

Executive Director's Introduction



Those of you living or working in a conflict-affected society will know that the struggle for peace and human rights is, more often than not, led by dedicated civil society groups and individuals. These roles and responsibilities belong to governments and people alike. The transformation of conflict is about social change as well as reforming governance.

Though much of this work happens below the international media's radar, our Accord publication series has shown that national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a vital role in every peace process around the world.

From the expression of people power in Nepal to new inclusive development models in Colombia – citizens and parliamentarians are in the frontlines of conflict resolution and state-building processes.

Conciliation Resources (CR) is part of this important global trend of NGOs playing roles in conflict and peace processes never before envisaged for non-state actors. In Sierra Leone, our work with local mediators is now setting an example throughout the region on how community groups can take the lead to promote justice, deal with the past and pursue reconciliation in their own societies.

Our Accord team's work on the issue of engaging with armed groups in peace processes took us from Capitol Hill to Colombia and the Philippines in 2005, and continues to influence this controversial debate.

If you live in the Russian-speaking world you may have heard a broadcast of the 'radio diaries' project, where ordinary people talk about the challenges they face after war. This initiative of our Caucasus team is one example of working with the media to challenge stereotypes in divided societies.

In northern Uganda we have highlighted how effective peacebuilding work can be and helped influence policymakers on the importance of supporting non-military options.

CR could not take political risks or do such work without the support of our donors and the trust and cooperation of governments and our civil society partners.

We hope you will continue to join us in making a difference to the lives of people affected by armed conflict, helping both states and societies build peace.

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

Andy Carl

June 2006