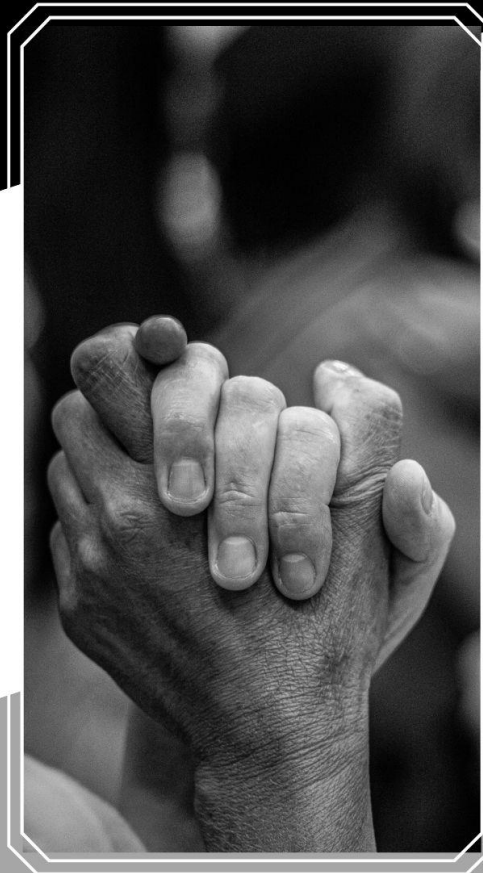


# GROUP OF 78

**2023 ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE**

**PREVENTING AND STOPPING VIOLENCE:  
EFFECTIVE ACTIONS TO CURTAIL CONFLICT**



**REPORT &  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

[group78.org](http://group78.org)

**Group of 78**  
**2023 Annual Policy Conference**  
September 27 – October 2, 2023  
Ottawa & Virtual



***Preventing and Stopping Violence:  
Effective Actions to Curtail Conflict***

## **REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Group of 78, in its 2023 annual policy conference, heard many knowledgeable and wise people address the causes of violence and conflict and what should and can be done to prevent and stop it. The objective of the conference was *to explore peace practices that can effectively prevent or curtail conflict and can inform policies and strategies of intergovernmental bodies, governments and civil society to mitigate violence*. This summary report presents the key messages and recommendations articulated during the conference. Supporting this report is the rich and valuable content of the presentations and dialogue in the event's 12 sessions, videos of which can be found on the Group of 78 website - <https://group78.org/podcast/>. The ideas in this report are attributed to the presenters and participants in the conference.

### **CONTENTS**

- Key Messages & Recommendations
- Conference Program
- List of Speakers

*Group of 78 – dedicated to dialogue and advocacy on international affairs and for a progressive Canadian foreign policy.*

<https://group78.org/>

[group78@group78.org](mailto:group78@group78.org)

## Group of 78 Annual Policy Conference 2023

### *Preventing and Stopping Violence: Effective Actions to Curtail Conflict*

## KEY MESSAGES & RECOMMENDATIONS

# A VISION OF PRACTICAL PEACE

*“Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.” - Martin Luther King Jr*

## A. OVERARCHING MESSAGES

### 1. Sustainable Development Goals

Much – possibly most – violence in the world can be stifled by **reducing or eliminating the causes**, including poverty, social exclusion, climate crisis, education and health deficits, land and resource disputes, and identity issues. The prime road map to address these issues is the **Sustainable Development Goals**, established by the United Nations in 2015. There has been progress on achieving them, but governments are not on track to achieve them by 2030. In addition to fulfilling them for their own benefits, a **more robust investment** in the SDGs will have the added benefit of both preventing and reducing violent conflict worldwide. The cost of dealing with the violence will be much greater than the investment in the SDGs.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The Conference **recommends** a vigorous acceleration in achievement of all the SDGs by the Government of Canada and all governments that adopted them.

### 2. All Governments' Commitment & Action

For governments to be serious about peace – domestic and international – they need to make a **clear and articulated commitment** that is spelled out and implemented by **policies, institutions, resources and actions**. Such a commitment can be seen, in part, by creating a **central focal point at the senior-most level of government**, a structure and a mandate to engage with all components of government on a comprehensive peace agenda for the country. It

would encourage, facilitate and coordinate policies and programs of specific ministries and agencies and apply a peace lens to all the government does. It could also leverage the wealth of civil society, knowledge and experience.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** For Canada, the Conference **recommends** that the Government of Canada, Provincial and Territorial Governments and Councils of major cities in Canada make such a commitment and implement a concrete plan to fulfil it.

### **3. Substantially Reducing Violent Crime**

In a domestic context, significant reductions in the incidence of violent crime – 50 percent in 10 years in the case of Bogota; similar reductions in London, Glasgow and other cities – can be achieved through means and policies that have been proven effective in a number of communities. These require:

- being “tough on causes of violence” rather than being “tough on crime”.
- a focus on protecting the victim rather than punishing the perpetrator; and
- smarter crime prevention and control. Policing is a very expensive, and often ineffective, way of tackling violent crime. An ounce of crime prevention is worth a pound of punitive corrections.

The costs of such prevention measures are significantly lower than actions that require policing and incarceration, or the conventional justice system, generating savings for the public treasury and economic benefits.

Guidelines for action to curb violent crime include investment in solutions that are proven to reduce violence such as:

- social outreach to young men, offering job training, IT instruction, sports
- violence reduction offices to diagnose/identify crime-prone areas, and develop plans to address them
- collect data to measure and evaluate results, demonstrate what works
- learn from communities and cities that succeed in reducing violent crime
- train social workers, educators and community officials.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** The Conference **recommends** that governments in Canada commit to this approach and strategy to address violent crime and further recommends it to other governments as well.

## **B. GENERAL MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE**

1. Two global crises will increasingly shape the future of human security: the climate crisis and increasing inequality. Both will foment revolts among the marginalized.
2. A human or common security approach that benefits all of society must replace the conventional security framework that favours elites and the armament industry. Human security puts much greater emphasis on prevention and means finding non-military solutions that address the origins of conflict.
3. We must act now – within the next decade – to avoid a climate catastrophe or face significantly higher costs later, along with increased conflict.
4. We must find alternatives to market fundamentalism and neoliberalism, through incremental steps and new approaches at the local and regional level to reverse disturbing growing inequalities and avoid the attendant violence.
5. As the Russia-Ukraine war will likely carry on indefinitely with most of the devastation suffered by Ukrainians, strong diplomatic efforts are needed to break the impasse. Both sides will likely need to make territorial concessions.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** The Conference **recommends** that these briefly stated messages be taken much more seriously by the Government of Canada, as well as other governments, and be used to formulate new policies, programs and actions that satisfactorily address them.

## **C. SPECIFIC MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE**

### **1. Northern Ireland**

Achieving peace after a conflict is not an event but an ongoing process requiring commitment of all parties. Included as part of the commitment is the need for resources, institutions, attention to the agreements and adjustments as needed through dialogue, as well as equitable settlement of issues, power sharing, verification (not just trust), time, and socio- economic measures to prevent seeds of violence from re-emerging.

