread, especially among adolescents and young adults. Precarious living conditions and a lack of prospects make them easy prey for radical groups.

The media are also under pressure. Critical journalists are often suspended, harassed or arrested. Balanced reporting is hardly possible. But right now it is important to de-escalate the situation.

Peace education against radicalisation. With its partners, the CPS relies on peace journalism and preventive youth work. The Cameroon Community Media Network (CCMN) was launched with the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC). The network promotes conflict-sensitive journalism in order to stimulate social dialogue and prevent violence. This is urgently needed because the media landscape of Cameroon is characterised by partisanship and instrumentalisation. "We can contribute to de-escalation by broadcasting peace education talks and reports through our radio station," says Rev. Geraldine Fobang of the PCC.

The CPS partner Dynamique Mondiale des Jeunes (DMJ) has researched what drives young people and young adults into the hands of radical groups: it is above all the prospect of money and belonging. Preventive media and youth work help the younger generation to improve their situation and to protect themselves against radical groups.

Voices against hatred and hate speech. 75 media and other organisations have already joined the CCMN. The network thus forms a counterweight to the inciting media landscape. Adolescents and young adults are getting better and better at local level at making themselves heard in politics and society, thereby improving their living conditions.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Cameroon with 11 experts from two agencies. This project is run by Bread for the World.

Learn more:
www.communitymedia.cm



VOICE RADIO
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Programs and Services
of Professor (Dr.)
RDSI FM 105.2
The DUB
MR FM 105.2
e!



What can take away the fear of the unknown?

In Nairobi, a centre for interreligious dialogue is developing. The CPS supports the project, because mutual understanding can only develop when religions talk to each other.

Nascent Islamophobia. In Kenya, Muslims and Christians have lived together for centuries – but for some years now in an increasingly explosive relationship. Since the attack by the Islamist al-Shabaab militia on a shopping mall in Nairobi in 2013 and other attacks in the following years, Christians in Kenya increasingly fear their Muslim neighbours. Civic initiatives, academic and theological circles in Kenya are trying to counter this nascent Islamophobia and separation of the two communities.

Inter-denominational dialogue – not a pipe dream, but common practice. “Tangaza University College is becoming a hub for interfaith dialogue,” is the vision of the Missionaries of Africa (MAfr). The CPS partner, with many years of experience in interdenominational dialogues, drives its latest project with great vigour: at conferences and in summer courses, with workshops and intensive networking, MAfr is committed to an equal and respectful exchange between Christianity, Islam and other religions. There is a wide range of supported activities, including a conference for peaceful elections and high-profile campaigns in Nairobi, as well as an interfaith youth forum on peace-building environmental initiatives, theological discourses and research, or promoting and advising religious actors on interfaith issues. For the future, MAfr desire that theologians of different denominations develop theological-social positions together for the preservation of peace and cooperation.

Strong partners. The project is still young. But it has already positioned itself as a strong partner in interreligious dialogue with its continuing education and counselling services – for the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Kenya and Muslim, secular and Protestant partners as well as for universities in Germany and abroad.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Kenya with 18 experts from four agencies. This project is run by AGIAMONDO.

Learn more:
www.tangaza.ac.ke

What can open new perspectives?

Young people from eastern Congo learn to settle disputes non-violently in peace clubs.

The CPS supports this initiative to open ways out of war and terror for the younger generation.

Civil society under pressure. Political instability, war and poverty have been commonplace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for decades. Even though the civil war officially ended in 2003, there are still armed conflicts, especially in the east of the country, in the provinces of Ituri, North and South Kivu. There dozens of rebel groups and the Congolese government army are fighting for political power and the control of natural resources. Ethnic conflicts are fuelled by all sides. Poorly paid security forces and armed militia ransack the civilian population, rape women and girls and misuse minors as soldiers. The children and young people of the region grow up with terror and violence. Promoting peace in schools is therefore a priority task in eastern DRC.

