CONCILIATION RESOURCES



A youth local action plan workshop in the Central African Republic © Conciliation Resources

> **When we consider the costs of war — to the global economy but most of all to humanity's very soul — peacebuilding is a bargain and a prerequisite for development and a better future for all.**
>
> **UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres**

BUILDING PEACE TOGETHER

Conciliation Resources has helped resolve complex conflicts for over 30 years, bringing people together across divides to find creative and sustainable paths to peace. We help those involved in protracted conflicts to understand each other and build bridges in order to find a common way forward.

The problem

The world is at war. Conflicts are becoming more intense, complex and persistent, resulting in terrible **suffering and mass displacement**. The **climate crisis will continue to exacerbate** both the causes and consequences of violent conflict.

In conflict zones, it is the **poorest and most marginalised who bear the brunt of the violence**. But they are usually excluded from the spaces where solutions are discussed. Those who live with the consequences of violent conflict know that **peace has to come first**. Only after peace is secured can there be meaningful education, health, justice and economic opportunity.

International policies increasingly give **inadequate, short-term responses to deep-rooted conflict problems**. Governments know the terrible cost of conflict but investment in peace is less than 1% of global spending on war. And aid budgets are being cut. There is **an urgent need for a sustained, preventive approach**.

The solution

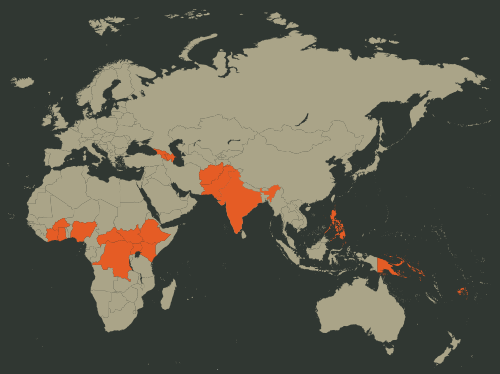
Peacebuilding tackles the root causes of conflict and supports conflict-affected communities to work together. Stopping violence and creating peaceful societies is painstaking and arduous. It requires patience, building trust, strengthening relationships and dialogue.

> **We trust Conciliation Resources because they were with us at the beginning, during the most difficult moments. When no one else from outside would visit us, and the market was deserted, Conciliation Resources was there beside us – just when we most needed their support.**
>
> **Moussa Hassabarasoul, Peace Committee President, Central African Republic**

Where we work

Conciliation Resources works across divides with people on all sides of conflict. We have supported peacebuilding processes in Ethiopia, the Philippines, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Colombia, which have led to lasting peace agreements and reduced violence.

We continue to work with people affected by conflict across East and Central Africa, West Africa and the Horn of Africa, South Asia, the South Caucasus, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.



Building peaceful communities in Fiji

A community-up approach is vital for managing climate change effectively. Fijian communities face environmental degradation, population growth and economic challenges, worsened by climate change. This puts pressure on them to relocate from their ancestral lands. If not managed inclusively and sensitively this can lead to tensions and conflicts. Conciliation Resources supports Fijian civil society organisations in empowering communities to address climate change collectively. We supported male leaders, women and youth to analyse their communities' climate challenges, gain skills and build confidence to engage government officials and support effective relocation through consultation and partnership.



A peacebuilding workshop in Fiji © Conciliation Resources

What is our impact?

Conciliation Resources' work saves lives and livelihoods. We help restore peace to contexts of conflict so there can be a focus on education, health and justice, providing stability, which is essential for economic growth and investment. We ensure that critical lessons are learned from one conflict to another.

In the past three decades, we have contributed to the signing of several major national peace accords and numerous community-level peace agreements. We have supported thousands of community leaders, women, young people and minorities to analyse conflicts and mediate disputes. We have engaged with over 50 armed groups, and established hundreds of peace and dialogue groups and networks.

We use a range of tools to monitor and evaluate our impact, including 'Outcome Harvesting'. We are committed to generating evidence of what works in order to improve our own activity and wider peacebuilding practice.