Peace accords or pacts among parties within a state require compromise in governance, self-determination and security. Trust is not a major factor but must be built over time.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** The Conference **recommends** that the Government of Canada increase the Peace Stabilization Office within Global Affairs Canada to support the full spectrum of peace activities including conflict prevention and dialogues during conflicts.

## **2. Colombia**

Because of its violent past, Colombia has now put peace at the centre of its policy and program agenda to rectify the inequalities and injustices in that society. Under the theme of “Total Peace”, the government is creating a ministry of equity and is working on the creation of a ministry of peace with support from outside peace groups, including from Canada. It started with the establishment of hundreds of local peace committees that helped build a sense of security in communities and mitigate tensions between conflicting elements in society. Agrarian and structural reforms have been a key feature of the overall effort to generate greater access to land rights for increasing numbers in the population. Another has been the incorporation of former rebels/insurgents into government structures. Although there are many issues to address and conflicts to resolve, the progress to date demonstrates that with enlightened leadership, dialogue, compromise and support of the international community, a just and sustainable peace is possible.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** The Conference **recommends** that the Government of Canada provide official support to Colombia in their efforts to establish a Ministry of Peace.

## **3. Lessons from Africa and the Global South**

Communities need to feel a much greater degree of sovereignty and self-determination, or ownership, to build/re-build local systems. This involves changing the economic model to emphasize local products and moving away from export promotion. Climate is a major factor; the global community needs to help pay for adaptation. Actions need to include ensuring local land ownership, fostering local and national knowledge and scholarship. Other measures need to

focus on transparency in local projects and the expansion of regional cooperation without outside manipulation. Better governance is critical.

Many, if not most, conflicts in the Global South have roots in the legacy of colonialism and subsequent Western/Northern capitalist intervention. In addition, the more recent impacts of climate change have exacerbated the vulnerability of fragile political and economic systems in developing countries, creating explosive conditions, real and potential. In some respects, the multiple conflicts in the sub-Saharan region are the globe's first climate wars of the modern era and could be a forecast of what the rest of the world might experience.

Policies of the aid-providing countries – for example, structural adjustment – have prevented or reversed the economic progress of many countries. These measures have underscored the idea that the state, not the “free” market economy, should play the most active role in people's development.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** The Conference **recommends** that, because in most African countries the State must play a leading role in guaranteeing employment and production for its people, donor countries should provide support for it to do so. Ensuring access to land for local people – either through ownership or being able to work securely and long-term – is an important feature of prosperity and peace.

#### **4. Faith leaders and peacebuilding**

Although religion is a contributing factor to many conflicts, domestic and international, it is also a means for resolution. Evidence demonstrates that there are better peace outcomes when faith leaders are involved; they can serve as a bridge to conflict resolution and building social cohesion. Faith leaders can help settle land disputes, and secure women's and children's rights. Religion provides an avenue for peace and development.

Peace outcomes are more likely to be better – more effective, more durable – when faith leaders are involved. Faith leaders can be engaged at all levels but are particularly effective at the local level, such as in communities with land disputes or where women's and children's rights are at stake. Leadership for peace by faith leaders can be crucial in conflict arenas.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** The Conference **recommends** that the Government of Canada encourage and provide support for interfaith consultations and dialogues as part of the diplomatic actions in conflict situations.

### **5. Research and analysis on peacebuilding**

In recent years, the accumulation of serious research into analysis of conflict situations and peaceful resolution has provided dividends in understanding and addressing conflict. Data collection, measuring, and monitoring provide valuable informed evidence of what works and what does not to aid peacebuilders in coming to grips with conflict. This requires continued and increased investment by governments, international institutions and philanthropy. One challenge is to communicate the content of this research to governments and institutions that could apply it to real situations.

Peacebuilding is woefully under-resourced. Military and police budgets dwarf financial allocations to peacebuilding measures.

Research has shown that violent conflict and climate change compound each other.

Peacebuilding actions can be enhanced and made more effective by focusing on collective action and interconnectedness of different sectors. This allows more voices at the table and increases the involvement of women and children. It also enables greater conflict prevention, including more resources for prevention. It encourages a wider, more inclusive vocabulary to communicate issues and solutions. It is important to infuse empathy and humility in peacebuilding practices and policies.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** The Conference **recommends** that Global Affairs Canada, as part of its international efforts at peacebuilding, pay much more attention to, and encourage the engagement of, academia and civil society peace organizations.

### **6. Health and Peacebuilding:**

Effects of conflict and war on people's physical and mental health are long-lasting and far-reaching as well as extremely costly to the individuals and their societies.



Prevention of conflict is far less costly than dealing with results of violent conflict. It is important to identify and address causes of conflict before they burst into violence.

Indirect health effects are usually much greater than direct wounds from warfare, i.e., as malnutrition, disease, mental trauma, inadequate maternal and child care – all of which can last for years, even decades.

Peace and mental health are intertwined. Conflict, and even “negative” peace, causes mental challenges for substantial numbers of people in conflict areas.

Ceasefires called to allow for vaccinations of a population can, in addition to being of obvious benefit in themselves, provide space to consider alternatives to continuing the conflict.

The impact of war and violence on the mental health of populations is now understood more fully, although addressing the issue adequately remains at a low level.

Practitioners should integrate MHPSS (mental health psycho-social support) into peacebuilding activities and vice versa – co-creation, where practitioners from the two fields work together to develop concepts and programs.

Public health schools should include armed conflict and its consequences for health in their research and instruction.

Relevant institutions should break down silos among academics, practitioners, government ministries, civil society.

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** The Conference **recommends** that, to facilitate the above, the Government of Canada work within the World Health Organization to adopt the roadmap for the *Global Health and Peace Initiative*.

## **7. Future of UN Peacebuilding**

The United Nations is losing “market share” in global governance in general and peacebuilding in particular.

To help restore the UN's leadership, the Conference **recommends** that one idea worth pursuing is a **Global Fund for Peacebuilding**. It can build capacities, particularly at the national and local levels; support institutional reform; and develop curricula and cultures for peace. It can start gradually by, for instance, building confidence. It needs to be substantially resourced by governments, foundations, etc. Governments would be eligible for support via the development of their own peace plans.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** Other **recommendations** to enhance peace operations by the United Nations include:

- (1) improve the UN's conflict analysis and crisis warning,
- (2) upgrade the UN's Peacebuilding Commission,
- (3) accelerate the inclusion of women in peace processes,
- (4) establish UN peacebuilding audits,
- (5) enhance the focus on connecting the climate crisis and conflict,
- (6) enhance post war transitional justice.

A major opportunity to build a more peaceful agenda for the global community will be the UN's **Summit of the Future** in late 2024. It can emphasize and promote the Secretary General's **New Agenda for Peace**, focusing on prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace building and its blueprint for sustainable development. Prevention of conflict is particularly important; for instance, the development of early warning systems and the capacity to act on them can limit violence and reduce escalation.

