

**In War as in Peace:**

**Youth Violence – A Challenge for International Co-operation**

**International Conference  
14 – 16 November 2007**

In co-operation with  
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), Faculty of Social Sciences  
at the University Duisburg-Essen and the sector project education and conflicttransformation  
(gtz, Eschborn); sponsored by SDC-Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Linking Development and Peacebuilding:  
Experiences from Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Martina Fischer  
Berghof Research Center, Berlin**

## Linking Development and Peacebuilding: Experiences from Bosnia-Herzegovina

Von Martina Fischer (Berghof Research Center, Berlin)

In the post-war period Bosnian society was marked by numerous intersecting lines of conflict. Besides the tensions between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks (expressed by national identities mostly based on religious affiliations) there were conflicts between refugees or displaced persons and the local population, between people returning from abroad and the local communities, between the employed and the jobless, between those who have lost their livelihoods and those who have not been so fundamentally affected by the war. Refugee return has been one of the most pressing and serious issues. Even if more than a million refugees returned, it is still not guaranteed that this process is irreversible. The continued competition for housing and scarce income-generation opportunities between returnees, local groups and refugees, who will not return to the places from which they were expelled, remains a potential source of tension in many places. The situation is further exacerbated by the exchange of urban and rural populations due to massive migration and re-migration processes. Many of these conflicts are prevailing and also marking Bosnia's reality today.

To date, life perspectives in the villages are much worse than in the cities. As a consequence, the conflict between "urban" and "rural" cultures, which was historically significant in the society of former Yugoslavia, has assumed a new dimension. The parlous state of the Bosnian economy also contributes to increasing the potential for conflict or, at least, for social injustice. Even if modest economic recovery took place – the United Nations Development Programme noted a slight rise in the Human Development Index in recent years from 0.718 in 2000 to 0.781 in 2004 (UNDP–Human Development Report 2004, 104) and the World Bank has therefore reclassified the country from a post-war to a transition country – GNP still stands at around 40% of its pre-war level. There is a lack of investors, capital and jobs. Unemployment currently stands at more than 40% in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (FBiH) and exceeds 50% in Republika Srpska (RS). The "unofficial" unemployment rate is probably even higher. According to official data, 42% of the population were unemployed in late 2004 (470,000 persons). 116,587 of them were *younger than 30 years* and seeking employment for the first time in their life. This shows that young people are especially affected by this problem. According to the National Human Development Index 2007, 45% of youth in Bosnia are unemployed – that is nearly every second young person lacking any expectation of a prosperous future. Especially those who live in rural areas do not have any economic or professional perspectives.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina in general, little is being done to integrate young people into the labour market. Moreover, the education system does not meet the requirements of the new market economy. There are very few job opportunities for young people in the formal employment sector, which is still underdeveloped as a result of the war and generally limited to smaller service providers or retail. Most opportunities arise in the informal sector (e.g. in street trading or language teaching). 44% of the young people who responded to the IBHI/UNDP survey and who were in work reported that they were not employed in the occupation for which they were qualified. In light of this situation, it is no surprise that a significant number of young people are resorting to earning a living (or financing their studies) through illegal activities, such as illicit work.

## **1. Youth Promotion as a Key Challenge: The Need for a Joint Peace and Development Approach**

Young people offer a strong potential for social innovation and therefore a promising target group for reconciliation work, especially in war-torn societies. Younger age groups (especially those who were born after the war) are generally more open to dialogue and cooperation, compared with the generations that have been directly affected by war and atrocities. But that does not necessarily mean that they will become agents for social change or peace processes. Young people also have a highly destructive potential, which can be sparked by society's neglect of this group. Young people who have no education or employment opportunities may resort to shadow economies and illegal or – in the worst case – criminal structures. Experience in many post-war societies has shown that if no social integration initiatives are available, male youths in particular form a willing pool of recruits for both mafia-like structures and for political leaders with a vested interest in perpetuating violent conflict. A further outcome is the migration of qualified young people to foreign countries, which they believe will offer them better opportunities; this results in a brain-drain and the loss of the most vital resources for social development. Such a trend has been apparent in Bosnia-Herzegovina for many years.

