



Annual Report 2013



**CONCILIATION
RESOURCES**
working together for peace

Glossary

AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
BOND	British Overseas NGOs in Development	IREDD	Institute for Research and Democratic Development
BTC	Bangsamoro Transition Commission	JAW	Joint Analysis Workshop
CAB	Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro	JCCI	Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Jammu and Kashmir)
CAR	Central African Republic	JCF	Joint Consultative Forum
CBM	Confidence-Building Measure	JUPEDEC	<i>Jeunesse Unie pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Communautaire</i> (Youth United for the Protection of the Environment and Community Development)
CIASE	<i>Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica</i>	KIG	Kashmir Initiative Group
CLP	<i>Comités Locaux de Paix</i> (Local Peace Committees)	LoC	Line of Control (between Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
DFID	Department for International Development	MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
DPD	District Platform for Dialogue	MONUSCO	United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
DPKO	[UN] Department of Peacekeeping Operations	MRU	Mano River Union
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	NDF	National Democratic Front
EC	European Commission	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
EEAS	European External Action Service	ONLF	Ogaden National Liberation Front
EU	European Union	SAIPED	<i>Solidarité et Assistance Intégrale aux Personnes Démunies</i> (Solidarity and Integral Assistance to Destitute People)
EPLO	European Peacebuilding Liaison Office	SHWDA	Self-Help Women's Development Association
FARC	<i>Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia</i> (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)	UK	United Kingdom
FARDC	<i>Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo</i> (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo)	UN	United Nations
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GAPS	Gender Action for Peace and Security	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
GPH	Government of the Philippines	US	United States
GTF	Governance and Transparency Fund	WPS	Women Peace and Security Collective for Reflection and Action
HAFA	Humanitarian Aid Facilitation Act		
ICG	International Contact Group		
IDP	Internally Displaced Person		
IHASA	Institute for Horn of Africa Studies and Affairs		

Contents

Glossary	2
Foreword from the Executive Director	4
About Conciliation Resources	5
Impacts of our work	7
Priority 1: Support people to build peace	11
Priority 2: Strengthen peacebuilding policies and practice	15
Priority 3: Promote understanding of peaceful ways to resolve conflict	21
Priority 4: Create opportunities for dialogue between divided communities	25
Priority 5: Strengthen the organisation to deliver on our mission	28
Case studies	31
Going forward – plans for 2014	33
Publications in 2013	38

Foreword

By the end of 2013 there were 45.2 million people displaced by conflict and insecurity worldwide. The civil war in Syria alone has killed more than 150,000 people – including an estimated 50,000 civilians – and displaced 6.5 million. There should be no doubt that putting an end to all conflicts, “whether great or small, ancient or recent”¹ remains one of humanity’s greatest and most complex challenges.



The conflicts in Syria, the Central African Republic and Ukraine – and the enormity of the strategic international failures in Afghanistan and Iraq – demand that while we recognise the value of military force, we also see its limitations. There is a clear and compelling case for a much greater commitment to support people building peace over the long-term.

At Conciliation Resources we are demonstrating what an international NGO can achieve by collaborating with local people and organisations working to end and prevent violence. We now work with over 50 partner organisations in 18 conflict-affected countries, and are active with a number of regional platforms to share lessons and inform responses to conflict worldwide.

It is our organisational ambition to be able to point to examples of where we have contributed to a negotiated agreement or the prevention of an outbreak of violence. We will remember 2013 as the year the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed by the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, ending the war in Mindanao. We are proud of the part we played in that peace process, and of the roles played by the parties and our partners with whom we have worked over the years.

Over the last few years Conciliation Resources has grown in our reach, ambition and impact. Thanks to the support from our donors, our income in 2013 grew to £6 million – representing a 26 per cent increase since 2011. Though this is significant, we remain a niche organisation in our field, retaining the advantages and efficiencies that come with working at a scale that values human relations.

We hugely value the strategic funding partnerships that we currently enjoy with the British, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss governments. These have given us the security and flexibility to respond to opportunities and challenges, leverage other funds, and strengthen our own and partners’ capacities.

Strategic funding has also enabled us to make core improvements to the way we plan, monitor, evaluate, communicate and learn as an organisation. We are systematising the ways in which we capture, record and share evidence. We are developing our monitoring tools and experimenting with new ones. We have invested in an improved intranet and we remain an organisation that shares, reflects on and learns from its experiences.

This review of our work in 2013, while detailed, is not an exhaustive list of all our achievements. Nevertheless, it sets out the depth and breadth of our work and provides clear evidence of the difference we are making. I would like to thank the hard work of our very talented staff, the stewardship of our Board and the confidence and trust that our programme partners and our donors continue to vest in us.

We feel privileged to be able to do this work, and we thank you for your continued support. We hope, together, we can go on making a difference where it matters and demonstrating the potential of peacebuilding in transforming the global scourge of conflict.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Carl', written in a cursive style.

Andy Carl
Executive Director

1 From Pope Francis’ Easter 2014 address, ‘Urbi Et Orbi’, 20 April 2014



Kristian Herbolzheimer, Director of Philippines and Colombia Programmes, at the Research Forum on Gender, Peace and Security in Quezon City, Philippines © Claudine Callanta

About Conciliation Resources

Conciliation Resources is an independent organisation working with people in conflict to prevent violence and build peace. We commit to providing our advice, expertise and practical resources for the long-term. In addition, we take what we learn to government decision-makers and others working to end conflict, to improve policies and practice worldwide. Since 1994, Conciliation Resources has worked in partnership with local and international civil society actors, helping people work together to find their own solutions to the conflicts affecting them.

Our **vision** is a world where people work together to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Our **mission** is to provide practical support to help people affected by violent conflict achieve lasting peace. We draw on our shared experiences to improve peacebuilding policies and practice worldwide.

Important values to us include:

Collaboration: We believe in working together to build peace. We work closely with groups and individuals from all sections of society to ensure that people directly affected by conflict are involved in its resolution.

Perseverance: We are dedicated to creating a just and lasting peace. We know that building peace takes time and so make commitments for the long-term.

Understanding: We appreciate the complexities of each conflict, and use our shared knowledge and expertise to adapt our approaches.

Creativity: We are bold in our thinking and passionate in our convictions. We are prepared to challenge assumptions and find new ways to influence change.

Our strategic framework covers the period 2012–2014 and covers our five core priorities:

1. Support people to build peace.
2. Strengthen peacebuilding policies and practice.
3. Promote understanding of peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.
4. Create opportunities for dialogue between divided communities.
5. Strengthen the organisation to deliver on our mission.

We currently work in partnership with organisations in the following countries: Armenia and Azerbaijan (including the disputed territory of Nagorny Karabakh), the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia (including the disputed territory of Abkhazia), Guinea, India, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Uganda.

We also work with a wide variety of policymakers and practitioners around the world, with our

advocacy activities focused on European governments, the EU institutions, the UN and the United States.

We publish *Accord: an international review of peace initiatives* to ensure that lessons of peacemaking are analysed, documented and readily available. Conciliation Resources recognises the importance of working with networks and platforms and is active with the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) Steering Committee, the US-based Alliance for Peacebuilding, BOND (UK), and is a founding member of the Mediation Support Network.

Conciliation Resources focuses on six key thematic areas, which are reflected across our regional programmes, our policy work and in our organisational learning:

Public participation

Promoting public participation in peace processes and conflict transformation has always been a critical part of our work and remains key to what we do. We place an emphasis on linking local voices and perspectives into more official peace processes. We also focus on participatory conflict analysis and advocacy, both as an integral part of our programme approach and as a policy issue. We explore particular elements of inclusion in more depth, including the impact of gender roles, and promote greater international understanding of how to support more legitimate politics that enable conflict resolution.

Engaging armed groups

Engaging armed groups in dialogue is essential to ending violence. We continue to help promote and create opportunities for engagement with armed groups (where appropriate) through our regional programmes, through our policy work and through responding to requests from groups affected by conflict. Proscription – the act of listing an armed group as a designated terrorist organisation – remains a significant obstacle to engagement. We are one of the few organisations working in this area, and we will continue our work on this issue, building on our established name and expertise.

Peace processes, dialogue and mediation

Our geographic programmes continue to be actively involved in supporting peace processes and dialogue, often acting as a dynamic bridge across conflict divides and between informal and more formal dialogue processes. We seek to influence peace processes to make them more creative, effective and participatory. We use our involvement to share learning and

reflections to influence policy and emerging practice — particularly of mediation support, and the many paths to peace that can complement official negotiations.

Governance and peacebuilding

This thematic area has developed from multiple areas of our work including: programme-led work in four regions addressing the governance challenges in conflict-affected contexts; policy work on governance, accountability and development effectiveness; exploration of the challenges of engaging with unrecognised or partially-recognised entities (for example, in Nagorny Karabakh and Abkhazia) and military regimes in transition (Fiji). We aim to promote a deeper understanding of issues relating to legitimacy in peace and transition processes as well as conflict transformation.

Cross-border peacebuilding

War does not respect political or territorial boundaries. It forms part of wider, regional conflict systems through dynamics that cross borders: refugee flows, mobile armed groups, narcotic or criminal networks, trade, or psychosocial ties. We recognise the need to analyse, understand and respond to conflicts as systems rather than through the traditional country-by-country basis of many interventions.

Women/gender, peace and security

Men and women experience conflict in distinctive ways. Women have a vital contribution to make in building peace, yet their voices are too often not heard or listened too. At Conciliation Resources, we work to ensure that women are able to contribute meaningfully to peace processes and become strategic change agents of conflict transformation. Our role involves creating safe spaces for women to voice their opinions, and supporting women to develop the skills they need to play more dynamic roles. We also support our partners to confront deeper questions about gender roles in the creation of conflict, and the potential for men and women to work together to transform their societies during and in the wake of conflict.



Signing of the Comprehensive Agreement at Malacañan Palace in Manila, Philippines © Malacañang Photo Bureau

Impacts of our work

In our *Strategic Framework 2012-2014* we set out our overarching ambition that by 2015 we will be able to point to several examples where Conciliation Resources' influence and efforts have helped to end a conflict or prevent an outbreak of violence, and where we have had an impact on peacebuilding policy and/or practice. Here are several examples from 2013 that demonstrate how we are having an impact in this area:

The Philippines: Mediating peace

On 25 January 2014, the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) successfully concluded 16 years of negotiations. The Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)² marks the end of more than four decades of conflict in the southern Philippines, which led to more than 120,000 deaths and about a million displaced people. It is the most significant peace agreement in the world since the Comprehensive Peace Accord between the Government of Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in 2006.

The Agreement provides for the creation of a new self-governing entity known as the

Bangsamoro that will govern the Muslim-dominated areas in the island of Mindanao and the adjacent Sulu archipelago, within the Republic of the Philippines.

.....
The Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro seeks to put an end to four decades of armed conflict.
.....

The protracted negotiations allowed an innovative and increasingly complex peace-support architecture to develop, in which Conciliation Resources played an important contributing role.