The United Nations Security Council needs reform to enable it to take action in many more situations and in a timely fashion than it does presently. But the "Permanent Five" countries are against such reform. Major changes are not likely in the near future, so the rest of the international community needs to explore other means, through small steps, toward meaningful reform.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** The Conference **recommends** that Canada re-engage fully with UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding and organize its structures and resources to do so. Canada is one of the best situated countries to provide strong leadership for the peace agenda within the United Nations; if Canada does not do so, it lacks credibility in asking others to take action. This effort requires a commitment that has been seriously lacking for many years.

## 8. Peace Professionalism

It is time for peace work – conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peace-making – to be seen as a profession, along side all the other areas of endeavour recognized in this way. This requires the setting of clear standards for values, competencies and skills, as well as the processes for learning, testing and accrediting them. One such methodology is being established and needs to be encouraged and supported, anchored with the Civilian Peace Service Canada. A peace profession will ultimately support hundreds of thousands of peace experts who will provide professional advice, guidance and direction in conflict prevention and resolution to individuals, communities and countries around the globe.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** The Conference **recommends** that civil society organizations, peace groups, academics and philanthropists combine energies and resources to accelerate the establishment of a recognized peace profession. This effort can be aided by governments but should be organized outside official structures, as have been professions, guilds and unions in the past.

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** The Conference **recommends**, recognizing that academic institutions have a clear role in advancing peace, that universities create new programs and courses on preventing and curtailing war and conflict. These initiatives, along with sponsoring and undertaking related research, will be a valuable contribution to help recognition of peace as a profession.

*Group of 78 – dedicated to dialogue and advocacy on international affairs and for a progressive Canadian foreign policy.*

<https://group78.org/>

[group78@group78.org](mailto:group78@group78.org)

# Group of 78

## 2023 Annual Policy Conference

### *Preventing and Stopping Violence: Effective Actions to Curtail Conflict*

## PROGRAM

**Tuesday, Sept. 26** Virtual & In-person, Rm 4007, FSS, University of Ottawa, Ottawa

10:00 EDT Welcome & Introduction by Roy Culpeper, Chair

10:30 ***A Peaceful World by 2030***

**Paul Rogers**, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies, Bradford University, UK

With global marginalisation, increasing military spending and, above all, the accelerating impact of climate breakdown, the coming years have to involve a fundamental change in our thinking on security. We need to put far greater emphasis on human and common security instead of excessive reliance on state-centred approaches which put too much emphasis on military approaches. We need to move to a fairer and sustainable world through environmental and economic reform. This can either be forced on us by an unstable and deeply troubled global environment or we can recognise the urgency of the change needed and be well on our way to a more peaceful world by 2030.

**Moderator: Roy Culpeper**, Chair, Group of 78

12:00 Lunch

13:00 ***Preventing Violence and Building Sustainable Peace***

**Kai Brand-Jacobsen**, President & Director of the Department of Peace Operations of PATRIR, Romania

Effective ways of addressing conflicts, preventing violence and building sustainable peace exist. And yet, both the tools and techniques and the context in which these efforts take place are constantly changing. Kai has seen both successful and unsuccessful examples of these initiatives and he will share some of these drawn from his global experience in support of the UN, governments at all levels, other international organizations, and local communities.

**Moderator: Ruby Dagher**, Chair, G78 Peace & Security Working Group

14:30 Break

15:00 ***Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime***

**Irvin Waller**, Professor, Criminology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa; Author.

Violent crime tragically ruins lives and communities, yet we know how to stop it and help victims. Governments agree on how to get results at the United Nations, but do not act locally. The book, *Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime* is the result of a lifetime career working to get violence prevention science applied and frustration with too many preventable tragedies. Irvin Waller explains the proven solutions that tackle the causes of violence and ways to persuade politicians to buy-in to invest in the appropriate solutions. Investing in effective violence prevention is more affordable and successful than policymakers think; a modest equivalent of 10 percent of what they spend on police, courts, and corrections will do it and often before the next election! Violence prevention is achievable because voters, contrary to what the media tells us, want much more than reaction, they want prevention.

**Moderator: Evelyn Voigt**

**Wednesday, Sept. 27** Virtual/on-line

10:30 ***Northern Ireland – A Successful Peace Story***

**Sean Byrne**, Professor, Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Manitoba  
**John McGarry**, Professor, Political Studies; Canada Research Chair in Nationalism & Democracy, Queen's University

Northern Ireland represented one of the world's most protracted zones of conflict. Nonetheless, the protagonists were able, with the help of many others, to find a path to end the systematic violence and to begin building measures to prevent its re-emergence. Yet the conflict continues to drive a wedge between both communities. Why is this the case? This panel will analyse the peace process and extract lessons that could be beneficial to other conflicts.

**Moderator: Jill Carr-Harris**

13:00 ***Colombia: Successes in a Challenging Environment***

**Cesar Jaramillo**, Executive Director, Project Ploughshares/Moderator

**Luis Bernardo Díaz Gamboa**, Dean Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Pedagogical and Technological University of Colombia

**Dr. Alicia Cabezudo** – Professor Emeritus, School of Education, UNR

**Hon. Senator Sandra Ramírez Lobo Silva** – Elected to the [Senate of Colombia](#) for the the [Commons](#) party in 2018: former combatant of the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#) (FARC)

Outline of the “Total Peace” path, a multidimensional package of initiatives, initiated by the President and Vice President of Colombia, to tame the chronic violence that has plagued the country for decades and to build a sustainable peace. In addition, progress made thus far to create a Ministry of Peace as an integral component of the government will be discussed.

15:00

***Addressing the Roots of Conflict in Africa***

**Isaac Asume Osuoka**, Fellow in Residence, Global and International Studies, Carleton University

**Lena Abutas-Awadalia**, Doctoral Candidate, International Development & Global Studies, University of Ottawa

Conflict in the Sahel region emerges from the legacies of colonialism, international development malpractices and the devastating impact of climate change. The panel will address how civic intervention can help by strengthening popular participation and local government accountability to meet the challenges of mass displacement and climate adaptation.

**Moderator: Ruby Dagher**, Chair, G78 Peace & Security Working Group

**Thursday, Sept. 28** Virtual/on-line

10:30

***The Faith Factor: Positive Intervention or Perilous Intrusion***

**Audrey Kitagawa**, President/Founder of the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation

**Edward Channer**, Conflict and Social Cohesion Advisor, Islamic Relief Worldwide, UK

**Rabbi Kliel Rose**, Congregation Etz Chayim, Winnipeg

It is the rare conflict in which religion plays no role, explicit or implicit. From the barrios of Latin America, across East Asia, woven into the fabric of West Asia; from the Horn to the Cape in Africa, from Puna to the Punjab, some iteration of religion is inevitably implicated. Europe’s wars have all too often proved to be religious wars. To “Guns, Germs, and Steel” might be added, God. Yet regardless of the expressed dreams of some secular utopian visionaries, religion persists. From world religions and spiritualities

spring global ethics, philosophies of human rights, and the rudiments of an empathic civilization. More than 80% of the Earth's people profess a faith. This multifaith and multinational panel will probe religion's possible role(s) in peacebuilding and the resolution of conflict, as well as religion's fractious and destabilizing history of sowing discord.