Children become conflict mediators. The CPS' Congolese partner organisations, such as the "Coordination of Protestant Schools" and the "Commission for Justice, Peace and Conservation of Creation" have set up peace clubs in several schools. In the ethnically mixed clubs, boys and girls of different ages learn to settle conflicts peacefully. They can test their conflict resolution skills, which they have learned in the classroom. As conflict mediators, they settle disputes among students. They are supported by technically qualified teachers. "We can apply our knowledge not only at school, but also at home in our families and in the neighbourhood," report conflict mediators.

Less violence in schools. First successes are visible: at some schools, violence among children has decreased significantly. Young people who used to campaign for vigilante justice are now involved in the peace clubs.

Some of them composed non-violent music distributed through community radio stations in South Kivu.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with five experts from three agencies. This project is run by Bread for the World.

Learn more:

<https://coracondrc.com>





What can transform a painful memory into confidence?

Some CPS partners in Cambodia do creative remembrance work on the crimes of the Khmer Rouge, because art can open ways into repressed history.

Unresolved past. More than 1.7 million people were killed in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 by the Pol Pot dictatorship and the Khmer Rouge. The genocide of its own people was followed by decades of silence and repression. The process of coming to terms with the past, following the example of International Courts, began in 2007 with the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Phnom Penh, which is trying the perpetrators of the mass murders. Among the plaintiffs are hundreds of women who were forcibly married, raped, and forced into pregnancy during the Khmer Rouge dictatorship to give birth to new blood for the Khmer Rouge. Civil society initiatives accompany the judicial proceedings of the past.

A dance theatre breaks taboos. “Art gives our society a way to face the past,” says Synan Chhounni of Youth for Peace. The youth organisation is one of the CPS project partners in Cambodia who use creative means to work on the Pol Pot regime’s reign of terror. In their exhibition “Eyes on Darkness” they show how dealing with the past over generations becomes living history lessons with large-format pictures, citation and text collages by contemporary witnesses and young visitors to the victims’ memorials.

The dance drama “Pka Sla” attempts a scenic reappraisal of past violence: in 2017 it brought the taboo topic of forced marriages under the Khmer Rouge to the stage for the first time.

A CPS-funded documentary also made it possible for the Cambodian woman Sokchan Pen to talk about her traumatic experiences of violence 30 years ago. In this way, CPS partners contribute to reconciliation not only through legal and psychological support for the survivors, but also through artistic projects.

Recognition of the highest authority. Forced marriage has been recognised as a crime against humanity in the indictment before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Dialogue actions and remembrance work to cope with traumatic experiences by CPS partners were accepted as reparations.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Cambodia with ten expert from two agencies. This project is run by GIZ.

Learn more:

www.giz.de/ziviler-friedensdienst-kambodscha

What can turn persecuted minorities into equals?

Vocational training for young people, scientific studies and political lobbying – that too is part of peace promotion, which the CPS supports in Myanmar.

Persistent ethnic-national conflicts. For decades, there have been armed conflicts in the multi-ethnic state of Myanmar. Sections of the ethnic minorities are fighting against the central government for more autonomy and recognition. With the democratic opening and change of government from military dictatorship to civilian government in 2011, hope for an end to the bloody conflicts grew. But that did not happen. Instead, the military committed massacres of the Rohingya in the autumn of 2017. More than 670,000 people had to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. Persistent ethnic-nationalist conflicts, systematic human rights violations, land grabs and the ruthless exploitation of resources have also displaced thousands internally. Many of them have been waiting in camps and makeshift shelters for years in resource-rich, economically underdeveloped areas.

Investing in an equal society. “Investing in education to shape the future” is the motto of the Naushawng Development Institute (NDI). The NDI is one of the CPS project partners campaigning for peaceful dialogue and respect for human rights in the states of Kachin, Mon and Shan State. The NDI Education Centre qualifies young people from the villages and refugee camps in the region in non-violent conflict resolution and community-based work. They can prepare themselves for studies in English and social sciences.