Conciliation Resources' critical role

Throughout 2013, Conciliation Resources supported the peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the MILF as a member of the International Contact Group (ICG)³, which has been advising the conflict parties over the past four years. To date this is the first and only international mediation support mechanism where NGOs and diplomats work together in a formal and sustained setting.

² The final annex of the Framework Agreement was signed on 25 January 2014 – effectively concluding negotiations – while the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro was signed on 27 March 2014.

³ Composed of four states - Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Kingdom – and four international NGOs – Saint Egidio Community, Muhammadiyah, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and Conciliation Resources.

As a trusted interlocutor we became a critical reference point in the ICG for the Malaysian facilitator and the parties. We produced discussion papers on sensitive topics such as policing and shuttled between the parties at the request of the facilitator. We also contributed to the terms of reference of different agreement implementation bodies.

Gender-sensitivity and inclusion

The Mindanao peace process has been heralded as one of the most gender-sensitive in the world, with women playing a key role in the process. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Chair of the Government of the Philippines peace panel (and a former partner of Conciliation Resources when she ran an NGO) is the first woman to have represented a Government as the lead negotiator and signatory of a peace agreement when the CAB was signed on 27 March 2014.

With our experience in promoting the inclusion of excluded groups in peace processes, Conciliation Resources took on the role of informal gender adviser to the peace talks. We facilitated discussion on Muslim women's participation in peace processes, including through the production of a comparative paper looking at Muslim women's engagement in other conflict and peace contexts - *Muslim women in peace processes: Reflections for dialogue in Mindanao* -

with suggestions on how Bangsamoro women could participate in efforts to promote peace in ways compatible with social norms in the Philippines and Mindanao.

Conciliation Resources also played an instrumental role in facilitating public and civil society participation in the talks. We supported a number of civil society organisations (CSOs) to attend the 39th and 40th round of peace talks, which marked the first time that CSOs were allowed to observe the negotiations.

Implementing a successful peace accord

The Bangsamoro Framework Agreement establishes a clear roadmap for implementation, with a transition phase anticipated to run until May 2016, when national, regional and local elections will be held. Implementation will not be easy, however, with wide arms proliferation, politicians who fear change in the status quo, and deep distrust between and among social and political groups in the new Bangsamoro region.

.....
Increased public participation increases the legitimacy of the implementation process, which in turn helps to ensure the sustainability of any peace agreement.
.....



Bangsamoro women make recommendations on the Bangsamoro Basic Law © Conciliation Resources/Irene de la Torre

Conciliation Resources will now focus on supporting the successful implementation of the Agreement by promoting principles of broad ownership, transparency and inclusivity.

With support from the EU and the UK Government, and in collaboration with our Mindanao-based partners, we are coordinating wide-ranging activities to promote public participation in three areas: developing the Basic Law of the new self-governing Bangsamoro entity; ensuring a community-responsive police force for the Bangsamoro; and identifying an effective and acceptable approach for dealing with the past.

Uganda: Reinstatement of the Amnesty Act enables LRA defections and return

Since the lapse of the Ugandan Amnesty Act (2000) in May 2012, Conciliation Resources and our partners in the region have advocated for its reinstatement as a crucial mechanism that enables defections from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), contributing to a peaceful end to the conflict. Part II of the Act provides amnesty for non-indicted members of the LRA, allowing them to return home safely once they denounce the rebellion and lay down their arms.

On 24 May 2013, following a year of concerted advocacy by communities and civil society, the Parliament of Uganda unanimously voted to reinstate the Amnesty Act.

.....

The reinstated Amnesty Act contains language and recommendations from the draft Act that Conciliation Resources developed together with amnesty experts and our Ugandan partners.

.....

In 2013, Conciliation Resources worked with a broad-based coalition of civil society organisations, including the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative and the Justice and Peace Commission, as well as experts on amnesty, to produce a draft of the Amnesty Act. The draft Act was presented to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and members of the Ugandan Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs. The reinstated Amnesty Act contains language and recommendations from this draft.

We brought together local community leaders with Members of Parliament from northern Uganda to discuss the implications of removing the Amnesty Act in Uganda. These MPs subsequently met with the Ugandan President to discuss the Amnesty Act. We also used our

extensive network of partners outside of Uganda to raise the issue with political leaders in the region. In South Sudan, Vice President Reik Machar wrote a letter to the Ugandan President to express South Sudanese concerns on the lapsing of the Amnesty Law.

This experience has given our partners in Uganda and the region the confidence, experience and channels of influence to continue and expand their dialogue with authorities. These authorities, once reluctant to engage and listen to the groups we work with, are now requesting our partners' advice and support.

Women/gender: Strengthening the global commitment to women's roles in peacebuilding

Conciliation Resources' policy team engages with decision-makers around the world to encourage greater inclusion of women and further implementation of the women, peace and security framework set out in UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.

In October 2013, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted resolution 2122, addressing challenges to women's participation in peace and conflict arenas. Its passing has rebalanced the recent narrower focus on sexual violence by putting forward a more holistic approach to peace and security and participation.

Our *Accord Insight on Women building peace*, launched in New York in September 2013 in the lead-up to the adoption of UNSCR 2122, examines the roles women have played in addressing violence in contexts as diverse as Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Northern Ireland. During their chairmanship of the Security Council, the Australian Mission to the UN hosted the launch event of *Accord Insight* and stated that it had been critically timed to contribute to the adoption of UNSCR 2122 by building momentum and providing evidence of the importance of and possibilities for women's participation in peacebuilding.

“We are keen to point to the valuable discussions that took place at the 6 September [2013] event and how they helped feed into UNSCR 2122 on the importance of women's participation, which was adopted by the Council the following month.”

Representative of the Australian Mission to the UN

Public participation: UN Peacekeeping guidance recognises importance of local perspectives

Our experience shows that local actors closest to the conflict have insights and perspectives that can inform more effective and conflict-sensitive strategies by international actors. In 2013, using the findings of our EU-funded People's Peacemaking Perspectives project with Saferworld (2010-2012), Conciliation Resources conducted advocacy in Brussels, Washington and New York on the importance of involving local actors and civil society in conflict and peacebuilding analysis. We met with the Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and high-level officials in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Department of Political Affairs, among others.

Our messages were taken up by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the drafting of their guidance for the 17 UN peacekeeping operations worldwide on 'Understanding and integrating local perceptions in multi-dimensional UN peacekeeping.' The final guidance, published in November 2013, incorporates Conciliation Resources' conclusions and recommendations on local participation in conflict analysis and peacebuilding, making specific reference to our work in East and Central Africa, our *People's Peacemaking Perspectives policy paper*, and our *Accord 13* publication on *Owning the process: Public participation in peacemaking*.



Women in Gulu, northern Uganda, take an active role in community peacebuilding © Conciliation Resources/ Sarah Bradford



IDPs face an ongoing struggle for rights and recognition in Georgia © Dato Meshki

Priority 1: Support people to build peace

At the heart of Conciliation Resources' work is our conviction that peace is ultimately built and sustained by the communities that are directly affected by armed conflict. In all conflict contexts there are courageous people working to support their communities to deal with violence and how it affects their lives. But often they work in isolation, lacking the support, capacity and resources required to play a meaningful role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes and ultimately ensure that their communities' needs and situation are fully understood and represented in these processes.

In 2013, we supported partners and other civic organisations to develop their capabilities as peacebuilders. We assisted them to better understand the power of their work to promote tolerance and sustainable solutions and to learn from other conflict situations. Our work also enabled them to engage with and influence their governments, often in challenging contexts.

Below we provide examples of our work helping partners to make a difference in peoples' lives:

South Caucasus: Displaced people in Georgia and Azerbaijan find their voices

In 2012, we reported on the growing influence of the Synergy network – supported by Conciliation Resources for over a decade – as a force in

promoting the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia. In 2013, Synergy's influence at the national policymaking level was strengthened. Synergy members (local organisations working on IDP issues) gained permanent representation on three ministerial working groups, enabling them to play active roles in shaping government policies, ensuring these took into account the needs of IDP communities. With Conciliation Resources' support in areas of project design and proposal drafting, the Institute for the Study of Nationalism and Conflict (coordinator of the Synergy network) has secured funding from the UK Government to further embed the political participation of IDPs.

In Azerbaijan, by contrast, there were until recently few civil society organisations representing the interests of IDPs and refugees. In 2013, we supported several Azeri NGOs to come together in a coalition known as 'Opportunities through Unity' aimed at fostering more grassroots IDP activism to promote the rights of three quarters of a million people displaced by the Nagorny Karabakh war. Coalition members have actively addressed displacement issues across Azerbaijan, engaging with IDP settlements, government and local authorities. We also facilitated learning exchanges between members of the Synergy network in Georgia and the Opportunities through Unity coalition, enabling a transfer of experiences, skills and knowledge.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo: Local peace committees counter LRA threat

Since 2005, Conciliation Resources has implemented a pioneering cross-border peacebuilding programme funded by the Royal Norwegian Government, focusing on LRA-affected communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan. In the DRC, Conciliation Resources and our local partners, SAIPED and the Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission, have supported the formation of 18 local peace committees (comités locaux de paix or CLPs). These committees work to counter LRA abductions by disseminating early warning messages to local communities and sharing information on a weekly or bi-weekly basis with security forces, MONUSCO and FARDC.

.....

When an unidentified armed group terrorised the Kakwa community over several months, the local CLP, together with CDJPR and MONUSCO, successfully lobbied the Governor of Province Orientale to address the problem.

.....

In 2013, with accompaniment from Conciliation Resources, the CLPs began work on conflict dynamics beyond the LRA, including land, identity and displacement issues. They are now sharing their methodologies and experiences with counterparts from communities in South Sudan and the CAR. A mid-term review of the project conducted in 2013 by an external consultant found that:

“The project’s added value is that it engages with many of the conflict dynamics in the region, including longstanding land and identity issues, recent conflicts caused and/or exacerbated by displacement, and cross-border groups such as the Mbororo and poachers. If the LRA conflict were resolved in the coming years, these structures would provide a strong basis for developing conflict-resilient communities in the region.”⁴

⁴ Mid-Term Review of ‘Cross-border peacebuilding programme in LRA-affected areas’. Dr Laura Davis, October 2013, p16.

Fiji: Civil society groups adapt to a changing political landscape

2013 saw major changes in Fiji: in January the government rejected the draft constitution that had been developed through a process of public consultation led by an independent Constitution Commission (whose Secretariat Conciliation Resources had helped to establish and manage), and subsequently enacted its own constitution by military decree. It was announced that the elections would be held in September 2014 – the first since the coup in 2006.

Against this changing political backdrop, Conciliation Resources supported our partners – the Fiji Women’s Rights Movement, the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Dialogue Fiji and the Citizen’s Constitutional Forum – to adapt their strategic approaches to this new context. This included election scenario planning and development of strategies to guide their engagement with the government and other stakeholders. We also facilitated our partners’ access to international expertise and analysis on the new constitution, enabling them to undertake more informed and effective advocacy.

In the runup to the elections in September 2014, our partners are now better equipped to open up spaces for political debate and dialogue at different levels in Fiji, and to respond to longer-term changes in the political landscape.