**Moderator: Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, CCC**

13:00 ***New Peacebuilding Architectures for Today and the Future: Findings from PeaceCon2023***

**Jessica Baumgardner**, Deputy Executive Director, Alliance for Peacebuilding.

**Liz Hume**, Executive Director, Alliance for Peacebuilding

**Megan Corrado**, Director – Policy & Advocacy, Alliance for Peacebuilding

Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) recently held a major conference titled ***Beyond Fragile Ground: New Peacebuilding Architectures for Today and the Future***. The conference had more than 100 presentations across a broad spectrum of topics. Jessica Baumgardner and colleagues will provide a summary of some of the findings that emerged from this conference that shed light on effective strategies and actions that will prevent and curtail violent conflict.

**Moderator: Sylvie Lemieux**

15:00 ***Health and Peacebuilding: Lessons from the Field***

**Neil Arya**, Medical Doctor, Scholar in Residence, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo/Moderator

**Barry Levy**, physician, epidemiologist, Adjunct Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine

**Kaveh Khoshnood**, Associate Professor, Yale School of Public Health

**Friederike Bubenzer**, Peacebuilding Consultant

Peace and health perspectives and work can complement each other. By examining concepts, competencies, determinants, indicators and real-world examples of the interrelationships and interlinkages between peace/war/violence and health/disease/illness, the panel will examine the critical analysis of integrated peace and health paradigms and delve into the effects of conflict on health and the practice of healthcare; and subsequently the use of health-based concepts and practice to transform conflict.

**Friday, Sept. 29 Virtual/on-line**

10:30 ***The Future of UN Peacebuilding – a New Vision: Preventing and Fighting Fires***

**Bob Berg**, Distinguished Fellow, Stimson Centre &  
**Richard Ponzio**, Director, Global Governance, Justice & Security, Stimson Centre

The world has become less peaceful, challenging the adequacy of the whole peacebuilding system. The presenters offer proposals to enhance the effectiveness of peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and conflict prevention. They propose an ambitious proposal for an International Fund for Peacebuilding to support long-term institution and capacity-building to enable countries and their peoples to manage emerging threats to their peace.

**Moderator: Sylvie Lemieux**

13:00 ***Peace Professionalism: The Time Has Come***

**Dr. Philip Onguny**, Associate Professor of Conflict Studies, Saint Paul University in Ottawa,

**Dr. Nathan Funk**, Associate Professor of Conflict Studies, Saint Paul University in Ottawa, &

**Evelyn Voigt**, Board Director, Peace and Conflict Studies.

Peace practitioners are often seen as well-meaning amateurs, idealistic and marginally effective. They do not have a seat at decision-making tables. This must change. Effective conflict prevention and resolution require peace professionals with appropriate knowledge, values and competencies to be in decision-making positions globally. Seasoned peace practitioners will highlight examples of successful peace strategies and practices. In addition, the key elements of a SSHRC funded Peace Professionalism project will be discussed.

**Moderator: Adrian Harewood**

**Monday, Oct. 2** Virtual/on-line

13:00 **Conference Conclusions & Recommendations**

An opportunity for participants to propose and comment on key messages and recommendations emerging from the conference presentations and discussions. The final key messages and recommendations will be the centre piece of the conference report and will be the basis for future advocacy work on this theme by the Group of 78.

14:30 Conference Close



## SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

Presenting at

### Group of 78's 2023 Annual Policy Conference

***Preventing and Stopping Violence: Effective Actions to Curtail Conflict***

Keynote Addresses, Tuesday, September 26

#### **Paul Rogers: *A Peaceful World by 2030***



**Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, Honorary Fellow of the Joint Service Command and Staff College (JSCSC).**

Paul Rogers trained originally as a biologist, lecturing at Imperial College and subsequently working as a plant pathologist in Uganda and Kenya on a regional crop research programme. After returning to the UK in 1970 he lectured first in environmental science before joining the Peace Studies programme at Bradford University in 1979 to work on environmental security and then peace research.

Paul has a long-term research interest in the changing drivers of international conflict, especially the connection between socio-economic divisions and global heating. He has written or edited thirty books including *Losing Control: Global Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (4<sup>th</sup> edition 2021) and *Irregular War: The Threats from the Margins* (2017) and his work has been translated into many languages including Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Farsi. He is a frequent broadcaster.

## **Kai Brand-Jacobsen: *Preventing Violence and Building Sustainable Peace***



### **Kai Brand-Jacobsen, President & Director of the Department of Peace Operations of PATRIR, Romania**

Kai Frithjof Brand-Jacobsen is widely regarded as one of the leading pioneers, innovators, and practitioners in the field of peacebuilding, prevention of violent conflicts, mediation and peace processes, and addressing challenging and complex crisis in the world today. For more than 25 years he has worked across all continents and many of the most challenging war zones and crisis situations at the invitation of the United Nations, governments, international agencies and organizations, and local communities affected by conflict and war. He is a senior trainer for the International Peace and Development Training Centre (IPDTC) and has provided more than 400 training and Executive Leadership Programmes for governments, UN missions and agencies, and organizations in the field.

### **Selected Testimonials:**

“Kai Brand-Jacobsen is one of the leading people in the world working to mediate conflicts and assist in peaceful resolution of conflicts in many areas which could have become major wars.” David Hartsough, Co-Founder of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Director of PEACEWORKERS

“During the last 10 years I have had the opportunity to cooperate with Kai Brand-Jacobsen in several projects in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and others, promoting peace strategic engagements, research and trainings in one of the most challenging and violent conflicts in the world. After all those years I can say that Kai is not only one of the most charismatic trainers I have met, with a deep knowledge of applied peacebuilding, he is also a person with the ability to remind us all that we have the power to promote change in our bones.” Luca Gervasoni, Director of NOVACT - International Institute for Nonviolent Conflict.