At the same time, NDI conducts research projects on locally relevant issues, such as the devastating working conditions in the region's jade mines or the everyday discrimination against young refugees in the state education system. The results are published and policy recommendations for regional parliament, political parties and civil society organisations developed.

Socially engaged youth in Kachin State. NDI empowers young people to take an active part in political processes. Already, 300 alumni in their communities are committed to peace, social justice and sustainable development in Kachin State.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Myanmar with six experts from two agencies. This project is run by the World Peace Service.

Learn more:
<https://naushawng.org>

အောက်ဖွဲ့ အမှတ်ရခြင်း





What can make injustice visible?

COCAP's NepalMonitor online platform provides real-time information on human rights violations in the country. The platform was developed on the initiative of the CPS to protect local human rights work.

Failed administration of justice. Nepal is still marked by the ten-year civil war between government forces and Maoist rebels. The conflict could have been settled in 2006. Its causes, however, remained largely unsolved and are still politically and socially explosive. Society is still divided along ethnic, religious and political lines, with discrimination based on gender, caste, religion or sexual orientation. Poverty and social injustice shape the daily lives of large parts of the population. The rule of law also works inadequately; corruption and mismanagement are the order of the day. Time and again, police and security forces use excessive force against social protest movements. People who campaign for human rights in Nepal have little space to act and their safety is at risk.

An online platform provides orientation. In order to be informed at all times about the current human rights situation in Nepal, the Nepali peace and human rights network "Collective Campaign for Peace" (COCAP) established NepalMonitor in 2012. The online platform provides up-to-date security information to local human rights organisations and the international public. An interactive map of Nepal shows the number of incidents in different parts of the country at the click of a mouse. The platform provides real-time information via e-mail and SMS on violations of human rights and attacks on people who support them. "NepalMonitor helps to improve the response to incidents. It protects human rights organisations, their employees and the civilian population," says former COCAP CEO Usha Baruwal.

NepalMonitor: much used and indispensable. For all those who work for democracy and human rights in Nepal, the online platform, with its analysis and reports on all forms of violence and human rights abuses, has become an indispensable compass. NepalMonitor also exposes human rights violations in those parts of the country that are otherwise cut off from all news.

More than 2,000 people are already using the platform to assess their own security.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Nepal with eleven experts from four agencies. This project is run by peace brigades international.

Learn more:
<https://nepalmonitor.org>

What can calm a highly charged atmosphere?

The members of the two media networks KuMuNet and PECOJON are committed to conflict-sensitive journalism to peacefully advance the halting peace process in Mindanao.

Unresolved causes of conflict. For more than 40 years, various rebel groups have been fighting against government forces for independence, justice and participation in Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines. The Muslim Moro and the indigenous peoples feel disadvantaged compared to the Catholic majority. Many people live in poverty. Nevertheless, Mindanao seemed to be on a good path. Negotiations between MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest rebel group) and the government resulted in a peace agreement in 2014. But then the peace process came to a standstill. So, the causes of the conflict also remained. In May 2017, the violence escalated again. Rebels close to the terrorist organisation “Islamic State” captured the city of Marawi. 500,000 people fled. President Duterte imposed martial law, currently until the end of 2019.

All sides join the discussion on the radio. The situation is aggravated by often sensationalist media coverage. It reinforces animosities, stirs up fears and fuels conflict. Civil society organisations countering this. The CPS partner Kutawato Multimedia Network (KuMuNet) promotes conflict-sensitive journalism.

“Journalists are conflict resolution agents,” says Ed Karlon Rama of PECOJON (Peace and Conflict Journalism), another CPS partner on Mindanao. KuMuNet and PECOJON offer training in peace journalism.

The media reduce tensions rather than increase them when they cautiously report on conflicts. The best example of this is Radio “Bangsamoro Now: Voices for Peace”. Every Thursday news about the peace process is broadcast throughout the Bangsamoro region. The population is participating in these discussions, as spokespersons for the rebels and representatives of the government. Citizens tune in, even in remote regions.