Kashmir: Building strong cross-Line of Control platforms for peacebuilding

On both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, Conciliation Resources has been supporting the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and the Kashmir Initiative Group (KIG) (both groundbreaking cross-LoC groups) to strengthen their capacities to conduct effective dialogue and advocacy with political actors to influence the peace process.⁵

.....

The Kashmir Initiative Group is the first cross-LoC peacebuilding platform, bringing together key influencers with diverse identities and political ideologies to bridge the gap between local civil society and policymakers.

.....

With Conciliation Resources’ support, the KIG, which was formalised in 2013, has evolved into

⁵ Kashmir denotes the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir comprising Indian and Pakistani Administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

a credible peacebuilding platform and built relationships with key stakeholders across a broad political spectrum in India, Pakistan and within Kashmir. In 2013, Conciliation Resources brought members of the KIG to Cyprus for a week-long learning and strategic visioning event. Participants met with international and local peacebuilding organisations working in Cyprus to draw lessons from the conflict and local peacebuilding initiatives.

The JCCI is made up of federations of business and industries from both sides of the LoC. Formally institutionalised in 2011, it was the first joint institution to be formed in Kashmir in more than 65 years. With ongoing support and training from Conciliation Resources, the JCCI has become influential in advocating for greater trade and investment linkages across the LoC as a way of improving relations and paving the way for long-term conflict transformation. In January 2014, when trade was shut down due to confrontations between the Indian and Pakistani authorities, the JCCI successfully mobilised support from civil society in order to persuade authorities to resume the trade.

Nigeria: Local peacebuilders lead on community security in Plateau State

In Nigeria's Plateau State, political, economic and religious violence has left over 10,000 people dead, 150,000 displaced and millions of livelihoods disrupted since 2001. Conciliation Resources has been working with communities in Jos, Plateau State since mid 2012, to build cohesion and resilience to violent conflict and empower communities to advocate to government to improve their security.

We secured Commonwealth Fellow Scholarships for eight community peacebuilding leaders working in Jos to train in the UK in April and October 2013. The Fellows came from across the religious spectrum and included three youth leaders. They successfully developed their skills in conflict transformation, dialogue and advocacy, met with UK policymakers (including the Deputy Director and the Human Rights Coordinator for Nigeria at the FCO, and the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Nigeria) and established links with peacebuilding actors from Northern Ireland giving the opportunity to exchange experiences and share learning.

On their return to Nigeria, Conciliation Resources has continued to support the Fellows, who are leading community dialogues in five divided communities in Jos and have advocated with security officials for a more coherent

and constructive response to the violence in Plateau State.

The Central African Republic: Inter-faith leaders come together to promote dialogue and reconciliation

Since the March 2013 coup by the Séléka coalition, the long-neglected crisis in the CAR has continued to escalate, with a breakdown of law, order and service delivery and an increase in inter-communal tensions and violence. Conciliation Resources has been working with local partners in LRA-affected communities in eastern CAR since 2008. In 2013, as the situation escalated towards civil war, we began working with religious leaders in Bangui (Catholic, Evangelical and Muslim) to promote dialogue and reconciliation between fractured communities, and to support an infrastructure for peace at the national level. The establishment of a secretariat for this inter-faith peace platform is part of an 18-month project funded by the EU.

In 2014, Conciliation Resources and the religious leaders will support the formation of 'local peace committees' in Bangui, based on the model used in the DRC, as well as in four prefectures outside the capital. These committees will document incidents of violence to identify trends and factors causing micro-level conflict, and will implement local reconciliation initiatives with a view to influencing national trends.



Commerce in Kashmir © Conciliation Resources/ Jonathan Cohen

Engaging young people

Fiji: Almost a quarter of Fiji's population will be first time voters in 2014 and over half of all voters will be under the age of 35. With little to no personal experience of representative government and democratic processes, initiatives such as the Fiji Young Women's Forum are supporting young women to actively engage in matters that affect them.

The Fiji Young Women's Forum, held in November 2013 and co-convened by the Fiji Women's Rights Movement with support from Conciliation Resources, brought together a diverse group of 30 female leaders aged between 18 and 30 years from across Fiji who are working towards the country's democratisation process. This was the first in a series of workshops aimed at encouraging the political participation of young women in the 2014 election.

“A key goal of the Fiji Young Women's Forum is to empower young women to lobby political parties, candidates and decision-makers for better representation and inclusion of young women's issues.”

Mamta Chand, Coordinator, Fiji Young Women's Forum

Kashmir: The longstanding dispute between India and Pakistan has taken a particular toll on the young people of Kashmir, yet there are very few channels for them to voice their perspectives on the conflict.

In 2013, Conciliation Resources published two complementary studies on the situation faced by young people in Kashmir: *The impact of conflict on young people in Azad Jammu and Kashmir* and *'Living in a pressure cooker situation': a needs assessment of youth in India-administered Kashmir* (Conciliation Resources' local partners on either side of the LoC prepared the reports).

Hundreds of youth participated in focus group discussions on both sides of the LoC as part of the research process. The studies, which were circulated widely in the region, found that the



Young Fijian women celebrate Fiji Peace Day
© Citizens' Constitutional Forum

conflict has severely damaged young people's prospects for gaining quality education and meaningful employment, and that young people are frustrated by an inability to contribute to change.

“I can't focus on my life until the political conflict is resolved. I am not able to follow any of my plans ... Our future is getting destroyed.”

“We have the courage but the space [for political engagement] is not there.”

The studies form the first stage of the participatory research project that will lead to the publication in 2014/15 of a 'Youth Vision 2020' document, outlining young people's vision for positive change and helping to redefine debates and discussion on the future.



Traders celebrate the reopening of trade across the LoC at Chakothi bridge, Jammu and Kashmir
© Muhammad Arif Urfi

Priority 2: Strengthen peacebuilding policies and practice

To establish long-term, sustainable peace it is necessary to look beyond military responses and to address the underlying causes of conflict. Processes and institutions that promote people's rights and address exclusion are an integral part of peacebuilding. Yet national and international efforts to prevent and resolve violent conflict and support post-conflict recovery are often poorly informed by the views and experiences of people directly affected by violence and instability. Likewise, they often lack an understanding of local processes of conflict resolution, or comparative experience of peacebuilding practice in other contexts.

Our unique contributions to international peacebuilding policy and practice is our ability to bring the views and voices of populations affected by conflict to the global policy arena.

An independent evaluation of Conciliation Resources work in 2012 revealed a high-level of trust and regard for Conciliation Resources among policymakers and a consensus that our evidence and analysis informs their approach.

“*Conciliation Resources is a trusted and impartial actor that is willing to work discretely ... and with little direct*

recognition, to pursue important policy objectives that benefit the field of peacebuilding.”⁶

Conciliation Resources' work under this priority is at a variety of levels: local, national, regional and international. Actions to change policy and practice can take a number of years to see results. Our impact measurements reflect not only evidence of change to policy or practice, but also changes in attitude and perception by policymakers, and a change in the quality of relationship and dialogue between civil society and government.

Below are examples of our work in 2013 under this priority area:

Fiji: Civil society engages with the military government on their draft constitution

Fiji's fourth constitution in 44 years was signed into law in September 2013. It vests sole legislative authority in a one-chamber parliament, which will be convened following a

⁶ Independent Progress Review of Conciliation Resources' Programme Partnership Agreement. The IDL group, October 2012.

national election in 2014. This version replaces the constitution that had been thrown out by the military government in 2009.

The 2013 constitution, which establishes the framework and institutional arrangements for the country's future democracy, was written and instituted by the government itself. The government had earlier rejected a draft drawn up by the independent Constitution Commission of Fiji, which had been informed by an extensive public consultation process that Conciliation Resources had helped to facilitate.

In the immediate aftermath of the government announcing its own draft of the constitution, Conciliation Resources provided support to civil society's scrutiny of the draft and brought three constitutional lawyers to Fiji to conduct a review. This highlighted serious issues in the new draft, including the immunity it provides for members of the current military regime, limitations on human and political rights, and impediments against any future attempt to amend the constitution by lawful means.

On the basis of this review, during a brief period of limited public consultation on the proposed constitution in March 2013, our partners advocated directly to the Fiji government as well as to key international actors with influence on the government. Several of the issues raised – including the need to unambiguously separate the government and the military – were subsequently incorporated into the final 2013 constitution, which bars serving members of the Armed Forces from politics. In line with this, on 5 March 2014 the Prime Minister stood down as head of the military in order to form his own political party and contest the forthcoming election.

Kashmir: Messages on cross-LoC confidence-building reach policymakers in India and Pakistan

Conciliation Resources and our partners' messages on confidence building measures (CBMs) are increasingly being recognised by policymakers in India and Pakistan. The Kashmir Initiative Group (KIG), a new platform bringing together 'thought leaders' from across the divide and supported by Conciliation Resources, published its first public paper in September 2013 entitled *Background to the Kashmir conflict: challenges and opportunities*. A policy brief on *Institutionalising confidence building measures on Kashmir* followed in December 2013.

The first policy papers developed by a group of Kashmiris from across the LoC were presented and widely circulated to influential policymakers, senior journalists and prominent civil society groups. In the latter part of 2013, amidst an escalation of tensions at the LoC, the KIG offered structured recommendations to policymakers in India and Pakistan.

The KIG publications have generated interest among policymakers from other contexts – such as the UN Representative for Georgia – for injecting new thinking on CBMs and peace processes.

Colombia: Peace Forums enable Colombian diaspora to participate in the peace process

In September 2012, the Colombian government announced a new effort to negotiate with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). It was the fourth attempt in 45 years to reach a negotiated settlement. Learning from failures in the past, Conciliation Resources was keen to ensure that the perspectives of Colombians were heard as part of the negotiation process.

In May 2013, Conciliation Resources co-organised a series of 'Colombia Peace Forums' in London, Brussels, Paris and Barcelona. The forums, attended by five representatives of the Commission for Peace of the Colombian Congress, were a unique opportunity for more than 500 members of the Colombian diaspora living in the UK, Belgium, France and Spain to contribute directly to the peace process and the construction of an inclusive future.

In total, 200 proposals developed from the forums were presented to the Congressional Peace Commission and the UNDP, who then delivered the documents to the government and FARC through the guarantor countries, Norway and Cuba.

.....
Organising the Colombia Peace Forums was itself an important process of conciliation – historically, the Colombian diaspora has felt marginalised from political debate in the country.
.....

“The most important thing is the example we are giving to the government, to the guerrillas and to the country: that, yes, we can reach agreements.”

Participant in the peace forums



Participants at the Colombia Peace Forum in London, May 2013 © Simon Rawles

The Philippines: Supporting an inclusive transition to peace

In 2013, Conciliation Resources launched two complementary projects aimed at linking the high-level peace process in the Philippines with engagement at community level, particularly with marginalised groups. The first initiative, funded by the UK Government, involved 72 consultations with 2,750 women, including Muslim and indigenous women from all sectors of society. The consultations resulted in recommendations to the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) in key areas such as protection from violence and political participation. Never before in this traditional society have women been given the space to lead such a process. Their high-level of engagement is a reflection of the deep commitment of women to building a better Bangsamoro.