According to UNDP at least 92,000 young people left Bosnia between January 1996 and March 2001. Faced with these facts, former High Representative Paddy Ashdown warned: "This haemorrhage of the young and talented poses perhaps the greatest long-term threat to this country" (Balkan Crisis Report 2003). According to recent unofficial polls, 70% to 90% of young people think about leaving. It is also reported that more and more people consider to work in Iraq and Afghanistan, mostly in support roles to the Coalition military forces there.

Initiatives that aim to counter the apathy, discouragement and frustration likely to follow in such an environment, and to present small-scale but viable alternatives, therefore remain extraordinarily important. The exodus is exacerbated by another set of factors: there are still virtually no training opportunities in commerce or technical occupations for young people who have no interest in, or prospect of, a university career. The Bosnian universities do not offer any practical training. Young graduates in Bosnia-Herzegovina have virtually no chance of finding work because they have no practical skills. Disillusionment and the feeling that they are not needed take hold and lead to a lack of motivation and widespread lethargy. Disenchantment with politics (or politicians) and a general view that there is no point in taking part in elections are further consequences.

But some individuals and organisations work against this trend, among them local youth initiatives who face very difficult conditions. A wide range of activities *by* and *for* youths/young adults has been initiated over recent years. They include projects aimed at improving life chances and developing individual initiative or a sense of community among young people (involvement in civil society), and the development of related youth networks. Some offer young people opportunities for transnational or interethnic encounter; others focus on "empowerment" and training to promote individual peace skills. Few projects have set up services to provide practical occupational training, and only very few have incorporated income-generation or job-creation elements into their programmes.

It is important to encourage young people to articulate their ideas and needs. But offering them economic and employment prospects is also an urgent necessity. A particular challenge is to combine approaches that can traditionally be classified as development cooperation with peacebuilding measures. The combination of initiatives that provide training, empowerment, peace education, vocational training and income-generation opportunities in an integrated approach is essential for several reasons: if young people earn their own income, this improves their families' financial position and also boosts their self-esteem because they thus secure their

place in the community and earn some respect. Moreover, training and income-generation measures can offer incentives for people in highly segregated ethnic communities to develop a willingness to *work* together, since it benefits them directly. This may contribute to cooperation and dialogue as essential preconditions of peace.

This contribution presents some experiences from a multidimensional approach that strives to meet some of these challenges: the project “Young People Build the Future” that has been set up for young returnees and the local population in Eastern Bosnia by the Tuzla-based NGO IPAK, with support of the German NGO *Schüler Helfen Leben* and the Berlin-based Berghof Research Center. As it combines development strategies and peacebuilding instruments, giving incentives for interethnic cooperation through youth networking, education and income generation, this project can be considered a pilot project.

### **3. “Young People Build the Future” – A Pilot Project in Eastern Bosnia**

Initially, the organisation IPAK had acquired many years of experience in youth work in a Tuzla suburb (Simin Han), where it established a youth centre offering leisure activities, education programmes and practical training in carpentry with support from a number of Swiss and German sponsors. The centre was mainly used by Bosniak refugees who survived or fled from atrocities in the Drina Valley (around Zvornik and Srebrenica) in Eastern Bosnia.

When the families had to return to their villages (now in the Republika Srpska), the idea of providing ongoing support for the youngsters after their resettlement and of developing a project for the reintegration of returnees arose. The project idea was conceived by young people who had previously been involved with the youth centre in Simin Han (Tuzla). At that time the IPAK team was already familiar with the fears and problems associated with the return to this region, including economic uncertainty and physical insecurity. Experience in recent years had shown that many returnees in rural areas face such dire prospects that they soon re-migrated to urban centres. Supporting the return process in Eastern Bosnia therefore appeared to be an urgent necessity. A more detailed project proposal was developed by the IPAK team and the Berghof Research Center and presented at a competition for funding which was run by the German NGO *Schüler Helfen Leben* (SHL).

SHL accepted the proposal and funded the project with donations that were generated by schoolchildren undertaking voluntary work during the 2001 *Sozialer Tag* [Social Day of Action] in North Germany. IPAK was awarded three years of project funding by SHL, and received further funding in 2005. The Berghof Research Center has supported the process through regular participatory project evaluations.