## Irvin Waller: *Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime*

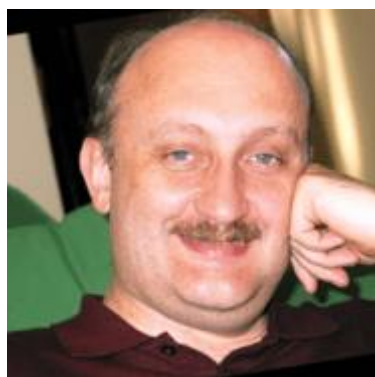


**Irvin Waller, Professor, Criminology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa; Author**

Irvin Waller is Professor Emeritus in 2018 at university of Ottawa, He has traveled the world to over fifty countries over fifty years giving keynote speeches and advising governments, NGOs, and international agencies on using science, comparative knowledge, and reason to end violent crime. He has advised the World Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank. He is a popular public speaker in English, French or Spanish. His MA and Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge are in economics and criminology. Irvin Waller's new book on *Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime* shares what has cut rates of violent crime by 50%, what applies that knowledge successfully to cities, and what are secrets to get government buy in. "It always seems impossible until it is done". Order at <https://amzn.to/2HyIS2N>

### Panel Sessions, Wednesday, September 27

#### *Northern Ireland – A Successful Peace Story*



**Sean Byrne** is a professor and the founding head of the graduate Program in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba (2006-2014). He was the founding director of the affiliated Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College of the University (2003–2018). His recent publications include *Local Knowledge, Wisdom, and Practices: Civil Society Peacebuilding, and Economic Assistance in Northern Ireland* (Routledge, 2023). He co-edited *Routledge Handbook of Peacebuilding and Ethnic Conflicts* (2022) and the *Routledge Companion to Peace and Conflict Studies* (2020) with Thomas Matyók, Imani Scott, and Jessica Senehi. He received a teaching award from the University of Manitoba's Graduate Student Association (2022); and a Teaching Award Certificate (2018), Outreach Award (2017), and the Faculty of

Graduate Studies Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring (2017) from the University of Manitoba. Sean Byrne was born and raised in Ireland.



**John McGarry** is Samuel Gyimah Distinguished University Professor, Department of Political Studies, Queen's University (Canada). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is the author and editor of several books, including *Power-Sharing: Empirical and Normative Challenges* (Routledge 2017), co-edited with Allison McCulloch. McGarry works on both the theory and practice of ethnic conflict resolution, specifically on the merits of power-sharing and

territorial autonomy. He served in 2008-09 as the UN's first Senior Advisor on Power-Sharing and has worked since as Senior Advisor on Governance and Power-Sharing to the UN-mediated negotiations in Cyprus.



**Moderated by Gillian (Jill) Carr-Harris**, peacebuilder. Jill has spent a large part of her life in India working with marginalized communities on nonviolence and peace. Deeply influenced by Gandhi's methods of peace with justice, she participated with her partner, Rajagopal P.V. in many actions that facilitated government support to landless and displaced people (mainly indigenous communities), in increasing their access to, and control over, land and livelihood resources. In her various capacities, Jill highlighted the importance of land rights for the empowerment of women and that women's leadership development at the grassroots level was critical to resolving social conflict and creating the conditions for sustainable development and peace. (See

[www.ektaparishad.in](http://www.ektaparishad.in).)

In 2019 – 2020 Jill was one of the leaders in the Jai Jagat cross-continental march from New Delhi to Geneva over the course of one year, with the aim of carrying out a social action that applied Gandhi's nonviolence strategies to poverty alleviation (in line with the SDGs) and also to issues of violence (war) and the climate crisis. (See [www.jaijagatinternational.com](http://www.jaijagatinternational.com).)

With an interest to bring this experience to Canada, Jill completed a Master's Degree with a dissertation on Nonviolent Social Movements at St. Francis Xavier in Nova Scotia (2012), and a PhD on Nonviolent Leadership at OISE, University of Toronto (2021). Her unflinching interest of informing through practice how nonviolent strategies can address deep inequities and social conflicts, is her way of learning and practicing peacebuilding.

### ***Colombia: Successes in a Challenging Environment***



**César Jaramillo** is the Executive Director at Project Ploughshares. His focus areas include nuclear disarmament, the protection of civilians in armed conflict, emerging military technologies and conventional weapons controls. As an international civil society representative Cesar has addressed, among others, the UN General Assembly First Committee, the Conference on

Disarmament, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as states parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the Arms Trade Treaty. He has given guest lectures and presentations at academic institutions such as New York University, the National Law University in New Delhi, the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, and the University of Toronto. Cesar graduated from the University of Waterloo with an MA in global governance and has bachelor's degrees in honours political science and in journalism. Prior to joining Project Ploughshares, he held a fellowship at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).



**Luis Bernardo Díaz Gamboa**, current and former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the Pedagogical and Technological University of Colombia, UPTC, was recently honoured with admission as a member to the Boyacense Academy of History, an entity that is 118 years old.

Díaz Gamboa is a Post-Doctor in Law from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, a Doctor of Law from the Complutense University of Madrid, a specialist in

Administrative Law from the Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, and a lawyer from the National University of Colombia.

Among his numerous other notable accomplishments are:

- President of the Academic Union Association of Professors of the UPTC ASOACADÉMICA, an independent union that has achieved important victories
- Director of Meditango for 20 years in UPTC Radio (Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m.)
- Director of the Primo Levi Social Justice Research Group (ranked A in Minciencias)
- Director of the Orlando Fals Borda Human Rights Observatory
- Director of the Master in Human Rights of the UPTC (Tunja and Bogota)
- Editor of the Law and Reality Magazine, with 900 thousand visits in 2021
- Author of numerous books and articles on socio-legal issues
- Member of the Observatory of the Right to Food ODA, which in alliance with FAO defends the food sovereignty of peoples
- Member of the American Association of Jurists AAJ, with consultative status at the UN
- Professor at the most prestigious universities in Colombia and lecturer in other universities around the world in Europe and America



**Hon. Senator Sandra Ramírez Lobo Silva** – Elected to the [Senate of Colombia](#) for the [Commons](#) party in 2018: former combatant in the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#) (FARC).

**Dr. Alicia Cabezudo** – Professor Emeritus at the School of Education UNR – Universidad Nacional de Rosario and the UNESCO Chair on Culture of Peace and Human Rights of the National University of Buenos Aires.



## *Addressing the Roots of Conflict in Africa*



**Dr. Isaac 'Asume' Osuoka** coordinates Social Action International, an organisation promoting resource democracy and the human rights and livelihoods of marginalised communities in West and Central Africa. Osuoka previously served as Coordinator of Oilwatch Africa, a network supporting communities impacted by the petroleum industry in the continent. He has participated in several international conferences and

has been a panelist at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Non-Renewable Resource Revenues for Sustainable Local Development. Osuoka holds a doctorate in Environmental Studies and has taught at York University and Carleton University in Canada.



**Lina Aburas Awadalla** (she/her) is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Development at the University of Ottawa. Her research explores the intersectionality of climate change and conflict in Nigeria, which is affected by three different types of armed conflict and climate change. Relying on a feminist and post-colonial theoretical approach, the research focuses on three aspects of the climate-conflict nexus, looking into the complexity of the climate-conflict nexus, knowledge construction (by challenging a Western-centric approach that has little to no input from the local population), and the

challenge in data collection in areas affected by both armed conflict and climate change.

Prior to starting her Ph.D. Lina has been working since 2017 as a delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conflict-affected areas in Palestine and Israel, Iraq, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Syria, and brings her professional experience into her academic research.

## Panel Sessions, Thursday, September 28

### *The Faith Factor: Positive Intervention or Perilous Intrusion*



**Audrey E. Kitagawa, J.D.**, is President/Founder of the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family, and Chair of the Anti-Racism Initiative and the Gender Equality Working Group of the G20 Interfaith Forum. She is the former Advisor to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the UN, a UN Representative for the URI, a member of the Advisory

Council of the Global Security Institute, and a Board member of the International Center for Religion and Democracy. She has been listed in Who's Who of American Law, Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in America, Who's Who In the World, and Prominent People of Hawaii. She was enstooled into the royal family of Ajiyamanti, Ghana as the *Nekoso Hema* (Queen Mother of Development) where a school she helped to build, the Nana Ode Anyankobea Junior Secondary School, is named after her.