“We want equal rights for all women and men in the Bangsamoro. We want to be free from all forms of violence and discrimination. We want better access to education, health facilities and other basic services.”

Commissioner Froilyn Mendoza, co-founder of the Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc.

The BTC was created in February 2013 and tasked with drafting the Basic Law or the new 'constitution' for the new autonomous region. Conciliation Resources has been engaged by the Commission to facilitate broad public participation in the development of the Basic Law, with a formal MoU signed in November 2013.

Our second initiative, funded by the EU, focuses on ensuring that the implementation of the Peace Agreement responds to the needs and priorities of the conflict-affected communities, and that the new Basic Law of the Bangsamoro is endorsed by people from all sectors of society. Working with eight local partners from different political, geographic, ethnic and gender backgrounds, the consultations have so far reached a total of 6,900 people and promoted a sense of ownership of the new peace settlement.

Engaging armed groups: Highlighting the importance of engagement through dialogue

International policy is commonly unclear about how, whether and when to talk to armed groups. Counter-terrorism legislation and related proscription policies make engagement with non-

state armed groups a challenge. Yet without the engagement of armed groups in a peace process, a long-lasting resolution to conflict is unlikely to be reached.

Conciliation Resources is recognised as an expert on this topic, providing policymakers with guidance on engaging with armed groups at different stages of a peace process, and actively engaging in debates. In 2013, we organised a series of workshops bringing together mediators, civil society experts, academics and counter-terrorism professionals. We participated in high-level discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on issues around proscription and engaging armed groups, submitted arguments and ideas to the Foreign Secretary, and raised concerns with the UK Charity Commission on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on INGOs operating in conflict-affected contexts.

In the United States, the Humanitarian Aid Facilitation Act (HAFA) was introduced as draft legislation in November 2013 in an attempt to remove barriers to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas controlled by proscribed armed groups. The legislation, if passed, has the potential to help end violent conflicts by removing the threat of prosecution for those engaged in peacebuilding and mediation work with blacklisted groups. Conciliation Resources was one of few organisations in the UK that publicised HAFA and its potential implications for peacebuilding and mediation.

.....
Our next *Accord Insight* publication, to be published in autumn 2014, will explore how civil society and local communities engage with armed groups.
.....

Post-2015: Putting peace and security at the heart of the post-2015 agenda

Throughout 2013 we actively supported the efforts of global civil society networks to ensure issues of armed conflict and violence, and support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention, are reflected in the post-2015 development framework. This included participation in regular meetings with UK government officials and discussions with EU officials. We contributed ideas, language and recommendations to key texts informing the developing thinking, such as the 'Interim Beyond 2015 Position Paper' for the UN Thematic Consultation on Conflict Fragility and Disaster.

The results of this concerted advocacy can be seen in an emerging consensus on the centrality of peace and security for development among governments and multilateral institutions. The UN High Level Panel Report on the post-2015 framework (issued in May 2013) featured peace and security prominently, while the EC's Official Communication on the post-2015 framework highlights peace and security as key elements for inclusion in a future framework.

West Africa: Border community perspectives inform regional security strategies

In 2013, Conciliation Resources continued its work with partners in West Africa to advocate for improved governance and security responses in the Mano River Union (MRU) border regions. The conflicts in the MRU region – which span Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea – have led to more than 300,000 deaths, displaced millions of people and contributed to widespread economic underdevelopment.

In July 2013, Conciliation Resources facilitated the participation of two members of the civil society VOICE Network in a high-level MRU meeting in Dakar, to bring a civil society perspective to discussions on the new MRU Peace and Security Strategy. Participants included the MRU Heads of Government and representatives of the UN Missions in Sierra Leone, Guinea Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, ECOWAS, the African Union and the Africa Development Bank. At a follow-up meeting in Freetown in December 2013, three Conciliation Resources partners from the VOICE network participated and it was agreed that the MRU Secretariat and civil society representatives would work together to adapt the MRU Peace and Security Strategy.

Also in December, Conciliation Resources and our partners IREDD (Liberia) and ABC Development (Guinea) participated in a meeting in Abidjan to discuss cross-border community security. Drawing on Conciliation Resources' experience of establishing and supporting District Platforms for Dialogue (DPDs) in border communities of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, the meeting looked at how this model – which bridges the gap between communities, civil society actors and authorities – could be translated to communities along the Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia border. It was agreed that in 2014 work would commence in establishing these new DPDs.



Janet Adama Mohammed, West Africa Programme Director, at a community peacebuilding workshop in Plateau State, Nigeria © Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN)

East and Central Africa: International advocacy challenges the elusive and costly search for a military resolution to the LRA conflict

Throughout 2013 we sought to challenge the 'military victory approach' to the LRA conflict by providing policymakers with essential guidance on policy options, challenges and tactics. Working with partners in the DRC we sought to strengthen the civilian protection agenda and the dynamic local processes of engagement, defection and reintegration.

“The strength and leverage of Conciliation Resources' advocacy stems from its excellent network and access to areas few actors (and almost no external actors) can reach.”⁷

In September 2013, Conciliation Resources and our local partners SAIPED (from the DRC), the Inter Church Peace Community and Totto Chan (from South Sudan) and JUPEDDEC (from the CAR) came together in Brussels with other peacebuilders from the region and international NGOs working on the LRA conflict, including Invisible Children and Resolve. It was the first time organisations with differing approaches to the LRA conflict met and agreed on common areas of action. The meeting led to a *joint statement* that highlights the most pressing priorities in addressing the crisis in LRA-affected areas. The statement argues that lasting security can only be achieved through the extension of accountable

state institutions, which are particularly weak or altogether absent in LRA-affected areas of the DRC, the CAR and South Sudan. The statement for the first time established a common voice for local and international civil society, articulating local perspectives that are rarely heard.

Nigeria: Round table on Plateau conflict highlights importance of community engagement

In Nigeria's Plateau State, where Conciliation Resources is working with local communities to help them build their capacities to address violent sectarian conflicts, we organised a round table meeting bringing together key peacebuilding and security actors. The meeting was attended by the Governor's Advisor on Peacebuilding, the Police, the Special Security Services, Operation Rainbow, INGOs (including Search for Common Ground and Mennonite Central Committee), representatives from the five communities with which we are working, and members of the Grassroots Peace Advancement Team (trained by Conciliation Resources).

This was a rare and important opportunity for local peace actors to engage with national and international actors on issues around conflict and insecurity, and to highlight the range of local initiatives seeking to address the violence. The meeting produced a number of recommendations to improve security and peacebuilding interventions, including the need for more support of isolated rural communities affected by conflict, and for security agencies to undertake more regular and participatory conflict analysis informed by visits to conflict-affected communities.

⁷ Mid-Term Review of 'Cross-border peacebuilding programme in LRA-affected areas'. Dr Laura Davis, October 2013, p15.



Rev Mboligihe Ndal, director of Radio RTK, which broadcasts information on the LRA and messages of reconciliation to communities in north-east DRC and South Sudan © Tom Bradley

Priority 3: Promote understanding of peaceful ways to resolve conflicts

Conciliation Resources works with partners to raise levels of public awareness of peace-related issues, and to challenge widely held stereotypes. We do this in a number of ways, all of which aim to accurately convey the perspectives of individuals and communities affected by conflict.

In the communities in which we work, our aim is to facilitate deeper understanding of their conflicts, and the options for building more peaceful societies. We raise awareness of governance, human rights and gender issues that can stand in the way of building peace. Films, documentaries and radio programmes can help to foster greater understanding and tolerance in conflict settings, and encourage communities to become involved in conversations about and activities to promote conflict transformation.

At the international level, we use media, research reports, policy papers and our participation in policy discussions to raise awareness of new approaches and thinking around peacebuilding issues, and to advocate for creative, participatory approaches to building peace that take into account the opinions of people affected by conflict.

In 2013, Conciliation Resources provided an important source of analysis to the

international media on developments in the CAR, where we have been working since 2008. Our staff took part in interviews with The Guardian, BBC News, Channel 4, ITN, Reuters and Al Jazeera, emphasising the danger of reducing the conflict to a religious one between Christians and Muslims when there are in fact a range of power dynamics and inter-ethnic relationships at work.

In 2013, our communications tools provided individuals affected by conflict with platforms to share their stories with others. By doing so, we increased understanding of the impacts of conflict on people's lives, and together, we were able to challenge perceptions and attitudes.

Below we outline examples of our work under this priority area in 2013.

Colombia: Preparing for peace at the local level

In 2013, we supported our local partners in the Women Peace and Security Collective for Reflection and Action⁸ (WPS) through a process of

⁸ The collective was formed following an exchange programme organised by Conciliation Resources in 2011, bringing together women peacemakers from the Philippines and Colombia.

comparative learning, advice and accompaniment to launch a dynamic new peacebuilding initiative called the *Ethical Pact for a Country in Peace*. The Pact calls on Colombian society, policymakers and the international community to support the transformation of Colombian society to a peaceful one through a commitment to an agenda of 15 actions centred on the government's and the insurgency's own commitment to negotiate an end to the armed conflict. The Pact urges the parties not to leave the negotiating table until they reach agreement. It specifically highlights that there are paths in addition to the peace talks that can lead towards social change and a more peaceful society, and offers a roadmap for the ethical and inclusive transformation of Colombia.

The Pact was launched at an event organised by the WPS at the University Javeriana in Bogotá in October 2013, attended by over 330 people from a broad cross-section of Colombian society. Following the launch of the Pact, the WPS undertook an advocacy campaign to collect signatures supporting it, with some 3,000 signatories committed in the first month. The WPS is now turning the Pact into specific

tools that can be applied to peacebuilding at the national and community level.

Kashmir: Faith Divided film reveals a different side to the conflict

In 2013, Conciliation Resources launched a new film – *Faith Divided: Spirituality Caught in Conflict* – written and produced by two Kashmiri filmmakers, one from either side of the LoC. The documentary provides a compelling illustration of how the conflict has impacted Kashmiris across different faiths, and captures the voices of an older generation who remember a time when cultural and ethnic pluralism was the defining feature of Kashmiri society. The film was premiered at screenings in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, in September 2013, as well as with audiences from the diaspora community in Manchester, Birmingham and London. Over 250 people were reached through the screenings held in the UK and in Pakistan. After the screenings, interactive discussions took place with the participants sharing their views about the film and its theme.



Members of the WPS, Colombia which launched the *Ethical Pact for a Country in Peace* in 2013 © Women, Peace and Security Collective

Feedback from the diaspora audiences highlighted the film's impact on their views regarding the Kashmir conflict, with a shift towards a more inclusive approach. As a collaborative cross-LoC project, the process of jointly filming and editing the content was as important as the messages it contains, transforming the attitudes and relationships of those who participated in the project.

