

Conciliation Resources' practical experiences of peacebuilding offer important lessons for policymakers. Recognizing the impact of international policy on people affected by violent conflict, we provide analysis, critique and creative proposals to officials on regional and thematic issues.

Influencing policy and analysis

In 2007 we organized analysis meetings for the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Georgia and the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus. We also made presentations at international forums, including the NATO and Council of Europe Parliamentary Assemblies.

We supported Fijian partners, the Citizens' Constitutional Forum, in their international advocacy work. We were active participants in the Northern Uganda Advocacy Partnership for Peace Advocacy network, the UK-based Peace and Security Liaison Group, and the Committee for Conflict Transformation Support. We also published a report on the role of incentives, sanctions and conditionality in peace processes, ahead of our 2008 Accord publication.

CASE STUDY: SIERRA LEONE

Supporting Sierra Leone's peacebuilding efforts at the UN

With more than 10 years' experience of supporting local peacebuilding initiatives in Sierra Leone, we seized the opportunity to bring some core policy concerns gleaned from our work to the attention of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. This UN advisory body works to keep the spotlight on post-conflict countries and coordinates strategies for consolidating peace.

Our efforts resulted in our written and oral recommendations on the draft 'Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework' between the Commission and Sierra Leone's government being included in the final document adopted in December 2007.

In these we had stressed the Framework should go beyond recognizing the need to 'promote youth inclusion and empowerment' and mainstream these into all proposed sectoral reforms, policies and programmes. We urged action to deal with problems faced by young male and female ex-fighters and the challenges of an incomplete reintegration and reconciliation process. We also said it should put more emphasis on supporting existing community mediation and peace monitoring systems such as the Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement (see page 11).



Voluntary peace monitor Momodu Tejan (top right) and the youths he counsels in Koribondo chiefdom. With most of Sierra Leone's population aged under 35, young people's involvement in economic and political decision making is critical to the country's peaceful future.

At the Commission's meeting with Sierra Leone's government in New York in November, our Policy Adviser Catherine Barnes also encouraged the Commission to deepen its consultation with civil society.

We will continue to follow the Commission's work in 2008 and anticipate more opportunities to influence its policy.

"We look forward to improvements in these consultation processes and more opportunities for involvement in identifying ongoing conflict issues and monitoring peace agreement implementation," says Catherine Barnes.

CASE STUDY: UNITED KINGDOM

Improving UK support for peacemaking

"...we will make our response to armed conflict more effective, and provide more practical and political support to peace processes..."

Former UK Secretary of State Hillary Benn in his speech to launch the Conflict Policy Paper, London, March 2007.

In 2007 we put improving UK government support for peace processes at the heart of our policy and advocacy activities. The prominent inclusion of our key messages in the above Department for International Development (DFID) paper was an especially encouraging result.

Support for peacemaking has often been overlooked in the UK government's strategies for responding to conflict. Our working paper, *Bridging the gap: improving UK support for peace processes*, and

accompanying policy brief in July outlined our analysis and made specific recommendations as to how crucial gaps within the UK's practice, policies, resources and institutional capacities for this important issue could be remedied. We also made submissions to the various policy initiatives launched by the government throughout the year.

DFID has since drawn upon our expertise to set up its first training course on peace processes for its officials. Other government departments and units have also shown interest in receiving our input on their emerging policy on peace processes.

While we welcome these positive signs of change, we will continue to challenge and support the UK government to combine improved policy with changes in practice that help people affected by conflict worldwide.



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"Peace processes should be central to the UK's strategy for dealing with violent conflict," explained CR Policy Adviser Catherine Barnes, pictured here with Roelf Meyer, former chief negotiator for South Africa's National Party, at a UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues meeting.