**Rabbi Kliel Rose** is the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Etz Chayim in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As a senior rabbinical student, Rabbi Kliel (as he prefers to be known as) received the prestigious Rabbi Marshal T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellowship at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York. He was ordained in 2004. In 2014, Kliel was given the Rabbinical Human Rights Hero award by T'ruah: the rabbinic call for justice. Kliel was recognized for his involvement in interfaith justice work. Kliel was just recently appointed to serve on the Mayor's "Multifaith & Cultural Liaison Circle".





**Edward Channer** is the Conflict and Social Cohesion Advisor at Islamic Relief Worldwide, supporting the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and the application of social cohesion principles and programming across the organisation. Prior to this, his career in development and peacebuilding involved managing processes of conflict resolution and political dialogue within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, supporting political dialogue in Egypt and Tunisia following the revolutions of 2010/2011, and developing grassroots social cohesion projects in South East Asia. He has also managed programmes in education research and institutional capacity development in government ministries across sub-Saharan Africa. He has a Masters degree in International Relations and is studying for a Ph.D. in political science, focusing on religious Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in conflict management and conflict transformation.



**Moderated by The Rev. Dr. Karen A. Hamilton** is the former General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches, having served 15 years in that national and international role. The CCC is the broadest and most diverse ecumenical council in the world, representing 85% of the Christians in Canada, and includes 26 member denominations and its peace and disarmament operating division Project Ploughshares. During her tenure at the CCC, Dr. Hamilton built a 47-member interfaith, justice, academic, and NGO coalition that hosted the 2010 Interfaith Leaders' Summit to challenge and inspire the G8 and G20 on justice issues. That coalition was awarded a global prize for 'Best Practices in Interfaith Dialogue'. She is the founding chair of the Canadian Interfaith Conversation and the Our Whole Society Conference and has received national awards for ecumenical and interfaith justice leadership, all of the above roles requiring extensive and varied organizational skills as well as the supervision of a diverse staff and volunteer student team. Her award-winning book, *The Acceptable Year of The Lord: Preaching the Old Testament with Faith, Finesse and Fervour* was published by Novalis as were her books, *Living with the Old Testament* and *Living with the Psalms*. Her newest interfaith social justice book, *Faith As Protest: Answering the Call to Mend the World*, published in March 2023 is available from Novalis.

She has travelled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, including Afghanistan, Syria, and Al-Andalusia, and has led groundbreaking three faiths study tours to Israel and Palestine for over a decade. She has a leading, teaching role in a unique three faiths study course based in Jerusalem.

Since 2016 she has had the privilege of concretely supporting Syrian Refugees in Canada and her nine languages, at various levels of proficiency, include English, French, Italian, Hebrew, Arabic, German, Latin, Greek and Ojibway.

She has served the secular international justice World Federalist Movement for over 20 years as Canadian national chair and a member of the international executive and is currently the national President. She also serves on a number of charitable and non-profit boards including that of Project Rozana, a national and international organization building relationships and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through healthcare.

In 2018, Dr. Hamilton co-chaired The Parliament of the World's Religions Toronto Board, a global interfaith gathering of 8000 participants and continues to write and speak nationally and internationally on issues of justice, interfaith dialogue and religious leaders' engagement domestically and in global theatres of conflict. She has acted as the media point person in a wide variety of contexts and has deep experience in both consensus and parliamentary procedure methods of governance.

### **Panel Session, Thursday, September 28**

#### ***Beyond Fragile Ground: New Peacebuilding Architectures for Today and the Future: Findings from PeaceCon2023***



**Jessica Baumgardner-Zuzik** Jessica is a field-wide leader with extensive research and peacebuilding experience who has published several ground-breaking reports that bridge the gap between organizational-relevant research and sector-wide learning. She is a design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (DMEL) specialist and economist with 12+ years' of experience in academia and practical application in international development, humanitarian affairs, and peacebuilding.

She has over 7 years of field-based experience living and conducting research abroad in rural, conflict-affected, and transitional communities.

Jessica works on improving capacity and understanding within the peacebuilding field on monitoring, evaluation, and impact tools and analysis in conflict-affected settings. She specializes in creating usable, innovative data capture and M&E systems in fragile areas. She applies multiple techniques and theories from a range of disciplines to find creative solutions to tackle DM&E in complex settings.

Her professional experience includes leading and participating in multinational teams, organizational change management, innovative programming, and program cycle implementation in rapidly evolving contexts. She has acted as lead program manager for DM&E activities, project design and implementation, impact evaluations, and RCT's on several World Bank, UN, and NGO projects. She has led research endeavors involving violence reduction, preventing/countering violent extremism, inter-religious peacebuilding, learning and adaptive management, research ethics, economic empowerment, SBCC and mass media, MenEngage and SGBV, family planning, gender and entrepreneurship, gender and macroeconomic planning, maternal and infant health, ECD, and cross-sector gender involvement in male-dominated industries.

Jessica is fluent in French and proficient in Spanish. She holds a BA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Foreign Languages from Juniata College and an MS in Economics from the University of San Francisco.

Jessica currently resides in York, PA with her husband and much-beloved cat, Noe, where she enjoys doing family pilates, working in her stained glass studio, and reading extensively from her vast science fiction, fantasy, and history collection.



**Liz Hume**, Executive Director, Alliance for Peacebuilding

Elizabeth (Liz) Hume is the Executive Director at the Alliance for Peacebuilding. She is an international lawyer and a conflict expert with more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership positions in bilateral, multilateral institutions and NGOs. She has extensive experience in policy and advocacy and overseeing sizeable and complex peacebuilding programs in conflict-affected and fragile states in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa.

From 1997-2001, Liz was seconded by the US Department of State to the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in

Kosovo as the Chief Legal Counsel and Head of the Election Commission Secretariats. In these positions, she was responsible for developing the legal framework and policies in support of the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and UN Resolution 1244. After 9/11, Liz worked for the International Rescue Committee in Pakistan and Afghanistan where she established and managed the Protection Department for Afghan refugees and returning IDPs. Starting in 2004, she served in leadership positions and helped establish the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation at USAID developing programs and policies to improve the USG's ability to address the causes of violent deadly conflict. In 2007, Liz was the Chief of Party for Pact where she managed a USAID funded conflict resolution and governance program in Ethiopia. She also served as a Technical Director at FHI 360 where she managed a USAID funded peacebuilding and governance program in Senegal with a focus on the Casamance one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

Liz is also an experienced mediator, and she is a frequent guest lecturer and author on conflict analysis and peacebuilding in conflict-affected and fragile states.

Liz holds a BA from Boston College, a JD from Vermont Law School, and a MA in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She lives in Falls Church City, VA with her husband in a much cleaner and quieter house since their twin girls went to University.