Ethiopia: Peace forums build diaspora confidence in the peace process

Conciliation Resources organised a series of 'peace forums' in London, Minnesota and Nairobi in 2013 with diaspora communities from the Somali Regional State, Ethiopia (Ogaden). The objective was to explore people's perspectives of and opportunities to participate in the Ogaden peace process and discuss alternatives to conflict in an effort to broaden and deepen the process.

.....

Diaspora communities can be important actors in peace and conflict processes in their countries of origin. Often seen as playing hardline roles, they can also function as bridge-builders and can help foster constructive dialogue processes or contribute to economic development.

.....

The Nairobi forum, which we co-organised with the Rift Valley Institute, drew participants from refugees, elders, journalists, youth groups, women's groups, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and former Ethiopian government officials. The participants of the Minnesota forum subsequently issued a press statement in support of the Kenyan-facilitated peace talks and called on the two parties to continue the talks. The London forum was organised by Conciliation Resources in collaboration with three community diaspora groups, with participants including former Members of the Somali regional parliament, former military officials, religious leaders, academics, journalists and businessmen.

The forums were successful in building collective interest and confidence in supporting the peace process as well as opening up broad discussion on finding a political solution to the Ogaden conflict.

East and Central Africa: Radio and *Voice of Peace* enable sharing of information amongst LRA-affected communities

In 2013, Conciliation Resources continued to work with partners across East and Central Africa to produce its grassroots newsletter, *Voice of Peace*. The quarterly newsletter links LRA-affected communities together across a large and diverse region, providing a unique platform to share information and experiences on the conflict. It includes updates, commentary and personal stories that come directly from the people affected by the LRA conflict. It is also distributed to local, national, regional and international policymakers, bringing to their attention the perspectives of local people. In 2013, Conciliation Resources produced three editions of *Voice of Peace*, in English and French.

Radio continues to be an important channel for communicating with communities as well as LRA members in the bush. In 2013, our partner SAIPED worked with two local radio stations in eastern DRC: Bomoko⁹ and Radio RTK¹⁰, broadcasting programmes on the conflict on a regular basis. The broadcasts have become vital sources of information for communities, informing them about the security situation and the risks posed by the LRA in order to reduce their vulnerability to sudden attacks. The programmes also contain messages targeted at LRA members, encouraging them to defect and return home, and encouraging local communities to accept returnees and reintegrate them into the community. Anecdotal evidence indicates these radio programmes have a wide audience and have contributed to reducing security risks and preventing and resolving local conflicts.

.....

After the Local Peace Committee in Li-May village in the DRC had heard a radio programme on how to resolve land disputes involving LRA returnees, it asked Conciliation Resources' partner SAIPED to conduct training for the committee and local leaders. Following the training, local leaders were able to resolve ten land disputes in their area.

.....

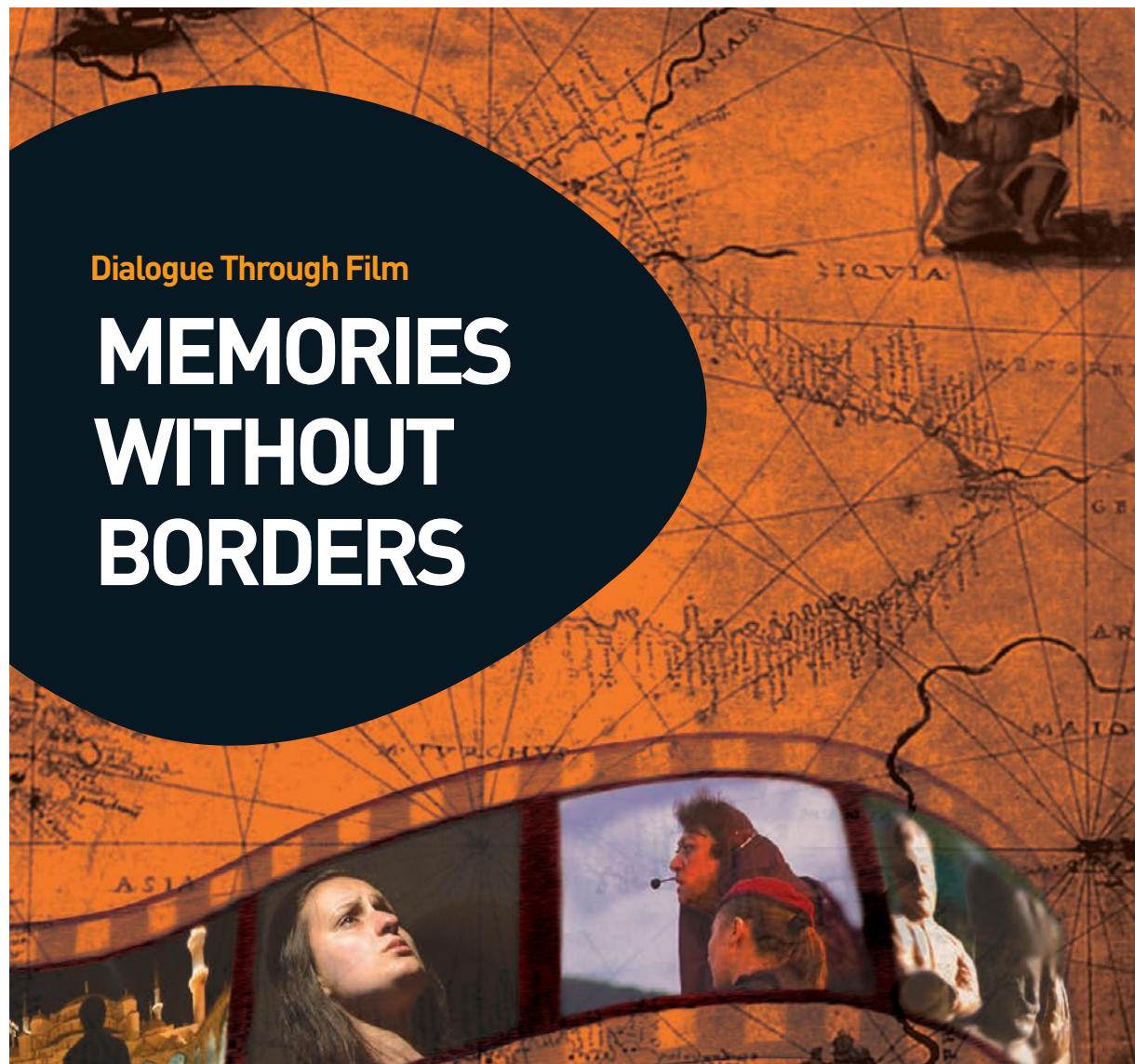
9 Around 53,000 people in and around Dungu, DRC, listen to Bomoko on a daily basis.

10 RTK covers the Haut Uélé district, DRC with a range of around 250km. It is the only radio that can reach South Sudan, and has daily listening figures of 250,000 people.

South Caucasus: *Memories Without Borders* film reaches new audiences with message of reconciliation

In 2013, Conciliation Resources brought the film *Memories Without Borders* to new audiences in the South Caucasus and in Western Europe. The film is part of our ongoing 'Dialogue Through Film' initiative and is the result of a two-year collaboration between a group of Turkish, Armenian and Azerbaijani filmmakers, addressing themes of conflict, exile and memory. It features perspectives from people living in different communities in Istanbul, the contested territory of Nagorny Karabakh, the Azerbaijani capital of Baku and southern Armenia. Running through all the stories is the common thread of unresolved violence spanning generations.

In March 2013, *Memories Without Borders* was screened to audiences of policymakers and diaspora members in Bern, Brussels, Paris and London, having earlier been screened in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2013, the film was also translated into Russian and screened to Russian-speaking audiences in the Georgian cities of Marneuli, Tbilisi, and Akhalkalaki. Reactions to the film among audiences and the media have been positive. The creators behind the film participated in Q&A sessions following the screenings, with discussions ranging from issues such as trade incentives between Armenians and Azerbaijanis to the role that creative arts can play in reconciliation. The events generated positive publicity and were covered by BBC Turkish and Azeri Services and Radio Free Europe as well as online, helping to further raise the profile of the film and generating requests for more screenings.



Memories Without Borders is a unique Turkish-Armenian-Azerbaijani documentary looking at the impacts of troubled histories on individual lives today © Conciliation Resources



Members of the Regional Civil Society Task Force in Uganda © Conciliation Resources/Sarah Bradford

Priority 4: Create opportunities for dialogue between divided communities

Conciliation Resources has a long track record of creating opportunities for dialogue both within societies and between them across conflict divides. In environments where there are extremely limited opportunities to meet with the 'other side', and where stereotypes and enemy images thrive, it is vital for people to meet across lines of divide and have the opportunity to discuss their past, present and future.

Dialogue and exchange constituted a large part of Conciliation Resources' programme work in 2013, particularly in our African focus areas, Kashmir, Fiji and the South Caucasus. We facilitated a range of dialogue processes where grievances could be heard and analysis shared to increase accountability and transparency, enhance mutual understanding and lay the foundation for specific actions designed to build confidence. We worked to engage with all sectors of communities, from political leaders and officials to underrepresented groups such as young people, women, displaced persons and ex-combatants. We continued to use dialogue as a tool to influence policy, engaging political actors in dialogue to increase their understanding of different sides to conflict and generate creative options for change in the face of longstanding obstacles.

The following examples highlight the impact that dialogue can have in building peace:

South Caucasus: London Process dialogue leads to symbolic exchange

The London Process, initiated in 2012, is the continuation of a Georgian-Abkhaz civil society dialogue that Conciliation Resources has convened over the last seven years. It provides a space for Georgian and Abkhaz civic actors to meet, analyse the conflict context and plan activities that promote improvement of relations across the conflict divide, including through advocacy initiatives at the country, region and global level. Many of those taking part are close to officials involved in the formal internationally-mediated Geneva talks, and it is hoped that the ideas and solutions being suggested in London will help to inform the official talks and, in time, lead to real progress in the Geneva talks.

Fiji: National and community dialogues open up space for political debate

In the absence of a representative parliament, coupled with restrictions on the media and freedom of assembly, local civil society organisations have a vital role to play in creating opportunities for debate and dialogue about the issues that affect different communities in Fiji.

In March 2013, a three-day 'People's Constitutional Forum' workshop was convened by two of our partners, the Citizen's Constitutional Forum and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. The People's Forum was a space for open discussion and debate on the constitutional content and the political process, with diverse participants drawn together from Fiji's religious groups, proposed political parties, trade unions, rural networks, universities, women's groups, human rights organisations, youth groups, LGBTI groups and the private sector. The discussions were streamed live on the internet to widen access to members of the public.

We supported the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding to undertake a high-level 'Transition to Democracy' dialogue process. This involved three dialogue events in 2013 – bringing together national leaders from the civil society sector, unions, new political parties and senior members of the Government of Fiji – to discuss a number of key national political issues, including the constitution development process, Fiji's media, and the empowerment of women and youth.