The project aims to support the *integration of young returnees* through a combination of community work with income-generation and training measures. To this end, a youth centre, small workshops for craft and training purposes and greenhouses for agricultural production were set up in Krizevici, a village in the Zvornik municipality in the Drina valley. Young people from the region were directly involved in the construction of the centre, which had been a condition of the contract awarded to the building firm. Through training- and employment-orientated community work, the project intends to improve young people’s lives and contribute to local community development. It is also designed to have a conflict-defusing and preventive effect.

The project benefits the returnees from the Bosniak community and young people from the local Bosnian Serb community living in Eastern Bosnia. The aim is to encourage them to participate in shared activities and to involve them in joint community building and reconstruction, as well as in vocational training and production. This includes encounters, international youth exchange

programmes and seminars in civil conflict transformation and democracy-building. Of course, the “fun factor”, with sports activities and cultural events, is also important. A further key priority is to provide psychosocial care, undertake trauma work with young people and teachers, and launch drug prevention measures.

Project results so far include *successful networking* in the context of ethnopolitical segregation; offering *education and connecting young people to the world* by learning languages, mastering the computer and the internet, offering a space for *international youth exchange* and *inter-cultural learning as well as for social learning*, initiative and self-help.

The project’s objective of *motivating young people to articulate their interests and to become actively involved in shaping their communities* was achieved in several respects. In fact, expectations were exceeded when in the fall of 2004 they actively entered into a dialogue with politics. During the run-up to the first direct election of mayors in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ipak supported a series of meetings to which the various candidates were invited. Ipak had not initially planned these events: the idea came from the young people themselves. Such public dialogue between youth and politicians, or administrations, was an absolute novelty in the region. Youth groups from all 36 villages took part in this dialogue, and seven mayor candidates participated. The young people began by writing down their expectations, which they then presented. They pointed to simple things: a soccer field, a school, repairs of water supplies and roads, better communication infrastructure, and, first and foremost, places where young people could meet. Next, the candidates were asked about their goals in terms of youth policies. They were asked to name concrete projects that they would implement, if they were elected into office, and to sign a statement of intent. The statements were later published on the Internet. Together, Ipak and the young people tried to make sure that the promises were kept by visiting the elected mayors afterwards. The mayor of one municipality (Sapna), for example, stood by his word and had a connecting road re-built and the water supply repaired. He also granted access to a youth room in a house that young people themselves will rebuild and renovate. This was visible and tangible success. Young people experienced the fact that their involvement could bring about change.

Moreover young people were *successfully qualified through vocational training*. Since 2004 IPAK has offered training in agricultural production and woodwork (carpentry). Workshops for young entrepreneurs and marketing workshops are also on offer. Around 25 boys and girls successfully completed their training in agricultural production (tomato and pepper cultivation). This programme was carried out in cooperation with an agricultural college in a neighbouring municipality. The pressing question, though, is how the young people can use their new qualifications to earn an income. One option is to support youngsters by knowledge on how to set up a small business. Another option is establishing a cooperative that can help channel the vocational training into fruitful (self-) employment with general advice and support. The cooperative shall also have a role in buying and marketing produce. Furthermore, it shall help to link youth with employment opportunities in local and regional firms or in reconstruction projects. The cooperative is envisioned to be a clearinghouse for information and a buyer of products and services from its members.

#### **4. Difficulties and Challenges**

##### *1) Cooperation with the local administration*

Mayors and political majorities have changed several times since the project has been established and support has to be secured with each of them. A lack of reliability and uncertainty are a constant problem the project has to deal with.

## *2) Dealing with trauma and peace education*

Many of the returnees in Eastern Bosnia suffer from various traumas. Often they have experienced severe human rights violations, expulsion and the loss of family members. Close by the youth centre, one of the largest mass graves on Bosnian ground was discovered in 2004 – more than 600 bodies were found, civilians who had tried to flee Eastern Bosnia for Tuzla in 1995. Many of the young people with whom IPAK works have lost family members. To return to the places where such atrocities happened, and to be confronted again with the perpetrators, can rekindle or reinforce traumatic experiences. Even those who have been too young to consciously experience war and violence, or those who were born after the war, show signs of psychological stress. The symptoms are exacerbated by a lack of physical or material security, which the young people and their families often face. Lack of security is created, for one, because several war criminals remain at large in Eastern Bosnia. Also, there have been open and concealed threats, and although they have not been directed against the youth centre in Krizevici, they continue to worry people in the villages. The IPAK team has therefore started to involve psychologists in the work who helped the team to understand trauma symptoms and developed counselling for traumatised young people. Special courses were designed to strengthen self-confidence and self-esteem through group work, and to break through the lethargy afflicting many youths. Some of the young people were also trained to play a supportive and counselling role for their peers.