**Megan Corrado**, Director – Policy & Advocacy, Alliance for Peacebuilding

Megan E. Corrado is an international lawyer and policy practitioner working to promote human rights, peacebuilding, gender mainstreaming, transitional justice, and post-conflict legal and governance reform. She has extensive experience in international development, grant implementation, advocacy, and political campaign management.

Megan has worked on democracy- and peacebuilding programs and processes in conflict-affected and post-conflict states across the Middle East and North Africa region, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Before joining the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Megan served as the Director of Advocacy with Women for Afghan Women, as well as an attorney with Cohen, Milstein, Sellers, and Toll and Counsel and Program Director with the Public

International Law and Policy Group. In addition, Megan worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of the General Counsel, United States (US) Department of Defense; the US House of Representatives; and the British House of Commons.

She currently serves as Co-Chair of the US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, as well as Vice President for Global Affairs with the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and a member of the Global Gender Coalitions' Co-Chairs Working Group.

Megan earned her JD, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from American University Washington College of Law; BA, summa cum laude, in Political Science and English from the University of Rhode Island; and studied public policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science and international law at the Asser Institute in The Hague. Proudly born and raised in New Jersey, Megan currently resides in Old Town Alexandria with her husband and yellow labrador, Pasquale, and can often be found running, hiking, and, stereotypically, listening to Bruce Springsteen.



**Moderator: Sylvie Lemieux** is the Co-Chair, Canadian Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Sylvie is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel Army Engineer and a retired executive from the Public Service of Canada. She has served across Canada and has participated in a UN humanitarian mission in Pakistan as a teacher for mine awareness to support Afghans' repatriation. Upon her retirement, she completed a masters in Globalization and International Development at the University of Ottawa and a doctorate in

Conflict Studies at Saint-Paul University. Her thesis was centered on the process of global treaties through the lenses of the Ottawa Treaty.

Sylvie has represented the Green Party of Canada in 2008 and 2011 as the candidate for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.

She enjoyed participating in World Social Forums (Tunisia 2013, Sarajevo–Peace in 2014 and Montreal in 2016) and other civic public spheres (Canadian People Forum in 2014 and COP21 in 2015).

While she remains a strong environmentalist, her activism efforts are now focused on peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. She is co-chair for CNANW, a board member of G78, CPRA and IPB, and a member of Pugwash.



## Panel Session, Thursday, September 28

### *Health and Peacebuilding: Lessons from the Field*



**Neil Arya** (BASc MD CCFP FCFP DLitt) is a family physician in Kitchener Ontario. He is the President of [PEGASUS Institute](#) and [PEGASUS Global Health Conference](#). He is a Fellow at the Balsillie School for International Affairs and Adjunct Professor in Health Sciences at Wilfrid Laurier University where he was and Scholar in Residence from 2018-2020. He remains Assistant Clinical Professor in Family Medicine at McMaster University (part-time) and Adjunct Professor in Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo. He is a past Vice-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize and President of Physicians for Global Survival (PGS). He was the president of the Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace (CPREP), which is now IPPNW Canada and has written and lectured around the world about Peace through Health. He was the founding Director of the Global Health Office at Western University. In 2011 Dr. Arya received a D. Litt. (Honorary) from Wilfrid Laurier University and the mid-Career Award in International Health from the American Public Health Association.



**Barry S. Levy** is a physician and epidemiologist who has written and spoken for many years about the impact of armed conflict on health, human rights, and the environment. He is the author of the recently published book “From Horror to Hope: Recognizing and Preventing the Health Impacts of War,” editor of several other books on this and related subjects, and author of numerous journal articles and book chapters. His writings on the war in Ukraine have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine and elsewhere and he has spoken at the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, major universities, and other venues. He is an Adjunct Professor of Public Health at Tufts University School of Medicine and a past president of the American Public Health Association.



**Kaveh Khoshnood** is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Yale School of Public Health and executive committee member at Yale Council on Middle East Studies. He is co-founder of Yale Violence and Health Study Group and a faculty member of the Program on Conflict, Resiliency and Health at the Yale MacMillan Center. Dr. Khoshnood is trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has more than three decades of domestic and international experience in HIV prevention research among people who use drugs and other at-risk populations. Dr. Khoshnood's research interests include: 1) epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) research ethics and 3) humanitarian health. His projects are primarily in China, Lebanon and Bhutan. Dr. Khoshnood is teaching a new course on humanitarian health in January 2022.



**Friederike Bubbenzer** is an independent South African peacebuilding practitioner with over 15 years' experience in developing and delivering peacebuilding and transitional interventions across the African continent with a focus on South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Ghana. Her research and advocacy focus is on the interconnectedness and integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and peace building. The hypothesis underlying this work is that communities are likely to continue to be caught in cycles of direct and structural violence unless peacebuilding processes are integrated into MHPSS and vice versa. She is currently working as a consultant with WHO and UNDP.

### **Panel Session, Friday, September 29**

#### ***The Future of UN Peacebuilding – a New Vision: Preventing and Fighting Fires***



**Robert Berg** is a Distinguished Fellow at the Stimson Center, Washington, D.C. He is also the advisor to the board of the World Academy of Art and Science; chair of an advisory board at the University of California, Davis; a fellow of the Royal Africa Society and the Academic Council of the United Nations; and a member of the Bretton Woods Committee, the Cosmos Club and the International Scientific Committee

of the Library of Alexandria, Egypt, and chairs Plan for Peace, a London-based non-profit. He chaired the Alliance for Peacebuilding and is now a senior fellow of the Alliance. Berg recently organized a mutual learning dialogue between leaders of the nuclear disarmament and the peacebuilding communities to strengthen the work of both communities.

In the 1990s, and for 15 years thereafter, he was associated with the United Nations as senior advisor to UNICEF helping to devise the first global summit to advance the human condition (The World Summit for Children) which set in motion and backstopped national actions that have saved the lives of well over 50 million children. He was also senior advisor to UNESCO working with the World Education Forum, the gathering of the world's education ministers. He was senior advisor to the World Federation of United Nations Associations and also was called upon to advise some of the largest non-profits in international development, e.g., Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), World Vision and Christian Children's Fund.



**Richard Ponzio** is Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Program and a Senior Fellow at the Stimson Centre, Washington, D.C. Previously, he directed the Global Governance Program at The Hague Institute for Global Justice, where (in a partnership with Stimson) he served as Director for the Albright-Gambari Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance. He brings expertise in the areas of global and national democratic institution-building, global political economy, South-Central Asia, and the role of international institutions in responding to state fragility, climate instability, global financial volatility, and population displacement.

Ponzio is formerly a Senior Adviser in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he conceptualized and coordinated Secretary Hillary Clinton's and later John Kerry's New Silk Road initiative. Earlier he served as a Senior Strategy and Policy Officer in the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, where he initiated a global network of multi/bilateral peacebuilding and stabilization organizations.