We know that Peace Works and that peacebuilding pays off. The role played by Conciliation Resources and our local partners in the six years of peace negotiations leading to the 2018 comprehensive peace agreement between the Ethiopian Government and the Ogaden National Liberation Front cost far less than one Challenger tank.



Community assembly members in CAR © Conciliation Resources 2026

Supporting localised framing to enable trust to take hold in the Central African Republic

Following cancelled legislative elections and high intergenerational tensions in Sibut and Ngoumbele, community trust in authorities and the electoral system was low. To address these grievances, local partners reframed a proposed political "dialogue" into *Assises Communautaires* (community assemblies). Grounded in local traditions, this reframing avoided political overtones and fostered community agency. The resulting four-day assembly brought together around 60 diverse participants, including authorities, youth, and electoral officials. It yielded concrete results including replacing compromised electoral staff and forming a community-led monitoring committee. Complemented by a women's football match, the inclusive process restored trust and ownership, successfully creating a notably calm environment as subsequent electoral campaigning resumed.

What we do

Mediation is vital in helping different sides of a conflict arrive at an agreement. We provide support and guidance to facilitators of official peace processes, and links to wider peace and mediation initiatives.

★ Supporting Mediation in the Philippines

The Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have conducted on-off peace negotiations since 1997. In 2009 Conciliation Resources joined the International Contact Group (ICG) on Mindanao, together with several governments and non-governmental organisations and in 2014, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed, ending 40 years of violent conflict. The ICG is the first of its kind where diplomats and NGOs formally work together to provide mediation support to peace talks. We have provided technical advice and facilitated dialogue between the parties and with different factions. We also helped civil society bring community perspectives into the process, to build sustainable peace.

Engaging armed groups can help understand a conflict, change attitudes, protect civilians and prepare for peace. Drawing on our practical experience we engage with armed groups directly and provide guidance on doing so to others.

★ Supporting historic peace negotiations in Ethiopia

In 2012 Conciliation Resources was invited by Kenyan politicians and the then armed group, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) to support peace negotiations in Ethiopia, after more than two decades of fighting in the Somali region between the ONLF and the Ethiopian government. Over the next six years we provided negotiation training, advised on constitutional options, connected community perspectives with the political process and helped to draft the final peace deal, which was signed in 2018. Since then, we have continued to engage with the conflict parties as they transition to peace, helping the ONLF to transform into a political organisation, supporting the development of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and establishing a victims' network and the Ugaaso Women's Dialogue Space - a platform for women leaders to jointly strategise and amplify their voices.



Negotiators shake hands after signing a peace deal between the ONLF and the Government of Ethiopia in Asmara, Eritrea in 2018 © Conciliation Resources

Dialogue is an essential part of addressing conflict and building peace. We create opportunities for divided groups to come together, discuss the issues affecting them, break down barriers and build trust.

★ Creating space for dialogue in Kashmir

Ever since the division of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, conflict has persisted in and around the regions of Jammu and Kashmir. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over territory there - both assert claims over its entire area, whilst there is also a longstanding movement for self-determination/independence within the region. Any peace or dialogue process around the conflict over Kashmir has tended to centre strongly around the strategic interests of nation states, whilst neglecting space for the voices of the Kashmiri people. We support high-level dialogue, which has persisted during the most challenging periods of the conflict. This includes, the only India-Pakistan high level dialogue initiative, 'Sulah', which centres Kashmiris as the primary stakeholders of the conflict. We also facilitate a Kashmir Initiative Group, which links Kashmiri engagement to policy processes and support local partners and peacebuilders on both sides of the Line of Control.

Dealing with the past is essential in order to address the legacies of war and violence, and prevent them from feeding into future conflict.

