

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

Meeting our goals:



Supporting people working at local, national and international levels to develop effective solutions to social, economic and political problems related to violent conflicts.

- Work continued in Georgia and Abkhazia with teachers and young people to encourage debate and action on social and political issues. Youth groups met regularly, with our support, to explore their role in transforming the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and building understanding between the two communities.
- Joint research with Quaker Peace & Social Witness on the motivation and decision-making process of middle-ranking commanders leaving the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and returning to a civilian life has provided a powerful new tool for local peacebuilding activists and helped us understand how effective the return process has been.



Providing opportunities for inclusive dialogue and improved relationships within communities and across conflict divides at all social and political levels.

- Ker Kwaro Acholi re-established relationships between traditional leaders and clan elders of northern Uganda and south Sudan through exchange visits and joint peacebuilding workshops. These relationships are essential for supporting any future LRA return process.
- Together with Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement (BPRM) and Sulima Fishing Community Development Project (SFCDP) we organized exchange visits and conflict resolution workshops for local volunteer and women peace monitors and traditional leaders from chiefdoms in Sierra Leone's Bo and Pujehun districts. They shared experiences and approaches to resolving inter-chiefdom conflicts.
- Workshops were held in the UK, Germany and Austria as part of our Schlaining process of unofficial and confidential dialogue meetings for Georgian and Abkhaz officials, politicians and civic leaders, which allows joint analysis and open discussion of the conflict and peace process.



Influencing governments and other decision makers to employ conflict transformation policies that promote alternatives to violence.

- We promoted the importance of 'engaging armed groups in peace processes' on Capitol Hill, at the US State Department, for officials from the United Nations and UK government, at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, and at a public event at the Royal Court Theatre, London.
- Reverend Akuila Yabaki, executive director of our partner the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), gave a critical presentation to Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs on a controversial parliamentary 'reconciliation' bill. The bill was later deferred until 2006.
- Our advocacy work in Sierra Leone highlighted the need for conflict transformation and peacebuilding elements to be included in a national strategy for youth agencies by the Ministry of Youth and Sport's Capacity Building Unit.
- We worked with officials and policymakers in Georgia to instigate a more strategic approach to their role in the peace process. Two workshops in 2005 focused on the negotiations process and drew upon experiences of politicians from South Africa and Northern Ireland in devising strategy in violent conflicts.



Improving peacemaking practice and policies by promoting learning from peace processes around the world.

- We worked with partners in Colombia and the Philippines to promote learning from international experiences of armed groups' engagement in peace processes, and acted as resource persons for workshops that brought together different stakeholders in the conflicts.
- We published Accord issue 17, *The limits of leadership: elites and societies in the Nagorny Karabakh peace process*, in English and Russian and held a roundtable in the region on issues related to the conflict.
- We co-published and distributed relevant Accord issues in Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and three Filipino languages.



Challenging stereotypes and increase public awareness of human rights, conflict and peace issues in divided societies.

- Sierra Leonean partners BPRM and SFCDP successfully helped ex-combatants reintegrate into their communities and handle conflicts caused by their return and presence. They also made contact with ex-combatants elsewhere to help develop a climate for them to feel safe to return.
- We supported partners in organizing and filming public hearings commemorating the tenth anniversary of an LRA massacre at Atiak displaced people's camp in northern Uganda. This gave survivors a chance to tell their stories for the first time.
- The CCF sent teams of resource persons and facilitators to rural villages throughout Fiji to give presentations and discuss human rights, governance and social justice issues.
- Television discussion programmes about the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict produced by our partner Studio Re were aired on Georgian local and national television. Documentary films produced by Studio Re with independent journalists in Abkhazia were shown throughout the South Caucasus and in London.