Also during 2013, Conciliation Resources supported Dialogue Fiji to hold four dialogue events bringing together community leaders from

different sectors, including civil society, traditional leaders and local government, to discuss local conflict issues and continue to build relationships. The first of these dialogues engaged with leaders from marginalised groups to analyse the extent to which the government's constitution incorporated the rights and needs of minority and marginalised groups. The other three dialogue events brought together community and local government leaders in geographic regions – the Central, Western and Northern divisions – enabling the building of networks and relationships between different ethnic and political groups.

Nigeria: Community dialogues improve security in Plateau State

Since 2012, Conciliation Resources and our partner the Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN) have been working in five conflict-affected communities in and around Jos, Plateau State, to build community cohesion across religious and ethnic divides and empower communities to work with the State Government to improve community security.

A process of participatory security surveys was undertaken in 2013 in each of the five communities in order to identify sources of tension and conflict, and to begin developing



The Citizens' Constitutional Forum promotes dialogue and civic education in Fiji © Citizens' Constitutional Forum

constructive responses to local security concerns. With support from Conciliation Resources and CEPAN, each community came together to plan and implement a variety of responses to the particular issues they face, ranging from inter-community and inter-faith dialogues, to meetings with police, religious leaders and the parents of at-risk youths, to initiatives aimed at transforming dangerous areas into safe spaces.

.....

The project in Plateau State is generating significant interest and requests for assistance from leaders of neighbouring communities who are keen to improve security in their own communities.

.....

A significant achievement of the project has been its success in bringing together diverse groups and gaining their commitment to work together to build peaceful communities. People in these communities have begun to move about more freely with reduced fear of harassment or attack by those of a different faith or tribe. The initiative has also facilitated regular community access to security officials, enabling improved security responses. Young people are beginning to lead on practical initiatives to improve safety and security in their communities.

Kashmir: Trade and investment build engagement across the divide

Conciliation Resources' programme in Kashmir has focused on improving trade ties across the LoC in Kashmir as a way of strengthening linkages across the divide and engaging new constituencies in peacebuilding.

In 2013, Conciliation Resources commissioned a study entitled *Rejuvenating the economic environment in Jammu and Kashmir: mapping the potential of investments across various regions*, bringing together a team of academics from across the LoC. The first research of its kind, the study looks at how to unlock the significant investment potential in the region, and the positive spin-offs in terms of building peace. The research team engaged with a variety of stakeholders in Kashmir such as key policy officials, academia, hydroelectric power boards, investment promotion bodies and chambers of commerce and industry from across the LoC. They also conducted a series of workshops with the Kashmiri diaspora in the UK, organised by Conciliation Resources and our partner Kashmir Development Foundation. The study has been shared with key policymakers in India, Pakistan

and within Kashmir, including senior members of the government and bureaucracy, academics and business entities.

.....

Inspired by the findings of the report on investment potential in Kashmir, prominent businesspeople in the UK diaspora formed the Kashmiri Diaspora Business Network – the first such forum with the explicit objective of engaging the diaspora in economic and peacebuilding initiatives in Kashmir.

.....

Trade and investment is clearly strengthening relationships between divided groups in ways that go beyond economic interests, including enhancing inter-faith relationships. The Jammu & Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry as a cross regional forum has played an effective reconciliatory role even in the face of tensions between communities.

The Philippines: New civil society coalition aims to influence the GPH-NDF peace process

In 2013, Conciliation Resources began to provide support to a group of civil society organisations engaged in the stalled peace process between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF). The newly established Citizen's Alliance for Just Peace brings together five civil society organisations from different parts of the country, with the aim of creating a 'third space' to influence the parties to the conflict and encourage the resumption of peace talks.

With Conciliation Resources' support, the Alliance met in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in June 2013 to explore options to move the stalled peace agenda forward. The meeting focused on identifying lessons from previous breakdowns in the GPH-NDF peace talks, as well as from successes in other peace processes (including the GPH-MILF negotiations), and identifying key areas of action to promote both formal peace talks as well as informal peacebuilding initiatives. While the Alliance is still in its early days, it represents an important mechanism by which civil society can play a positive role in influencing this difficult peace agenda.

East and Central Africa: Local peace committees and women's groups support reintegration of LRA returnees

The fear and hatred many Congolese feel towards the LRA has meant that when people have succeeded in escaping the LRA, they face rejection by their families and communities and may even be killed.

Conciliation Resources is working with communities in the DRC and South Sudan to promote reconciliation with LRA returnees and to support their reintegration into community life. We have supported and trained local peace committees, made up of community members, to sensitise their communities about the LRA and the need to accept returnees. The committees have contributed significantly to reintegration and reconciliation through awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of women and children, the obligations of citizens and the responsibilities of authorities.

In the Western Equatorial State of South Sudan, Conciliation Resources works with a number of women's organisations to help them advocate for and address the needs of victims of violence, and promote improved relations between communities and LRA returnees. In 2013, Conciliation Resources and our local partner the Self-Help Women's Development Association (SHWDA) hosted five trauma healing workshops for returnees from the LRA and one workshop for families hosting returnees from the LRA. The workshops provided a valuable space for the returnees to express their frustrations and identify common issues, and to explore options for family and peer-support approaches to help address the psychological needs of women returnees.

Read more about our work to promote reintegration of LRA returnees in the case study on page 34.

.....

In Li-May village, the local peace committee drew on the training it received to introduce collective farming to reduce the conflict between people displaced by the LRA and the villagers.

.....



LRA returnees, Jean, Emile and Rigobert have returned to their communities but remain traumatised by their experiences © Tom Bradley



Participants in our 'Stories of Change' Evaluation Workshop of the GTF project in Gulu, Northern Uganda, May 2013
© Conciliation Resources

Priority 5: Strengthen the organisation to deliver on its mission

The organisational strength of Conciliation Resources is the foundation that supports our engagement in conflict contexts. With strong management systems, processes and practices supporting and guiding us, we can respond to new challenges as well as build our partners' capacities to grow and develop into stronger peacebuilding organisations. By continually reinforcing a culture that values learning, we share our experiences and are informed by those of our partners. Through this process we develop new ideas, strengthen our peacebuilding skills and articulate policy messages informed by practice. Robust performance monitoring and evaluation strengthen our ability to communicate and learn from the results of our work.

2013 was a year in which we continued to invest in organisational systems and processes to ensure that the principles of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity were widely applied throughout the organisation. Our enhanced evidence-based approach to programming now supports better programme design with a focus on results, facilitates learning, and enables us to remain accountable to our donors, partners and beneficiaries.¹¹

New Chair of the Board of Trustees

Peter Price, the former Bishop of Bath and Wells (2002-2013), was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees at Conciliation Resources in August 2013. With his longstanding interest in peacebuilding and international affairs, Peter is well-placed to provide leadership to the organisation. As part of his new role, Peter will be helping to guide the direction of the organisation as it continues in an exciting phase of growth.

Peter has over 40 years experience in reconciliation work, beginning with Northern Ireland, and subsequently including Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. He was greatly influenced by his experiences with the church in Latin America during the 'dirty wars' of the 1980s and 1990s. Between 1992 and 1997 he was General Secretary of Us (formerly known as USPG), one of the Anglican Church's leading mission and development agencies. While serving in the House of Lords from 2008 to 2013, he used his influence to pressure politicians to find alternative, non-militarised solutions to some of the world's conflicts.

¹¹ A list of our evidence sources and monitoring tools can be provided upon request.



Peter Price © Diocese of Bath and Wells

“*Whilst peace agreements are crucial, the long-term challenge of working with conflict-affected communities on the multiple issues that lie behind a conflict is equally important. Conciliation Resources balances both of these in its work.*”

“*It is an honour to take on this role with such a creative organisation as Conciliation Resources.*”

Peter Price, Chair of Conciliation Resources

Review of Conciliation Resources' operational model

A Comparative Evaluation of Conciliation Resources' Operating Model was carried out by The IDL Group in 2013 to consider the effectiveness and efficiency of Conciliation Resources' current model, in which we provide support to locally based partners in conflict contexts. The report identified value in our approach, with particular praise for our partnership model. It also supported our view of a number of areas in need of further strengthening, including the need to ensure our partners have a common understanding of our key policies, and the need to ensure our programme ambitions are sized to the resources available. Based on the report's conclusions, Conciliation Resources' executive management is open to considering alternative context-specific operating models – such as the establishment of a country-specific or regional office – on a case-by-case basis. We currently have programme staff based overseas in New Zealand (working on our Fiji programme), Austria (working on the South Caucasus), the Philippines and the CAR.

Independent evaluations strengthen our programming

In 2013, a number of independent evaluations of Conciliation Resources' programmes were concluded, providing evidence of the impact of our work as well as useful recommendations for improvement. An evaluation of the Fiji programme's support of the Constitutional Commission Secretariat presented good learning points on how to manage interventions in politically sensitive and fluid situations. A mid-term review of our East and Central Africa programme shed light on the challenges of supporting partners in fragile contexts and working with partners with low literacy and capacity levels, while highlighting the significant progress made in building sustainable community-based structures and bringing the voices of remote communities to the policy arena. A final evaluation of our five-year DFID-supported Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) project (2008-2013) found that the project “enabled community actors to exercise remarkable influence on local governance” and that Conciliation Resources' competencies and local partnerships were major factors in the project's effectiveness. It made useful recommendations around improving cross-coordination and learning across a project spanning multiple regions.

Internal learning opportunities improve cross-organisational knowledge

Conciliation Resources is characterised by its own staff and peers as a reflective and learning organisation. The *Accord* series has for two decades drawn together the lessons of peacebuilding initiatives and peace processes. There are regular discussions and information exchanges between staff on the back of programme experience and evaluations, as well as with peer organisations and individuals working in the field.

In 2013, we focused on strengthening the knowledge and expertise of Conciliation Resources' staff through opportunities for more structured and facilitated learning. We held internal workshops on our strategic thematic areas and on our approach to conflict and peacebuilding analysis. We also continued to hold regular '20 minute downloads', where a staff member shares their experiences from a particular context. These have proved highly effective in promoting the exchange of information, ideas and lessons across programmes.

We have also been working to improve our understanding and competencies around the

theme of gender in peacebuilding, through an internal audit of our work, a gender guidance paper, and staff training on gender-sensitive conflict and peacebuilding analysis.

Sharing our practice innovations with the wider peacebuilding field

In 2013, we introduced a new format – ‘Practice Papers’ – in which to document innovations in Conciliation Resources’ practice as a contribution to the wider peacebuilding practitioner field. Practice Papers allow us to analyse successes and challenges in these innovations and to draw broader lessons for practice.

Our first *practice paper*, based on the International Contact Group experience of hybrid mediation in the Philippines, was published in July 2013. It provides an example of an alternative format for mediation support, which encourages greater inclusivity. The paper was distributed to practitioners and policymakers in the Philippines and international organisations, as well as interlocutors in other contexts where we work, including in India, Pakistan and Georgia.