★ Helping to understand the past in the South Caucasus

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, we seek to generate mutual understanding between societies and communities to enable the peace agreement to foster a durable peace. We provide support for partners in Armenia and Azerbaijan who gathered unique testimonies that document lived experiences of the conflict. We worked with partners so this is now a functional resource for academics, journalists, and researchers seeking a more nuanced, multi-perspective view of the region's history. By moving beyond one-sided narratives, the archive provides a foundation for more informed and meaningful historical dialogue between the conflicting parties.

Research, analysis and learning is foundational to our approach.

★ Generating evidence of what works and sharing our learning

Our unique Accord publication series informs and strengthens peace processes by documenting and analysing the practical lessons and innovations of peacebuilding. We have published 30 editions of Accord, and our Learning Hub contains more than 1,500 resources for peacebuilding practitioners and policymakers.

Key themes

Gender equality and inclusion: Research shows that when people are excluded or treated unequally based on gender and other forms of identity, this can drive conflict. Gender-sensitive conflict analysis is the starting point to understanding the ways in which this happens and what needs to be done differently to help people feel genuinely included in their communities and societies, and resist or turn away from violence. Our innovative gender-sensitive conflict analysis toolkit provides step-by-step guidance on how to analyse these dynamics and is used by governments, communities and armed groups around the world.

Climate crisis: The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation have introduced greater pressures, unpredictability and complexity into conflict contexts, testing existing conflict resolution mechanisms where they exist. However, environmental issues can also be used as entry points. Our work has highlighted how, with intention and considered approaches, and in what circumstances environmental issues can be integrated to support peace efforts. We use gendered conflict analysis to identify opportunities at local and national levels and ensure our approaches consider understanding of power, exclusion and different vulnerabilities at the heart of climate and conflict issues.

Mental health: Traumatised societies are more prone to return to violent conflict. Conciliation Resources collaborates with conflict-affected people, fellow peacebuilders, psychotherapists and academics to address the psychological dimension of peace and conflict in mediation. We learn from the local contexts we work in, exploring, for example the links between mental health, peacebuilding and reintegration in the Central African Republic, including through the lens of gender.

Displacement: According to the UN Refugee Agency over 100 million people are displaced by conflict, violence, persecution and instability worldwide. Conciliation Resources focuses on understanding and addressing grievances and injustices that fuel conflict and cause people to leave their homes and countries. We also work with displaced persons themselves, whether it be to ease tensions with host communities or to find representation and voice in political processes.

Who supports us?

We are grateful to receive invaluable support from governments, other institutions and individuals who believe in what we do. These include: the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the European Union, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Misereor and Robert Bosch Stiftung among many others.

"I think that Conciliation Resources knows that their partners have a lot of knowledge, and they really try to learn from the knowledge so they can perform their work in a better way. It is not mining of knowledge, is a way of learning."

Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director, Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica

Priorities

Partnership: This is central to Conciliation Resources' peacebuilding objectives and organisational ethos. We collaborate with over 100 diverse partners including international organisations, local civil society organisations, community and religious leaders, women's and youth groups, government agencies, business leaders and academics. We take a long term approach and accompany our partners by offering solidarity, facilitating dialogue, providing technical support and learning exchanges. 36% of our annual budget goes to partners.

Anti-racism and decolonisation: Racism is unjust. It undermines efforts to tackle exclusion, injustice and inequality which drive violent conflict. Conciliation Resources acknowledges that many conflicts have their roots in a colonial past and colonial practices which are built into society and also into the international aid sector. We do not tolerate racism and actively challenge behaviours that reinforce it, both within our organisation and in our external relations.

Local agency: We are committed to forging a peacebuilding sector where more power resides with those working for peace in their own societies. As an international partner to dialogue in conflict settings, we leverage the resources available to us – be they financial, expertise, access or networks – to support these efforts.

Call to action

The need for our work is greater than ever. Conciliation Resources is seeking to widen and diversify our network of supporters.

We need your help now to support people living with the consequences of war, and those whose voices are not heard. Email us or check out ways to give.

CONCILIATION RESOURCES

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