## *3) Meeting the needs of different age groups and overcoming apathy*

One difficulty is to integrate older “youth” (between 18 and 25) in training and education efforts. It turned out that they were often more interested in leisure activities and disco nights – understandably so, since they are trying to make up for the youth they have lost during the war by “just having fun”. At the same time, managing disco events is a big challenge, as these can easily be abused by violent or criminal people (markets for drug trafficking etc.).

Younger teenagers are often more interested in the training courses. To integrate the highly diverse expectations and age groups is a particular challenge. So far, IPAK has tried to meet the needs and interests of all those who consider themselves “youth”, even if some of those who come to the centre are well over 20. This generation of “older youth”, the IPAK team is convinced, needs to be integrated by all means. Still, it remains an open question whether it is possible to really meet everyone’s interests and needs. In general it is difficult to get young people engaged for anything, as many refugees suffer from apathy.

## *4) Gender mainstreaming*

A further central challenge is to integrate girls into all activities. Of course all education services should be open to boys and girls. But in traditional Muslim families in particular, it is common for girls to have to spend large parts of the day doing chores in the home and the kitchen while their brothers are involved in activities at the youth centre. In this milieu, the call for girls to take part in crafts training is likely to go unheeded, which does not mean that they should be excluded. Nonetheless, gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding and development projects, especially in rural regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina, faces a number of challenges. In order to develop the potential of young people of both sexes to the greatest possible extent, it is essential to be aware of boys’ and girls’ different realities, needs and roles that are typical in this society and region. It is especially important to maintain the freedom and change in roles that girls and young women experienced when they were refugees during and after the war, e.g. in urban centres. When devising programmes for young women, the challenge is therefore not simply to adapt to the customs of the village community, but also to help change these customs. One lesson is that girls and young women should be offered programmes that appeal to them

without overwhelming them or expecting them to enter into open confrontation or opposition to their environment.

#### *5) School and education policy regulations*

One frequently encountered difficulty for the project team is that school and education policy regulations adopted at a higher level are geared towards ethnic segregation, including different curricula which provide no teaching in the mother tongue but prescribe either the Bosnian or the Serbian language, rules on religious education and religious rites, etc.. These make life difficult for returnees and teachers and, in many places, result in the geographical separation of children and young people from different communities.

#### *6) Nationalist political discourses and polarisation*

Unfortunately, instead of much-needed further integration, 2006 and 2007 rather saw a trend for political polarisation in Bosnia. In particular, there was an amazing shift in public political discourse, which took a turn toward rhetoric that was aggressively nationalist. Such negative rhetoric was employed by Bosnian politicians from every constituency, all of whom sought to play the nationalism card in one way or another. This practice arose in the constitutional reform debate in Bosnia-Herzegovina's parliament and it surfaced again in the campaign for national elections, which were co-opted by political hardliners and opportunist leaders for their own purposes. Combined, these factors suggest a worrying development with respect to establishing stable peace. Nationalist rhetoric was particularly loud in reaction to Montenegro's decision to leave its federation with Serbia in order to establish a sovereign state, and due to international considerations for future independence of Kosovo. The Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska (RS), Milorad Dodik called for a referendum on the status of the RS. Rhetoric from the Bosniak political establishment was equally nationalist and contributed to further polarisation, ending up in some minority votes opposing further state integration. Croat hardliners as well used the opportunity for pushing the idea of setting up a third, Croat entity.

Sadly, these new outbreaks of separatist rhetoric—be these nationalist ideologies or just instruments for fishing for votes during the pre-election campaigns—have had an immediate and highly destabilising social impact. Specifically, this has helped revive fears of war and ethnic expulsion. It also has served to re-traumatise returnee communities, especially in Eastern Bosnia and other regions of Republika Srpska. Peace and human rights activists working both for the integration of returnees and reconciliation have reported that many families are concerned, with some of them considering the possibility of permanently leaving the area because they again feel unsafe.