From 1999-2009, Ponzio served in a variety of senior policy and strategic planning positions for the United Nations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, and New York. From 1997-1999, he was a Visiting Fulbright Fellow at the Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre in Islamabad, where his research focused on the governance-security-development nexus in South Asia.

Ponzio has published widely in academic and policy journals.



**Moderator: Sylvie Lemieux** is the Co-Chair, Canadian Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Sylvie is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel Army Engineer and a retired executive from the Public Service of Canada. She has served across Canada and has participated in a UN humanitarian mission in Pakistan as a teacher for mine awareness to support Afghans' repatriation. Upon her retirement, she completed a Masters in Globalization and International Development at

the University of Ottawa and a Doctorate in Conflict Studies at Saint-Paul University. Her thesis was centered on the process of global treaties through the lens of the Ottawa Treaty.

Sylvie has represented the Green Party of Canada in 2008 and 2011 as the candidate for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.

She enjoyed participating in World Social Forums (Tunisia 2013, Sarajevo–Peace in 2014 and Montreal in 2016) and other civic public spheres (Canadian People Forum in 2014 and COP21 in 2015).

While she remains a strong environmentalist, her activism efforts are now focused on peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. She is co-chair for CNANW, a board member of G78, CPRA, and IPB, and a member of Pugwash.

**Panel Session, Friday September 29**

***Peace Professionalism: The Time Has Come***



**Dr. Philip Onguny** is Associate Professor of conflict studies and co-director of the School of Conflict Studies at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. His research focuses on political violence, ethnic conflicts, and peacebuilding in Africa's Great Lakes region. He is also interested in the politics of international development and humanitarianism, and the role of media in conflict transformation in sub-Saharan Africa. His work has appeared in both academic and policy journals such as the Canadian

Journal of African Studies, Global Change, Conflict & Security, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Peace & Change Journal, The East African Review, and Africa Policy Journal. He also co-edited *La Lutte Contre le Terrorisme en Afrique* (University of Montreal Press, 2019).

Philip is currently the PI for a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant project (2023-2026) that seeks to develop and test a system of assessment for peace professionals to increase capacity response in conflict-affected areas. The project brings together a group of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from Canada, USA, Kenya, Colombia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. His previous research on the politics of land ownership and ethno-political violence in sub-Saharan Africa was also funded by SSHRC through the Insight Development Grant (2017-2019).

Philip has been a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow at the Tangaza University College (Nairobi, Kenya) where he co-developed the curriculum for a BA program in peace and security studies. He has served as the director of the Conflict Research Centre (CRC) at Saint Paul University, and a board member of the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (CICR).



**Dr. Nathan Funk** is an Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College. Dr. Funk has served on the boards of two Canadian NGOs, Project Ploughshares and Peacebuild: The Canadian Peacebuilding Network, and currently acts as a board member for the Peace and Conflict Studies Association of Canada. He has authored a number of writings on peacebuilding and international conflict resolution, with a special focus on the contemporary Middle East, Islamic-Western relations, identity conflict, sustained dialogue, and the role of

cultural and religious factors in localized peacebuilding and social change processes.



**Evelyn Voigt** is a Board Director of Civilian Peace Service Canada (CPSC), Peace and Conflict Studies Association (PACS-Can) and the Global Alliance of Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP). Evelyn was born a prisoner of war in Africa. This has shaped both her career in international development and elevated her respect for those active in the peace field. Evelyn is the recipient of a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for her contribution to international development (2002). A

poet, spoken word artist (two CDs) she has, amongst others, co-compiled 150 Canadian Stories of Peace, an anthology, and authored *Flying Snakes and Green Turtles*, informally accompanying Tanzania through recent history.



**Moderator: Adrian Harewood** is Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University. Adrian joined Carleton's School of Journalism and Communication in 2021. He completed a BA in Political Theory & History at McGill University and a MA in History at Carleton University. Adrian has been a journalist for over a quarter century. He was the host of CBC Ottawa's drive home radio show *All in a Day* for 3 years, and then the anchor [of CBC Ottawa News at Six](#) for 13 years. In 2017 he was nominated for a

Canadian Screen Award for Best Interviewer, and in 2020 he won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Local Anchor. For 7 years Adrian hosted the CBC weekly cultural magazine show *Our Ottawa*.

Adrian has been the guest host of national programs on radio and television including *The Current*, *As It Happens*, *Sounds Like Canada* and *The House*, *Counterspin*, *Hot Type*, and *Power & Politics*. He has hosted local and regional programs including *Metro Morning* and *Ontario Morning* and appeared on or hosted national shows like *Spin Off* and *The Arts Tonight*. Adrian was the host of a series of

programs on BRAVO and PBS including *Literati*, *The Actors*, *The Directors*, *Playwrights & Screenwriters*. Adrian was also the host of CBC Radio's *2010 FIFA World Cup Show*. He has interviewed Angela Davis, Salman Rushdie, Eduardo Galeano, Bill Clinton, Wayne Shorter, Bob Woodward, Gustavo Dudamel, Sarah Chang, Deepa Mehta, Hugh Masekela, Cassandra Wilson, Willie O'Ree, Tomson Highway, Tony Benn, Azar Nafisi, Naomi Klein, Ken Dryden, k-os, Alanis Obomsawin, Joy Kogawa, Jan Carew, David Sedaris, Jack Layton, Oliver Jones, Steven Pinker, Wanda Robson, Lawrence Hill, Barbara Gowdy, Hans Kung, Austin Clarke, Jim Cuddy, Frank Oz, Preston Manning, Andrea Levy, Branford Marsalis, Margaret Macmillan, Bob Moses, Ken Burns, David Suzuki, Esi Edugyan, Al Green, Malcolm Gladwell, Chris Hedges, Femi Kutu, Tariq Ali, Adrienne Clarkson, Chuck Klosterman, Mary Walsh, Romeo Dallaire, Wade Davis, Measha Brueggergosman, Tom Green, Dick Gregory, Niall Ferguson, Richie Havens, Lyle Lovett, John Irving, Dionne Brand, Conrad Black and Donald Trump.

His writing has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Take One Magazine*, *NOW Magazine*, *Mix Magazine*, *The Halifax Chronicle Herald*, and *Z Magazine*.

Adrian has a long history working in campus/community radio. He was the station manager of CKUT-Radio McGill and has been a programmer at CHUO-University of Ottawa, CKCU-Radio Carleton and the former CKLN 88.1FM at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Adrian's academic interests include the History of Black Canadian Journalism, the History of the Black American Press, the US Civil Rights Movement, Community Radio, Sports Journalism, Journalism in Community Building and Development, Journalism in Carceral Spaces and Human Rights Journalism.

Adrian created the Carleton Journalism School's first-ever course focused on race, a graduate seminar called Journalism, Race and Diversity. He also created the first course in Canada devoted to the study of the History of Black Canadian Journalism. He teaches the Video Journalism course and the fourth-year course Journalism Now and Next.

Adrian is a member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, the Canadian Association of Black Journalists, and the National Association of Black Journalists. He sits on the editorial board of the University of Ottawa Press and is a board member of Journalists for Human Rights.