

Where we work

Colombia

Little progress was made in 2007 in establishing talks between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and dialogue with the National Liberation Army (ELN) achieved limited results. We work with the Institute for Development and Peace Studies to help people involved in peacemaking learn from experience elsewhere.



West Africa

Despite Sierra Leone's peaceful elections in 2007 and relative post-conflict stability in Liberia, disenfranchised youth and acute poverty remain serious threats to lasting peace. Violent protests against Guinea's government left 130 dead and its fragility could jeopardize the entire region. A new peace agreement in Côte d'Ivoire ended a four-year political impasse but the country's future depends on its successful implementation. We work with local partners in Sierra Leone, Liberia and the sub-region to build peace and secure access to meaningful justice, especially for poor communities and traditionally excluded groups such as youth, women and ex-combatants.

United Kingdom

In 2007 our policy and advocacy work focused on improving UK government support for peace processes. We published a working paper and policy brief and made submissions to various government policy initiatives.

Uganda and Sudan

We work with local partners in northern Uganda and southern Sudan to find a solution to the conflict between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). This involves rebuilding relationships among communities divided by the violence and supporting transitional justice initiatives. In 2007 internationally mediated peace talks in Juba made great progress and are seen as the best chance for peace. The challenge is whether both parties will sign and commit themselves to implementing the final agreement.

Caucasus

Our focus in the Caucasus is on the conflicts over Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh. In partnership with over 30 organizations we work at different levels in society and across the conflict divides to tackle the root causes and consequences of these conflicts. Official negotiations in the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process remained stalled in 2007 and no progress was made over Nagorny Karabakh. Political unrest in Georgia in late 2007 and elections in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2008 are likely to complicate the search for peace.

India/Pakistan

High levels of political violence marked 2007 in the disputed regions of Kashmir, where we did exploratory work. Political turmoil in Pakistan added to the challenges. The official peace process continues to experience a political lull, though there have been several important civil peace initiatives.

Indonesia-Aceh

The 2005 peace agreement between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) ended more than three decades of armed conflict. We are developing an Accord publication that documents the process leading to this agreement and examines ongoing peacebuilding challenges.



The Philippines

Progress in peace talks between the Philippines government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) increased prospects for a deal in 2008, however separate talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDF) remained stalled. We work with the Sulong CARHRIHL network, the Program on Peace, Democratization and Human Rights at the University of the Philippines and Balay Mindanaw to help people involved in peacemaking learn from experience elsewhere.



Fiji

The year began in the aftermath of yet another coup – this time by Fiji's military in December 2006. Presented as a social justice campaign to right the wrongs set in motion by a coup in 2000, it has had profoundly divisive consequences for Fiji and its active civil society. We support our partners, the Citizens' Constitutional Forum, in promoting a constructive return to democracy.