IPAK staff have reported that the overall political polarisation also affected their youth work. In 2002-2005 at least a minority of the young people gathering in their activities belonged to the Bosnian Serb community. In 2006-2007 this number decreased again. It seems that the dominant nationalist political rhetoric which became popular in this period has effectively destroyed several years of peace work, as well as considerably endangered relationship building between the different constituencies living in the region.

## **5. Conclusions and Wider Perspectives**

In summary, the “Young People Build the Future” project so far had a positive impact on the target group by educating and empowering young people and providing them with practice orientated professional skills. The project also had an influence on the social environment, 1) in

the sense that young people started to engage in the community and put pressure on the political level to meet the needs of young people, and 2) in the sense that interethnic cooperation takes place at many levels between young people and also between schools and teachers. But the impact on the political and social situation in Eastern Bosnia can certainly not be evaluated comprehensively at this stage. Results will only become apparent once the project has been consolidated over the long term, i.e. after a number of years.

In the future, current network-building with young people from the Drina region in the Tuzla-Zvornik-Bijeljina triangle will be expanded. Cooperation with teachers and schools will also be stepped up during the next phases of the project. It is especially important to combine IPAK's activities with strategies aimed at reforming education policy at state (local and regional) level. But it would be presumptuous to assume that the "Young People Build the Future" project can dismantle the conditions and problems that have been created by government authorities or key political forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

NGOs – no matter how successful their project strategy may be – are not in a position, or lack the necessary influence, to transform school and education policy provisions that are geared towards ethnic segregation. However, the examples show that through their networking activities, they can help to establish a social climate which is favourable to peaceful community relations, in which people employed in the education sector are encouraged to work towards changing conditions.

*International organisations – in conjunction with NGOs* – should therefore intensify their efforts to promote school reform and focus on multiethnic education work. This includes the standardisation of curricula and the introduction of guaranteed mother-tongue teaching in order to safeguard integrated schooling (instead of the current ethnically segregated system). International organisations charged with implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement in BiH, including the OHR and the OSCE, recently introduced important measures to implement educational reform and also placed youth organisations, as a target group, at the heart of their measures to promote civil society. However, in order to offer this group prospects in their own country, it is important to work towards the introduction of practical occupational training at schools and universities as well. The launch of appropriate training programmes in technical occupations or crafts, commerce and industry could improve young people's prospects in the job market and do much to encourage them to remain in their own country.

The member states of the European Union also have some responsibility and can contribute to create favourable conditions and incentives in the region to make young people resist nationalist rhetoric and roll back strategies. An important challenge is to *open the EU's doors in order to make travelling easier for young people*. After the falling apart of former Yugoslavia and after the wars in the region, an amazing phenomenon can be observed not only in Bosnia but also in its neighbouring countries: The great majority of young people did not have any opportunity to travel which means that many of them have never in their lives met people from the neighbouring countries and thus cultivate a whole lot of stereotypes. This is why initiatives for youth exchange both within the region of former Yugoslavia and exchange with youth from other European countries should be fostered. Former High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch (in a keynote speech at the Conference: „European Perspectives of the Western Balkans“, Heinrich Böll Foundation, 5 July 2006, Berlin, has also stressed that - given the fact that 70% of the Serbian and Bosnian youth have not travelled to any foreign countries - EU borders will have to be opened.

But youth exchange and peace education as such are not sufficient but have to be linked with a strategy for economic development of the region. A major challenge is to create economic and employment prospects for young people in the region. This applies not only to Bosnia but to the

other Western Balkan countries as well, especially Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo. Strategies are needed that make job creation a key priority – for unless we overcome the high levels of unemployment, the Western Balkans will remain a simmering hotspot which sooner or later might explode into further violence. Another challenge is to offer them training opportunities and jobs within the countries of the EU. In any case, changes in the EU' s visa policy are urgently needed.

*Literature:*

(Ed.) *Peacebuilding and Civil Society in Bosnia-Herzegovina – Ten Years after Dayton*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Münster, Hamburg, London: Lit-Verlag 2007.