Reconciliation is sent over the ether. The de-escalating effect of radio has been proven. For example, the spokesman for a rebel group called in the broadcast to describe his view of a violent clash with the military. The debate “on air” cleared up misunderstandings and smoothed waves of violence.

The Civil Peace Service is active on Mindanao with ten experts from two agencies. This project is run by forumZFD.

Learn more:

www.conflictsensitivejournalism.info



U.S.-NOYNOY
GUILTY!

U.S.-NOYNOY
PALAYASIN!

LANGU LANG K...
INDRAS



What can turn next to each other into together?

Constructive negotiations must be learned. Therefore, the CPS supports the courses of the Bolivian Dialogue School for non-violent communication. Conflicts can only be resolved in democratic dialogue.

Risk more democracy. In Bolivia, after years of political instability, a representative of the indigenous majority of the population was elected president for the first time in 2005. Since then, Evo Morales has ruled the Andean nation. Under him, Bolivia received a new constitution in 2009. It should guarantee the transformation of the state into a “plurinational” democracy with strong public participation and recognition of cultural diversity.

Mechanisms had to be found that would be able to balance conflicts of interest between government, indigenous and other social groups. Resource conflicts between the property owners and the disadvantaged were to be settled moderately and non-violently. More democracy was needed, even at the local level. In many places, new, community-developed municipal constitutions were discussed.

But first of all, principles of democratic dialogue had to be learned.

Back to school for more dialogue readiness. Since 2012, the Escuela Boliviana de Diálogo has been promoting non-violent communication and intercultural dialogue in the Bolivian lowlands.

In modules lasting several days, the Dialogue School offers employees of the Bolivian CPS partner organisations space to reflect on their own communication patterns, attitudes and values. In practical exercises, participants implement principles of democratic dialogue such as inclusion, active listening, empa-

thy, and willingness to compromise in constructive conversation techniques. All this is done with the aim of strengthening the moderation skills of CPS partners in negotiations for the political participation of disadvantaged groups, indigenous peoples and women.

Proven in practice. After a protracted process, supported by CPS experts outside the Dialogue School, San Ignacio de Velasco County managed to negotiate a new municipal constitution. All sections of the population were involved, with some of their members previously attending the Dialogue School.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Bolivia with 14 experts from three agencies. This project is run by GIZ.

Learn more:

Film about the Dialogue School on YouTube under “Escuela Boliviana de Diálogo” (www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMw5mMa1WY0)

What can give hope to survivors?

Indigenous women in Guatemala break the silence about sexual war violence. A number of indictments have been filed together with the human rights organisation ECAP. The CPS supports them, because dealing with injustice is the first step towards reconciliation.

Taboo topic: Sexual war violence. 36 years of civil war between army and guerrilla forces in Guatemala have left a traumatised society. Hundreds of thousands were murdered and expelled. The violence was directed primarily against the indigenous population. Women and girls were raped, tortured and sexually enslaved in military camps. Most of these crimes remained unpunished, those responsible unknown. Justice has been obtained by exceedingly few. Instead, a culture of silence has been established in the country.

Impunity is widespread, especially when it comes to sexual violence. This topic has remained taboo in Guatemala for decades.

Public prosecution encouraged. For many years, ECAP has been fighting for justice for survivors of human rights violations and sexual violence. ECAP is particularly committed to women from indigenous peoples. It offers psychosocial support in dealing with their traumatic experiences and advises them on legal processes.

ECAP actively encourages survivors of sexual war violence to publicise this taboo subject. In a symbolic trial in 2010, Mayan women gave their first testimony to audiences about their painful experiences.

A little later, they filed an official complaint about sexual violence and enslavement. "We want to prevent other women from suffering the same brutal acts as we did," they said. Their courageous move in 2016 led to the arrest and conviction of two senior military officials. It is not about retaliation, but about education and prevention.

A landmark ruling. Out of the small group of indigenous women who raised their voices years ago, a support network for survivors of sexual violence has emerged.

