

Peacebuilding: Psychological Perspectives

Under the auspices of the International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility

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Symposium Abstract

When wars, civil wars and dictatorial oppressions end, survivors are frequently traumatized, depressed, displaced, impoverished, cut off from their former competencies and supports and often mourning grievous losses. Without focused work to promote individual and social healing and to reconstruct psychological, social, economic, and justice foundations of shattered communities cycles of revenge, despair, and rage can undermine a fragile peace, leaving the way open for profiteers of chaos, fear, and violence to gain control. Building peace and pathways to reconciliation after violence are thus crucial factors in preventing future violence. They also play key roles in the happier tasks of creating human well-being and communities that transform their divisions into groups that can in some ways live and work together.

This Symposium presents the dynamics of some particular successes and failures in post violence individual and community recovery, examines some key factors for evaluating such work in highly stressed populations, and invites an audience discussion of ways outside peace builders and recovering populations can best contribute their particular experiences toward building sustainable post war communities.

Symposium contributions

Individual and Community needs for Recovery after War Devastation (keynote)

Paula Green

Testimonial Therapy: among Survivors of Torture and Organized Violence in India

Inger Agger, Lenin Raghuvanshi & Peter Polatin

Evaluation of the Peace Education Programme in a Liberian Refugee camp

Friederike Feuchte, Andreas Beelmann & Rupert Brown

Theory-based Evaluation of Peace Work - Masculinity and Conscientious Objection in Bosnia and Hercegovina

Miriam Schroer