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*About the Author:*

**Dr Martina Fischer** is Deputy Director and Senior Researcher at the *Berghof Research Center* for Constructive Conflict Management in Berlin, Germany. She is Vice Chair of the Board of the *German Foundation for Peace Research* (DSF).

She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Free University in Berlin. She is co-editor of the *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*, and she has published on peacebuilding in South Eastern Europe; European peace and security policy; civil-military relations; training for civilian peacekeeping personnel; the potential of youth in conflict transformation; linkages between peacebuilding and development strategies. She advises peace and development agencies – civil society initiatives as well as public sector organisations such as the German Development Agency (GTZ) – on conflict issues. She did consultancy and policy advice for members of the German parliament, various political parties and the European Parliament. She is Vice Chair of the *Advisory Council at the Center for Civilian Peace Operations* (ZIF) and the *Advisory Council on Civil Conflict Prevention* of the German Foreign Ministry.

**D**rug crime in Rio, racist offences against immigrants, shootings at schools, harassment in Belfast's neighbourhoods, killing brothers and sisters in Ramallah, kids traumatized by war in Bosnia or in the Congo – the involvement of children and adolescents in political and criminal acts of violence in mega-cities, as well as in (post-)conflict zones of recent wars, is an increasingly disturbing phenomenon.

What do we know about the reasons and root causes of youth violence stemming from such a variety of political and cultural backgrounds and contexts? What do (post) war constellations have in common with the urbanized reality of western democracies? Do social exclusion, poverty, the absence of education, and the availability of small arms create contexts which enhance violence and may be considered as „grey zones“ between war and peace? How would we differentiate between politically motivated, socially, ethnically or religiously based, and other ritualized forms of violence? Which patterns of violence are specifically youth related?

The conference will look at recent results and findings of international research on youth violence. In order to better understand the driving forces behind, and to identify political strategies to deal with this critical development, we will try to compare and contrast (post) war and non-war constellations, and the causes or patterns of youth violence they present. What are promising approaches on communal and state levels, amongst civil society actors and those in the field of international co-operation, to tackle the challenge of youth violence?

You are cordially invited to participate in the discussions of this conference.

**Dr. Corinna Hauswedell**, Academy Loccum

**Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach**, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

**Andrea Grimm**, Academy Loccum

**Dr. Fritz Erich Anhelm**, Academy Director

### Conference Fees/Registration:

Room and meals: € 180,--.

For students (age 30 or under), members of the armed services and alternative service as well as unemployed with proper identification: € 90,--. Conference fees are to be paid in cash at the time of registration.

We request that you register by name, address, institution/ organization at:

Evangelische Akademie Loccum  
Karin Hahn  
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Fax: +49-5766-81-128  
E-mail: Karin.Hahn@evlka.de

Registrations will be confirmed as long as places are available. Should you have to cancel your registration, please inform us as soon as possible.

### Accommodation and meals:

Participants will be accommodated in single rooms or double rooms, if preferred. All meals are served at the Academy. By prior arrangement, rooms and meals may be available before and after the conference.

### Directions:

Loccum is located 50 kilometers west of Hanover in Lower Saxony. The nearest airport is in Langenhagen airport near Hanover. The nearest train stations are Wunstorf, Minden and Nienburg. Detailed instructions will be sent to all registered participants.

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### HOUSE SCHEDULE:

8.30 MORNING PRAYER, 8.45 BREAKFAST

12.30 LUNCH, 15.30 COFFEE/TEA,

18.30 DINER.

Opportunity to visit Loccum Monastery, Thursday 13:30 Uhr

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EVANGELISCHE AKADEMIE

# LOCCUM

## In War as in Peace:

### Youth Violence – A Challenge for International Co-operation

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In co-operation with

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(INEF), Faculty of Social Sciences at  
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and the sector project  
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## ■ Wednesday, November 14, 2007

- 15:30 Coffee/ Tea with cake  
16:00 Welcome and introduction  
*Dr. Corinna Hauswedell, Loccum*
- 16:15 **Youth violence in the globalized world**  
- Introductions to the conference theme
- 18:30 **Context matters: violence in (post)war and non-war societies**  
*Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach, INEF, Duisburg*
- Demographic data and findings concerning the social situation of youth in countries undergoing (post-)conflict and crisis-like situations of radical change**  
*Dr. Rüdiger Blumör, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Eschborn*  
*Steffen Kröhnert, Berlin Institut für Bevölkerung und Entwicklung*  
Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*
- 19:30 **Current state and perspectives of international research on youth violence**  
-  
21:00 *Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Heitmeyer, Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research, Bielefeld University*