Participatory M&E methodologies gather ‘Stories of Change’

In 2013, we piloted a Participatory Impact Assessment methodology to gather beneficiary feedback to inform programming in our West Africa and East and Central Africa programmes. We held a number of in-country workshops with our local partners and direct beneficiaries (including community members, small CSOs and local authorities) in order to gather ‘Stories of Change’ and data on key outcomes, challenges and sustainability. The result was the production of ‘Lessons Learnt’ and ‘Most Significant Results’ papers documenting the impact of the GTF-supported project in West Africa and East and Central Africa. In 2014, we will explore the feasibility of undertaking more participatory research across our programmes.

Improved programme planning

Building on the revision of our annual planning process in 2012, in 2013 we introduced further improvements to our programme planning, including the holding of ‘peer reviews’ for each programme. The peer reviews involved Conciliation Resources’ executive leadership

and selected peer reviewers from within the organisation providing constructive critique on each programme’s plan for 2014. This process enabled a ‘dialogical approach’ to planning, and cross-fertilisation of ideas and good practice across programmes.

Work progresses on new internal communications system

Throughout 2013 work progressed on The Hub – the new intranet – which is on track to be launched in April 2014. Conciliation Resources’ current intranet suffers from a lack of visual and technical coherence and no longer serves the organisation’s needs.

The new intranet will enable better sharing of information and knowledge, provide staff with access to organisational tools, and enable more coordinated project management. During 2014 we plan to build the M&E component of The Hub, which will enable staff to upload data on activities, outcomes and impact, and will dramatically improve our ability to capture, analyse, report on and learn from our work.



Notes from a community workshop in Pujehun, Sierra Leone in 2013 part of the GTF project © Conciliation Resources / Clare Richards

Case studies

East and Central Africa: Helping Lord's Resistance Army returnees to reintegrate into their communities

When women are attacked and/or abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) they often suffer sexual abuse. If they manage to escape and return home, their families and communities frequently reject them, especially if they return with their 'LRA children'. There are very few support structures within communities to help women cope with the trauma of their experience, reintegrate into communities, deal with health problems and support their families. In January 2013, Conciliation Resources commenced a project aimed at supporting local women's groups to address the needs of returnees and support their reintegration into their communities.

In 2008, Alice Gizima was abducted by the LRA together with her husband and five children, when the LRA attacked her village in Zangada, Nzara county, South Sudan. After two weeks in captivity, her husband was accused by his LRA abductors of trying to escape. The LRA rebels, in full view of his wife, beat him to death. She last saw her children three days after the death of her husband.

Alice remained in LRA captivity for two months. She escaped in one of the many gun battles with the Ugandan army. Upon her return, she learnt that all her five children had been killed by the LRA. With no family to turn to or social support available to her, Alice lived in an IDP camp near

Nzara county headquarters for five years in a life of isolation. Community members believed that Alice was mad.

In 2013, Alice was one of the many women returnees who were brought by community leaders in the area to a trauma healing workshop organised by our partner, the Self Help Women Development Association (SHWDA). The community leaders had heard of the trauma healing workshop on one of the radio programmes that broadcast messages about reintegration (the radio programmes are part of Conciliation Resources' cross-border peacebuilding project in the region).

After attending three workshops and receiving five follow up visits by SHWDA, Alice is beginning to reclaim her life and to settle back into her community.

“Life had lost meaning. I felt everybody hated me. After meeting women from SHWDA and attending the workshops, I felt that I was not alone ... I share my problems with them and they listen and understand. Sharing with others who have gone through similar problems was an eye opener. I realised that I was not cursed and that it is possible to live again.”

Alice Gizima, LRA returnee

Since the project started, Conciliation Resources has witnessed greater understanding by communities that those who have returned from the LRA are victims of violence. Returnees are beginning to feel welcome, but their needs are many and most are beyond the scope of this project. We have therefore begun building networks between our project partners and other INGOs and donor agencies, in order to facilitate improved and more coordinated support services for returnees. With our support, the SHWDA successfully lobbied the NGO INTERSOS to provide training and start up capital for livelihood and income generating activities for thirty women returnees.



Esperance, former LRA captive, now lives in an IDP camp in Dungu, DRC © Tom Bradley

Kashmir: Breakthrough ruling on Kashmir's 'Half-Widows'

In Indian-administrated Kashmir, Conciliation Resources supported a unique civil society initiated dialogue, the first initiative of its kind to focus on the rights of 'half-widows', women whose husbands have been 'disappeared' but are not yet declared deceased. The initiative resulted in a landmark decision that will have an unprecedented impact upon the lives of women and their children affected by the conflict in Kashmir.

According to human rights groups, an estimated 8,000 people have been subjected to enforced disappearances in Kashmir, allegedly at the hands of Indian security forces, since 1989. Without a death certificate, the wives of the disappeared face numerous problems in relation to property rights and the right to remarriage. Whilst state law allows for remarriage after four years, there is no agreement across the different branches of Islam about the length of time a widow should wait before remarriage, with guidance ranging from four to 90 years. This ambiguity in relation to their rights leaves the so-called 'half-widows' socially, economically and emotionally vulnerable or excluded.

Conciliation Resources and our local civil society partner, Ehsaas, facilitated a series of three consultations with eight Islamic Scholars (Ulemas) from different branches of Islam to reach a consensus on the issue of remarriage of half-widows. Twenty half-widows participated in the meetings and were able to share their experiences with the Ulemas. After the final meeting, the Ulemas issued a joint statement

agreeing to a four-year waiting period. Dialogue between different schools of Islamic thought is rare in Kashmir, and it was a significant achievement to reach consensus on what is a deeply divisive issue.

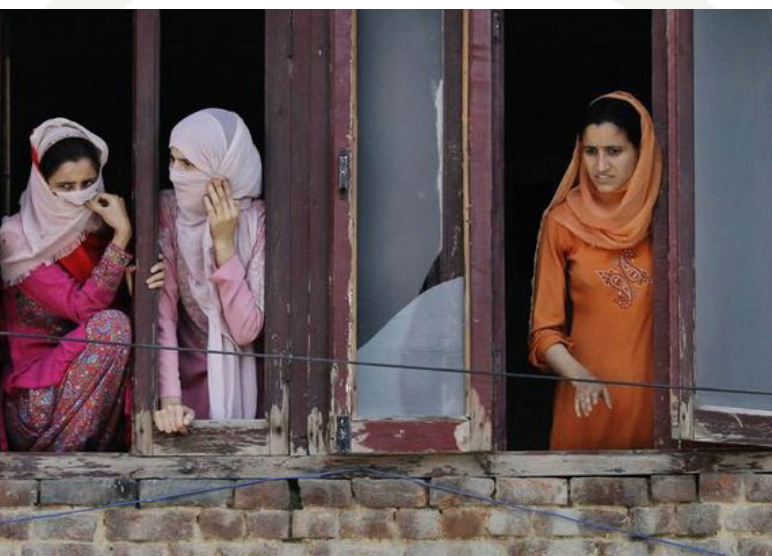
The few activities that could be called peacebuilding in Indian-administered Kashmir tend to be dominated by men; for the twenty half-widows who attended and participated in the meetings, the process represented a unique opportunity to be heard. It created a safe space in which an especially marginalised group could advocate for change for themselves and all the others similarly impacted by this conflict. The success of the dialogue and the subsequent ruling has given hope to women affected by the conflict in Kashmir that other issues, such as property rights for half-widows, can now be resolved.

The ruling attracted a great deal of local and national media attention and was widely supported across all sections of Kashmir society. Furthermore, the process created an increased sense of confidence in civic processes as a means of resolving seemingly intractable issues.

The half-widows ruling demonstrates how approaching a human rights issue through a peacebuilding framework, using dialogue as a key tool, can be empowering for all involved and lead to significant gains in relation to rights for individuals.

“Creating safe spaces for dialogue can go a long way in recognising the rights of women whose voices have often been marginalised despite being profoundly impacted by the conflict.”

Ezabir Ali, Ehsaas Coordinator



Kashmiri women in Srinagar © Kashmir Global



Conciliation Resources supports partners in Colombia to promote the inclusion of ordinary people in conflict transformation © Conciliation Resources / Sophie Haspeslagh

Going forward – plans for 2014

2014 marks a major milestone for Conciliation Resources, as we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. In 1994, two professionals set up Conciliation Resources with two second-hand computers, very little money and a deep sense of commitment to supporting local civil society peacemakers. Since then, we have grown to a talented and committed team of over 40 staff and volunteers, working in over a dozen countries affected by violent conflict, and have had significant success in our efforts to promote the inclusion of local voices in peace processes and influence peacebuilding policy.

Following a comprehensive planning process, the 2014 programme plans and budgets have been approved. Below is a summary of these plans:

Programmes

Colombia

As the talks between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) progress, we will maintain a focus on supporting our local partners to engage with the peace process, particularly promoting women's participation. We will continue mentoring the

WPS, helping them to increase their overall outreach and impact. Building on past successful comparative learning exchanges, we will facilitate further opportunities for Colombians involved in the peace process to deepen their understanding of other conflict-affected contexts. We also plan to strengthen our relations and engagement with the actors most closely related to the peace negotiations, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace.

Acknowledging the importance of regional dynamics, we will work with CIASE, a key member of the WPS, to implement the Latin America component of our global Conciliation Resources-Saferworld EU-funded "Capacities for Peace" project, which aims to build the early warning capacities of local civil society actors, preventing violent conflicts and building lasting peace.

East and Central Africa

In 2014, we will focus on promoting greater cohesion and interaction between the conflict-affected communities of the CAR, the DRC, South Sudan and Uganda, in order to strengthen civil society advocacy for non-violent solutions to the LRA conflict. We will support communities to

strengthen community-based support structures for LRA returnees, focusing particularly on building the capacity of women's groups. Additionally, we will seek to increase dialogue between community representatives, regional governments and donor agencies to enhance local input on national and regional policies on civilian protection and reintegration of returnees.

In the context of the CAR crisis, we will work with in-country religious leaders to establish a secretariat for the national inter-faith peace platform, supporting local peace committees and channels of dialogue between the CAR authorities and civil society. We hope to facilitate an innovative 'peace week' in Bangui, where community and civil society leaders will be mobilised through a series of activities such as radio programmes, cultural activities and dialogue sessions between civil society and political leaders.

Fiji

As Fiji prepares for elections in September 2014, our focus will be to increase Fijians' political engagement in the shift to civilian rule. We will work to enhance the capacity of civic leaders and political parties to effectively participate in the transition to representative governance, providing opportunities for comparative learning through the use of experts, learning papers and exchange trips. We will encourage informed public participation in the upcoming elections, particularly the inclusion of women and youth, supporting our partners to conduct community education workshops and public forums for debate. Additionally, we will support our partners' high-level dialogue initiatives with the government, designed to further discussion between national leaders on issues related to Fiji's transition to representative governance. We will continue to inform and influence international policymakers (Australia, New Zealand and the EU) around the transition in Fiji.

Horn of Africa

In 2014, we will continue to progress the talks between the Government of Ethiopia and the ONLF through training and advice to the Kenyan facilitation team and the parties. We are aware that a durable peace to help change the lives of the people living in the Somali Regional State in Ethiopia will require complementary initiatives and processes. We will therefore begin transitioning from exclusively supporting the talks to supporting a wider peace process that involves working with and deepening our work with the Ogadeni diaspora, civil society and,

where possible, local communities to encourage their participation in and support for peace talks and wider intra-community dialogue initiatives.