The women's involvement resulted in a ruling recognising sexual enslavement in armed conflicts as a crime against humanity.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Guatemala with eleven experts from three agencies. This project is run by GIZ.

Learn more:

www.ecapguatemala.org.gt





What can transform resignation into thirst for action?

Despite the 2016 peace agreement, the situation in Colombia remains tense. The CPS and its partners work to resolve conflicts peacefully.

The killing continues. Colombia has been shaken by armed conflict for over fifty years. The unfair distribution of land was and is, in addition to social inequality, the main trigger of conflicts. About 220,000 victims have been claimed by the clashes since the 60s. Over seven million people had to leave their villages. Diplomatic success was achieved on the big political stage: in 2016, the Colombian government and the largest guerrilla group FARC made a peace agreement. But peace did not last long. Ex-guerrillas, criminal gangs and paramilitaries continue to struggle for resources, minerals and the drug trade. Negotiations between the government and the second largest guerrilla movement ELN are slow-moving. Threat and violence are still part of everyday life.

Ethnic diversity: A treasure trove full of perspectives.

Chocó Department in the north-west continues to be affected by the violent conflicts. In the last few years, too, there has been an increasing number of people in the population dealing with disputes over land. Longstanding principles for peaceful coexistence no longer work. No wonder, when life has been dominated by violence for decades. The Diocese of Quibdó and the CPS mediate between the population groups. An inter-ethnic commission was launched as early as the late 80s. However, it came to a halt in early 2000, as armed conflicts made work impossible.

The Commission was revived in early 2016 thanks to the Diocese of Quibdó. "Their strength lies in the fact that their representatives come from different groups of the population. They bring a great treasure trove full of perspectives and solutions," says Padre Albeiro, who supports the panel. The Commission meets regularly to resolve conflicts and improve relations between the people.

An important step towards dispute resolution. The revival of the interethnic commission has reduced the violence. Conflicts are being settled peacefully more and more. Chocó's CPS partner organisations have also been able to influence the peace negotiations in Havana in 2014: concerns of ethnic minorities were included in the peace agreement as "Capítulo Étnico".

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Colombia with 22 experts from two agencies. This project is run by AGIAMONDO.

Learn more:

www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/kolumbien-praevention

What can protect the rights of everybody?

Human rights organisations are working at heightened risk – not just in Mexico.

The CPS supports their unarmed protective escorts with international experts.

Corruption and violence dominate the country. The human rights situation in Mexico is more critical than in almost any other country. Not only do the population suffer from the power of the drug cartels, but state institutions and the security forces are also riddled with corruption and often involved in the criminal business. In the drug wars of police and armed forces against organised crime, human rights violations, extrajudicial killings and torture are the order of the day. Since 2006, more than 200,000 people have lost their lives in this war, including many civilians. In addition, great social inequality shapes the country. The indigenous population is particularly disadvantaged. Major industrial projects violate their rights, fuelling existing social and political conflicts. In this conflict situation, people who defend human rights live dangerously. They are intimidated, threatened and imprisoned. Some are murdered, many disappear without a trace.

In public view. Unarmed protective escorts are designed to reduce the risk to the teams from human rights organisations. “The eyes of the world are on you,” is the signal. Jorge Verástegui of the Fray Juan de Larios Human Rights Centre in the Mexican state of Coahuila feels less alone with the escorts. And Silvia Mendez from CPS partner Paso del Norte in Ciudad Juárez says: “Since we have been escorted, the threats and intimidation have diminished.” The constant presence of the experts increases the scope of action of the escorted persons and their organisations. A network of contacts with politics and authorities in Mexico, embassies and international organisations in Europe and America provides additional protection.

A protective screen for human rights. Currently, 14 organisations and two civil society networks are escorted and supported with coaching and safety training. As a result, more than 70,000 people are reached each year, because the protective screen not only covers the organisations that are escorted, but also the communities with whom they work.

The Civil Peace Service is engaged in Mexico with nine experts from two agencies. This project is run by peace brigades international.