## ■ Thursday, November 15, 2007

- 09:30 **Causes and contexts of youth violence – stocktaking** (work in two parallel sections)

SECTION I: Non-war constellations: urbanization, social change and exclusion

### **A world of gangs**

*Prof. Dr. John Hagedorn, University of Illinois, Chicago*

### **Youth at risk programming – A crucial element to build citizenship**

*Clarissa Huguet, Children in Organized Armed Violence (COAV), Rio de Janeiro*

### **Nigeria: Youth violence and the challenges in the age of globalisation**

*Dr. Nick Idoko, Centre for Peace in Africa, Lagos, Nigeria*

### **Urban riots in France: History, patterns and the significance of institutional violence**

*Dr. Carsten Keller, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin*

Facilitator: *Dr. Rose Ngomba-Roth, Göttingen*  
Rapporteur: *Dr. Peter Lock, Hamburg*

SECTION II: Post-war and continuous conflict constellations: ethnicity and identity, terrorism, religion

### **Israel-Palestine**

*Stephan Clauss, Akademie für Konflikttransformation, Bonn*

### **Northern Ireland**

*Dr. Neil Jarman, Institute for Conflict Research, Belfast*

### **West Africa**

*Prof. Dr. Paul Richards, Wageningen University, Netherlands*

### **Afghanistan**

*Martin Hayes, Child Protection Specialist of the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Richmond/Virginia*

Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*  
Rapporteur: *Prof. em. Dr. Peter Waldmann, Augsburg University*

- 16:00 **Strategies for dealing with youth violence and its causes**

18:30 (work continued in two parallel sections)

SECTION I: Non-war constellations: urbanization, social change and exclusion

### **Juveniles as target group and partner in development co-operation**

*Günter Sohr, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin*

### **Comprehensive public health strategies**

*Dr. Alberto Concha-Eastman, Regional Advisor, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Washington D.C.*

### **Intercultural youth exchange: opportunities for young people to prevent and de-learn violence and experience alternatives (beams of hope)**

*Christa-Berta Kimmich, European play work association (e.p.a.), Hamburg*

### **Neglect and trauma amongst young people in London – how to prevent and work with it at street level**

*Daniel Baltzer, Kids Company, London*

Facilitator: *Erich Marks, Geschäftsführer, Deutscher Präventionstag, Hannover*  
Rapporteur: *Andrea Grimm*

SECTION II: Post-war and continuous conflict constellations: ethnicity and identity, terrorism, religion

### **Linking development and peacebuilding: experiences from Bosnia**

*Dr. Martina Fischer, Berghof Centre for Conflict Research, Berlin*

### **Strategies for working with youth in the immediate post-accord period**

*Siobhan McEvoy-Levy, Butler University, Indianapolis*

### **Demobilization and reintegration of children and adolescents – experience from the Congo**

*Achim Koch, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Eschborn*

### **Strategies to confront youth violence – experiences from Nicaragua and Central America**

*José Luis Rocha, Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), Managua*

Facilitator: *Prof. em. Dr. Franz Nuscheler, INEF, Duisburg*  
Rapporteur: *Dr. Sabine Kurtenbach*

- 19:30 **Youth violence in cultural contexts: film and Hip Hop music**

21:00 *Katrin Lock, London*

## ■ Friday November 16, 2007

- 09:30 **Youth violence as a challenge facing international co-operation**

Final winding-up session, introduced by reports of the section rapporteurs

Ambassador *Friedrich Däuble*, Appointee for Conflict Prevention, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin  
*Dr. Winrich Kühne*, Center for International Peace Missions (ZIF), Berlin

*Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja*, European Youth Centre, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Facilitator: *Dr. Corinna Hauswedell*

- 12:30 Conference ends with lunch  
12:50 Departure of shuttle bus to Wunstorf train station (arrival around 13:30 hours)

Conference languages: German and English; simultaneous translation available