Kashmir

Dialogue at cross regional level on either side as well as across the LoC will continue to be a major focus in all strands of work and in 2014 we will facilitate meetings between the divided communities amongst women, youth, academics and traders. We will increase engagement with the policymakers in India and Pakistan, promoting an enhanced role for local communities in the peace process. This will also involve creating opportunities for members of the KIG to interact with international policymakers.

A third joint cross-LoC documentary film on a Kashmir peace-related theme will be produced. We will continue our participatory research with youth from across the LoC, which will inform a 'Vision 2020' document defining their agenda for peace, with a particular focus on education and employment. We will also continue to leverage the strong relationship between the diaspora and 'back home' to promote the peacebuilding value of cross-LoC investment.

Four peacebuilding partners from both sides of Kashmir will visit the UK through the Commonwealth professional fellowship programme, to enable skills enhancement and comparative learning. In light of the potential impact that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) withdrawal from Afghanistan may have in Kashmir, we will work with civil society to assess their capacities for early warning and response in this context.

The Philippines

Having supported the final phase of negotiations for the CAB, we will now focus on its successful implementation promoting principles of broad ownership, transparency and inclusivity. Collaborating with our Mindanao-based partners, we will coordinate wide-ranging activities to promote public participation on three areas: writing the Basic Law of the new self-governing Bangsamoro entity; ensuring a community-responsive police force for the Bangsamoro; and identifying the best approach for dealing with the past. Building on our strong relationships with a wide range of women's organisations, we will hold a summit of women in Mindanao to develop a common agenda on meaningful participation in the Bangsamoro Basic Law, and facilitate training on gender-sensitive security sector reform.



Andy Carl, Conciliation Resources' Executive Director, at a conference on confidence-building measures in Islamabad, Pakistan © Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR)

In the context of the GPH-NDF peace process, we will formulate a detailed work plan for our strategic engagement, to include meetings with peace panels, civil society organisations and other key actors. We will also support our partner Sulong CARHRIHL to conduct capacity building workshops on early warning and response with groups and constituencies connected to this peace process as well as reaching out to groups that have previously not engaged.

South Caucasus

In 2014, we will continue working to increase the peacebuilding capacity of civil society actors, particularly marginalised and displaced persons, and aim to address key issues at multiple levels of the peace processes. We will support a coalition of organisations working on IDP issues in Azerbaijan, including running micro-projects, to facilitate and encourage community activism. A network of representatives of ethnic and religious communities will be formed in Abkhazia to link with Abkhaz civil society to produce policy recommendations on inclusion and diversity.

We will continue to build momentum for our Georgian-Abkhaz bilateral dialogue (the London Process), aiming to increase the participation

of Georgian and Abkhaz officials. There will be an emphasis on practical confidence building initiatives and feeding in policy issues to the official Geneva peace process.

Strengthening our thematic focus on dealing with the past and reconciliation, we will produce three documentary films on the Nagorny Karabakh war by joint Armenian and Azerbaijani teams, and facilitate three Karabakh Contact Group meetings relating to dealing with the past. In Georgia-Abkhazia the 'Memory Project' will train partners to collate and systematise an archive of existing material and new testimonies from 1989 onwards, with cross-conflict exchange and dialogue.

West Africa

Our programme in Nigeria's Plateau State focuses on promoting sustainable dialogue spaces within a fluid political and security context. We will engage with vulnerable youth who are easily organised into radical groups for violence and work with young people to develop their peacebuilding and advocacy capacities. We will also continue to work with our civil society partners to build their confidence and capacities to engage in evidence-based policy dialogue with security institutions, the Council of Traditional

Rulers and national and international policy actors on issues of conflict transformation.

In the MRU context, we work to facilitate the resolution of border tensions and improve participation of border communities in local governance. We plan to create four new 'District Platforms for Dialogue' (DPDs) in communities on either side of the Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia border and facilitate structured dialogue meetings between DPD representatives and policy actors in both countries as well as with the MRU Secretariat. Along with our partners, we will participate in high-level dialogue and regional policy meetings to share lessons and policy recommendations from our work with border communities.

Policy, Communications and Operations

Accord

Accord 25, Legitimacy and peace processes: from coercion to consent, will be published and disseminated in 2014. Related outreach events will take place throughout the year, with a special focus in regions where we are working to inform peacebuilding policy and practice and cultivate relationships. Additionally, we will produce our second *Accord Insight* on engaging armed groups, and begin planning *Accord 26*, which will focus on Nepal's peace process. Following on from our Lebanon-themed *Accord*, we will facilitate a workshop in Lebanon and contribute to a region-wide report on recommendations for capacity building as part of the global Capacities for Peace project. To celebrate 25 issues of *Accord*, a *back catalogue* of all issues will be made available as e-books online.

Communications

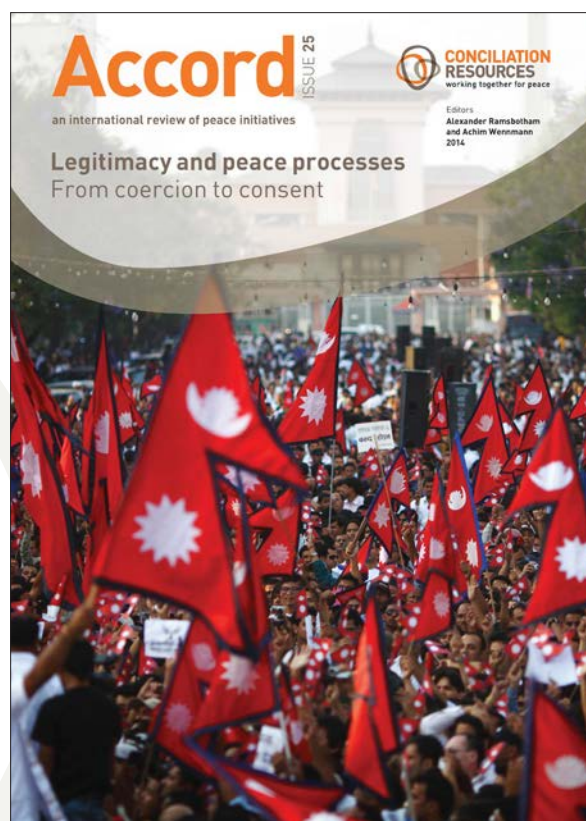
With the appointment of a Digital Communications Officer in 2014, there will be an increased focus on harnessing social media and the internet to widen the dissemination of our messaging and impact. The ongoing work to develop a strong internal intranet will culminate in the launch of 'The Hub' mid-year. We will then concentrate on staff training and integration of the information sharing system in our organisational culture. Additionally, to celebrate the organisation's 20th anniversary, the Communications team will lead on several creative projects promoting our key achievements over the last 20 years and core peacebuilding messages. We aim to collaborate with our partners to find innovative ways to promote our work through film and media.

Policy

Our focus will be on developing and promoting policies and practice by governments and multilaterals which support inclusive peace processes, including by drawing on evidence and examples in *Accord 25*. We will do this through analysis and advocacy on gender, peace and security, armed groups and proscription, and mediation support. We will continue to support the efforts of those seeking to ensure peace and security is adequately reflected in the post-2015 development framework, and engage more broadly with peer organisations to make the case for peacebuilding approaches and support for the peacebuilding sector. We will continue our leading role in EPL0, the BOND Conflict Policy Group and GAPS, as well as our participation in the Mediation Support Network and the Alliance for Peacebuilding. We will maintain our valued relationships with European and US Government officials, as well as with EU (EEAS) and UN staff, through outreach and advice.

Organisational learning

In 2014, we will continue to build on the formalisation of our organisational learning culture. Our learning plan for 2014 sets out lines of enquiry in our thematic areas to pursue across



Accord 25 on legitimacy and peace processes



Peace Day celebrations in Fiji © Citizens' Constitutional Forum

the year. This will be taken forward through structured learning events, which will draw on evidence gathered through programme reporting and evaluations. We will also organise events for teams to exchange experience, dilemmas and ideas on topics such as reconciliation and dealing with the past. A learning event on the relationship between human rights and conflict transformation will give Conciliation Resources staff greater clarity on this issue and our organisational position. Learning activities will accompany the Capacities for Peace project, including a workshop on gender-sensitive conflict analysis. Subject to funding, we will produce further practice papers, for dissemination to peacebuilding practitioners and policymakers.

Organisational effectiveness

As Conciliation Resources has grown considerably in the last few years, in 2014 we will reorganise our internal structure to ensure teams are better aligned to create effective synergies. We will also leave our office in Upper Street, Islington and move to a larger premises better

suited to our organisational needs in nearby Tufnell Park. In 2014 we will design, develop and launch a cross-organisational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) database to streamline and enhance the way in which we capture, store and analyse information on our activities and outcomes. This will improve the efficiency of information storage, facilitate greater information sharing across the organisation and enable us to better reflect on and communicate our impact. We will standardise procedures for how we select and work with partners to ensure they meet standards of transparency, accountability, management and governance. This will include introducing a new partner selection criteria, as well as a new, more stringent, Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with all partners, which clearly acknowledges responsibilities on both sides.

Publications in 2013

- *Accord Insight: Women building peace*, March 2013
- *Voice of Peace* newsletter (three editions), April, June and September 2013 (also in French)
- *What's in a label? EU listing of Hezbollah and challenges to Lebanon's peace*, June 2013
- *Cross-Line of Control trade: peacebuilding and economic potential*, June 2013
- *Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire Border Situation*, June 2013
- *Innovation in mediation support: the International Contact Group in Mindanao*, July 2013
- *Border community security: Mano River Union region*, August 2013 (also in French)
- *Crisis in the Central African Republic*, August 2013
- *Background to the Kashmir conflict: challenges and opportunities*, September 2013
- *What lies between solution and resumption of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict*, October 2013
- *Muslim women in peace processes: reflections for dialogue in Mindanao*, October 2013
- *Sharing responsibility: governance in the midst of conflict*, November 2013
- *Central African Republic: inter-communal dialogue key to long-term stability*, December 2013 (also in French)
- *Institutionalising confidence building measures on Kashmir*, December 2013

Films

- *Faith Divided: Spirituality Caught in Conflict*, 2013

About Conciliation Resources

We're an independent organisation working with people in conflict to prevent violence and build peace. Conciliation Resources provides advice, support and practical resources. In addition, we take what we learn to government decision-makers and others working to end conflict, to improve policies and practice worldwide.

Conciliation Resources

Burghley Yard, 106 Burghley Road
London NW5 1AL
United Kingdom

Telephone +44 (0)20 7359 7728

Email cr@c-r.org

Website www.c-r.org

Facebook.com/ConciliationResources

Twitter.com/CRbuildpeace

Charity registered in England and Wales (1055436).
Company limited by guarantee registered in
England and Wales (03196482).



**CONCILIATION
RESOURCES**

working together for peace