Learn more:

<https://pbi-mexico.org>



The Civil Peace Service – How it all began.

On November 22, 1999, the first CPS experts left the country to support people and organisations involved in peace work in crisis and conflict regions. The former Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Romania, Zimbabwe and the Palestinian Territories were among the first countries in which the CPS got involved. Since then, the Civil Peace Service has become a successful model for preventing violence and promoting peace worldwide.

An idea takes shape. When the wars in disintegrating Yugoslavia shook Europe in the 1990s, the idea for a Civil Peace Service was born in church and civil society circles in Germany. From 1993 a “Civil Peace Service” discussion forum of interested persons and groups developed the concept of professional peace work, similar to the development services.

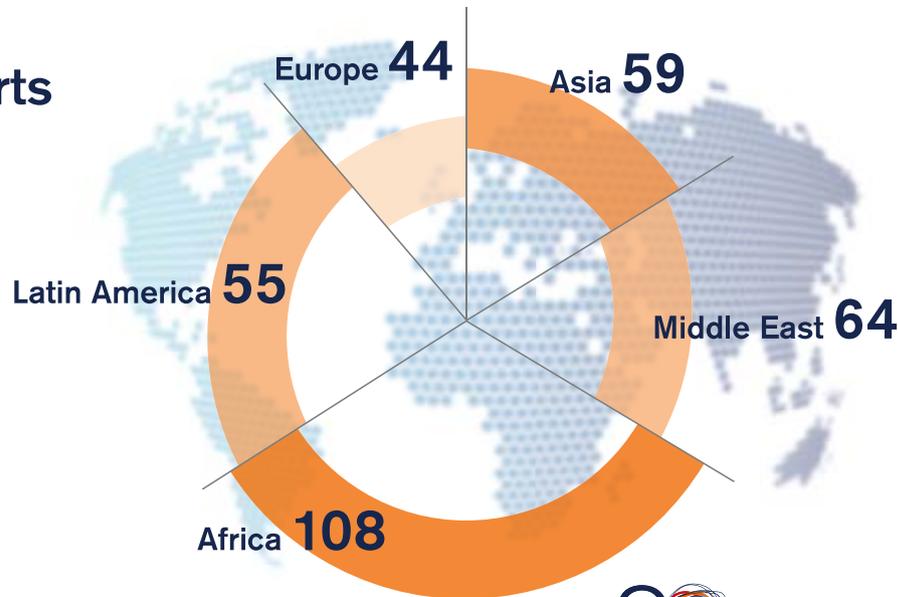
In 1995, political lobbying for this idea began. In 1997, numerous political and cultural figures signed the “Berlin Declara-

tion for a Civil Peace Service in Germany”. As early as 1996, regular qualification courses were offered to men and women with professional and life experience, and hundreds of experts have participated so far.

In the same year, the continuous exchange of experience and ideas between the peace groups involved and the recognised development services began under the name “Civil Peace Service Consortium”.



Civil Peace Service experts



Since 1999 about 1,400
CPS experts have been
active in almost 60 countries

Currently, there are 330 CPS experts active in 45 countries

As of: 30.09.2019 // www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org



Nine organisations are providing a service for peace.

After the change of government in 1998, the implementation of what began as a mere idea was able to start: the joint work of German peace and development organisations and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) took shape. The number of partner countries, approved projects and seconded experts quickly increased with public funding. The consortium transformed itself from a theoretical future workshop into an operational work platform, consisting of nine organisations. First professional publications and common standards of qualification and project work were developed. From 2009 to 2011, the members of the consortium undertook

a major evaluation. This resulted in suggestions for improvement, which were implemented in a joint reform process.

The work of the CPS – more necessary than ever.

Twenty years after its foundation, the CPS' concern could not be more topical. Armed conflicts are increasing worldwide. The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research counted around 372 political conflicts in 2018, of which 213 were armed conflicts. They usually take place inside fragile states. They create violent hatred between population groups, which the CPS works towards overcoming.

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