

Conciliation Resources works to prevent violence, promote justice and transform conflict into opportunities for development.

Our goals are to:

- **SUPPORT PEOPLE** working at local, national and international levels to develop effective solutions to social, economic and political problems related to violent conflicts
- **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES** for inclusive dialogue and improved relationships within communities and across conflict divides at all social and political levels
- **INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS** and other decision makers to employ conflict transformation policies that promote alternatives to violence
- **IMPROVE PEACEMAKING PRACTICE** and policies by promoting learning from peace processes around the world
- **CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES** and increase public awareness of human rights, conflict and peace issues in divided societies

Who we are

Conciliation Resources (CR) is an international non-governmental organization registered in the UK as a charity (1055436). We work mainly in the Caucasus, Uganda and West Africa in partnership with local and international civil society organizations and governments. We also publish *Accord: an international review of peace initiatives* and are involved in projects in Colombia, Fiji and the Philippines. Our funding is through grants from governments, independent trusts and foundations.



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Cover photo: Child plays on an abandoned tank outside the village of Kajo Keji, Sudan © Sean Sutton/MAG/Panos Pictures
This page from top: Young women in Bo, Sierra Leone © Rosalind Hanson-Alp; Summer university on international relations held in Abkhazia;
Participant at a meeting organized by Pact Sudan. © Alex Diang'a/Pact Sudan



Armed conflict devastates people's daily lives and futures, rips apart communities and cripples a country's development. Conciliation Resources supports civilian peacemakers living and working on the frontline. Hassan Hasshin Feika, a long-standing partner of CR's, describes how this works in Sierra Leone.

Peacebuilding works

Peacebuilding initiatives existed in Sierra Leone before the civil war began in 1991. Since the war ended, their importance has been recognized and valued by most citizens.

Peacebuilding initiatives have mitigated a variety of continuing conflicts in most communities, reconciled broken relationships and promoted development – all elements that have caused relative peace.

The war left communities divided and hostility between people. Domestic violence and disputes over land and power increased. But the end of the war also presented opportunities for positive change, both at community and national levels.

Done well, peacebuilding presented opportunities for collective local decision-making, and for young people and women to participate in developing and governing their communities. It also creates the right conditions for people to make a living.

Peacebuilding which involves local initiatives and participation prevents conflicts, and advocates for win-win results that foster satisfaction and peace. Communities prefer peaceful ways of settling differences rather than the punitive court system. Effective peacebuilding minimizes tensions, helps people to be aware of local security threats and gives them hope for reconciliation.

The official Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process had its successes but it struggled to come to terms with the reintegration aspect. Real grassroots-level peacebuilding allows us to address these complexities and to advocate on behalf of the marginalized youths and ex-combatants who were excluded from the process. The support of Conciliation Resources has been very valuable in this work.

Hassan Hasshin Feika Co-ordinator, Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement

Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement is a network of 11 organizations which has helped prevent and resolve armed violence in southern Sierra Leone since 1998. This is achieved through local 'peace monitors' who identify and mediate in conflicts at community, district and chieftaincy levels. CR has worked with BPRM since 1996.

Main photo: Hassan Hasshin Feika (right) with 'peace monitors' in Sierra Leone
Inset: Hassan Hasshin Feika (left) and colleagues © Rosalind Hanson-Alp



“If the achievement of peaceful co-existence in local communities lies in the hands of the people themselves, their peacebuilding carries more weight and becomes more effective.”