



Key Terms for Peacemaking & Broader Peacebuilding Processes

As part of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemaker's implementation of its' Five-Year Strategy, the Network has developed a guidance note on key terms that are utilized within the Strategy itself. The explanation of these key terms are to help consolidate and guide members, consortium partners, program participants, donors, and other external stakeholder groups on what we broadly mean in using these terms.

Glossary

Conflict Prevention: Refers to both structural and diplomatic measures to assist national actors in keeping intra-state and inter-state tensions from escalating into violent conflict, in all phases of a conflict cycle (pre-, in, post). 'Operational prevention' deals with measures applicable in the face of an immediate crisis, and 'structural prevention' focuses more on the long term prevention of crises.

Conflict-Sensitive Approach / Do No Harm Approach: The ability to understand the conflict one is operating in, analyzing the dividers and connectors within conflict-affected societies to use this understanding to maximize positive impacts and avoid negative impacts based on our interventions on the context.

Conflict Transformation: Conflict transformation seeks to change the way of dealing with conflicts by empowering parties and enhancing mutual recognition so as to minimize the use of violence and enable them to manage differences in a non-violent way. It involves dealing with direct and indirect/structural causes and aspects of conflict with an aim to bring about behavioural, relational, and structural change.

Dialogue: A dialogue process entails a series of meetings between two or more actors across the conflict lines with the intention of exchanging perceptions and building understanding and trust. Dialogue does not primarily aim at decisions and implementable action. Dialogue is less formal and less structured than negotiation or mediation.

Faith-Based Organization: An organization that is grounded in values established by a given religion or spiritual following.

Gender: Gender consists of the culturally and socially-constructed differences between men and women and the unequal power relations that result. It affects the way conflicts are experienced and responded to.



Gender-Mainstreaming: The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experience an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, such that inequality between men and women is not perpetuated.

Inclusivity: The process of improving the terms of participation, representation and decision-making in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. Inclusivity is a central concern in all stages of conflict resolution and is crucial for the sustainability of the outcome.

Interfaith Dialogue: Describes exchanges among different religious practitioners and communities on matters of doctrine, humanistic beliefs and issues of mutual concern in culture and politics.

Intrafaith Dialogue: Describes exchanges among religious practitioners and communities of the same denominational faith on matters of doctrine and issues of mutual concern in culture and politics.

Human Rights: The basic prerogatives and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. Supported by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and several international agreements, these rights include the right to life, liberty, education, and equality before law, and the right of association, belief, free speech, religion, and movement.

Human Rights-Based Approach: A Human Rights-Based Approach focuses on the root causes of inequality and non-realization of human rights instead of symptoms of poverty and sees development as a process. Attention is paid to political and legal structures, cultural and social structures, forms and root causes of inequality and discrimination, as well as unequal division of resources.

Mediation: Is a mode of negotiation in which a mutually acceptable third party helps the parties to a conflict find a solution that they cannot find by themselves. It is a three-sided political process in which the mediator builds and then draws upon relationships with the other two parties to help them reach a settlement. Mediation is understood to take place at any stage of the peace continuum, from prevention.

Peacemaking and Broader Peacebuilding Processes: Peacemaking and Broader Peacebuilding Processes refers to all aspects of short and long-term conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.



People with Disabilities: All persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Power Dynamics: Power is the ability to influence others to get a particular outcome. Governments and international institutions often support peacebuilding processes to address root causes and either prevent or respond to violent conflict. However, power dynamic imbalances can make negotiation and other peace processes ineffective. Once power is more balanced, peace processes are more likely to find sustainable outcomes.

Religious Actors: Religious actors refer to both religious leaders as well as members of religious communities such as women and youth of faith.

Secular Approach: Broadly-speaking, “secular” qualifies an approach, which is independent of, but not necessarily separate from, the religious. The term can be understood in many ways. Like the term religion, its specific meaning depends very much upon the context in which it is applied.

Traditional Actors: Traditional actors refers to traditional local leaders and actors such as indigenous, ethnic, tribal or clan elders or community members, including women and youth.

Women Peace and Security Agenda: UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is a UN Security Council resolution that was unanimously passed on 31 October 2000. It is one of the most important international mandates covering the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives and the mainstreaming of gender issues in the context of armed conflict, peacebuilding and reconstruction processes. The Resolution represented the first recognition by the UN Security Council of the distinct roles and experiences of women in different phases of conflict, its resolution and its long-term management. The Resolution also emphasizes the increased effectiveness and practical security policies and activities associated with the incorporation of women during all phases of conflict.

Youth: There is no globally agreed definition of what age group is covered by youth and young people. The United Nations defines youth as persons between 15 and 24 years, but it is important to acknowledge the various socio-cultural understandings, as age alone does not define youth.

Youth Peace and Security Agenda: UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security is the first international policy framework that recognizes the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace passed on 9 December 2015.



Partner Resources on Additional Key Terms

Berghof Foundation. "Berghof Glossary on Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding: 20 Essays on Theory and Practice." 2019. <https://berghof-foundation.org/library/berghof-glossary>.

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Inclusive Peace. "Glossary." <https://www.inclusivepeace.org/content/glossary>.

OSCE. "Glossary on Gender-Related Terms. 2006. <https://www.osce.org/gender/26397>.

OSCE. "The Role of Civil Society in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism. 2018. https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/2/400241_1.pdf.

UN Women. "Gender Equality Glossary." <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36&mode&hook=ALL&sortkey&sortorder&fullsearch=0&page=-1>.

USIP Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding: A Study Guide Series on Peace and Conflict for Independent Learners and Classroom Instructors. "Gender, War and Peacebuilding." 2012. <https://www.usip.org/publications/2012/09/gender-war-and-peacebuilding>.