

# International NGOs dedicated to reducing armed conflict

## Aims and Goals

This research is the result of a collaboration between Elliot Short and [Milt Lauenstein](#). It is hoped that the list presented below will provide a resource for peacebuilders to better understand what the peacebuilding community is, and to go some way in providing information on all the international NGOs that exist with the explicit primary goal of reducing armed conflict that we have identified.

The concept of peacebuilding is broad and difficult to define, as the boundaries of what constitutes “building peace” are fluid and largely open to interpretation. A concise definition, however, is offered by the [Conflict Information Consortium](#) at the University of Colorado: “Peacebuilding is a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation.” (More definitions available [here](#)) For the purposes of this research, only non-governmental organisations which meet the following criteria have been included:

- Practitioner organisations focused on implementation rather than funding, training, lobbying or research.
- International organisations with a clear remit to operate across at least one border.
- Organisations which are functional at the time of this study (Spring 2018).

While myriad organisations aim to contribute to the reduction of armed conflict and the promotion of peace, this database only concerns those for which these aims are the sole, or clearly defined primary, objective. It is understood that organisations which aim to reduce poverty, advocate human rights, and improve education, for example, may contribute to the reduction of armed conflict, however organisations dedicated to such work have only been included if the stated goal of their efforts is peace. In addition, many consultancies and companies operate with the goal of reducing armed conflict, however private businesses such as this are not included.

## Methodology

The data has been collected in several ways. Existing NGO databases, peacebuilding networks, community forums, and ongoing collaborative projects have been examined. The NGOs mentioned by such sources have been scrutinised, and if they are viewed to have met the criteria of the database, they have been included. Most of the data, however, has been collected by an analysis of current conflicts, and conflicts which have ended in recent years.

Peace Direct’s Peace Insight [Map](#) and the Uppsala Conflict Data [Program](#) of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University have been used to identify current conflicts, while a recently completed study of “[How Wars Ended, 1992 – 2017](#)” by the author has provided information for conflicts that have recently ended.

The NGOs included in the database have been categorised into five groups based upon the method they use to promote an end to armed conflict. These are:

- Advocacy (Lobbying for an end to conflict on behalf of those most affected)
- Dialogue (Promoting contact and interaction between communities in conflict)
- Governance Advice (Advising on constitutional and political reform to end conflict)
- Mediation (Facilitating talks between elites/the leadership of communities in conflict)
- Monitoring (Ending/preventing violence through observing and recording conflict)

## The Database

[Action on Armed Violence](#). (UK) “Action on Armed Violence seeks to reduce the impact of armed violence through monitoring and research of the causes and consequences of weapon-based violence.”

Monitoring and advocacy.

[The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes](#). (South Africa) “ACCORD’s primary aim is to influence political developments by bringing conflict resolution, dialogue and institutional development to the forefront as an alternative to armed violence and protracted conflict. ACCORD specialises in conflict management, conflict analysis and conflict prevention.”

Mediation.

[Berghof Foundation](#). (Germany) “The Berghof Foundation is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation that supports efforts to prevent political and social violence, and to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation.”

Dialogue and mediation.

[Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation](#). (Germany) “CSSP – Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation stands for mediative processes, transparency and democratic structures, all through which conflict can be transformed.”

Mediation.

[Beyond Conflict](#). (USA) “Beyond Conflict assists leaders in divided societies struggling with conflict, reconciliation and societal change by facilitating direct contact with individuals who have navigated similar challenges in other settings.”

Governance Advice.

[The Bridgeway Group](#). (USA) “The Bridgeway Group works in partnership with parties in conflict-affected regions to provide long-term capacity building for the effective, sustainable, and non-violent management of social and community conflict.”

Dialogue.

[The Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation](#). (Canada) “The Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation (CIAN) is dedicated to the prevention and resolution of destructive conflict and to building sustainable peace at local, national, and international levels.”

Mediation.

[Catalyst for Peace](#). (USA) “We catalyze authentic cooperation between leaders at all levels and their outside partners where the unique experience, wisdom and resources of each are valued and utilized to co-create healthy communities and a more peaceful world.”  
Dialogue.

[The Carter Center](#). (USA) “The Carter Center, in partnership with Emory University, is guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. It seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.”  
Monitoring and Dialogue.

[Center for Conflict Resolution \(Uganda\)](#). (Uganda) “CECORE was founded in 1995 by a number of Ugandans aspiring to promote alternative and creative means of preventing, managing, and resolving conflict.”  
Dialogue.

[Center for Conservation Peacebuilding](#). (USA) “The Center for Conservation Peacebuilding transforms social conflict to create lasting solutions for people and wildlife.”  
Mediation.

[The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue](#). (Switzerland) “The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue’s (HD) mission is to prevent, mitigate and resolve armed conflicts, through dialogue and mediation.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Center for Peace Mediation Europa Universitat Viadrina](#). (Germany) “The Center for Peace Mediation is a small university-based mediation actor.”  
Mediation.

[Christian Peacemaker Teams](#). (USA) “Christian Peacemaker Teams: Building partnerships to transform violence and oppression.”  
Mediation and monitoring.

[Communities in Transition](#). (USA) “When faced with complex conflicts, we help communities untangle the issues that need to be resolved and identify key stakeholders that should be engaged.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Conciliation Resources](#). (UK) “Our mission is to provide practical support to help people affected by violent conflict achieve lasting peace. We draw on our shared experiences to improve peacebuilding policies and practice worldwide.”  
Dialogue.

[Concordis International](#). (UK) “Our mission is to work towards the prevention and transformation of violent social conflict.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Creativity for Peace](#). (USA) “Creativity for Peace trains young Palestinian and Israeli women to partner as leaders by transforming anger and prejudice to mutual respect, facilitating an understanding of the other and inspiring action to promote equality and peace.”  
Dialogue.

[The Crisis Management Initiative](#). (Finland) “Mediation and dialogue are now recognised as the most effective ways of preventing and resolving violent conflicts. They are the core of CMI’s expertise.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Cure Violence](#). (USA) “Cure Violence stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms – resulting reductions in violence of up to 70%.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Dialogue Advisory Group](#). (Netherlands) “The Dialogue Advisory Group is an independent organisation that facilitates political dialogue to reduce violence. We create or advance political dialogues between armed groups, governments and international organisations in conflict situations.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[European Institute of Peace](#). (Belgium) “The Institute pursues multi-track diplomacy and acts as a flexible, external tool in support of EU mediation efforts where the EU has limited freedom to act.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Friends Forever International](#). (USA) “Friends Forever International is an independent 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that utilizes a grassroots approach to help youth from around the world build lasting friendships across cultural, religious and political divides.”  
Dialogue.

[Generations for Peace](#). (Jordan) “Dedicated to sustainable conflict transformation at the grassroots, Generations for Peace empowers volunteer leaders of youth to promote active tolerance and responsible citizenship in communities experiencing different forms of conflict and violence.”  
Dialogue.

[Global Network of Women Peacebuilders](#). (USA) “The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), is a coalition of women’s groups and other civil society organizations that are actively involved in advocacy and action for the full and effective implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security.”  
Dialogue.

[Green String Network](#). (Kenya) “GSN has developed a community-based large scale approach and methodology for promoting the long process of community healing and social reconciliation within diverse cultural landscapes.”  
Dialogue.

[Hands of Peace](#). (USA) “At Hands of Peace, we are an interfaith organization that empowers young people to raise their voices as leaders of change. Through the power of dialogue, Palestinians, Israelis and Americans partner to pursue peace, equality, freedom and justice.”  
Dialogue.

[International Centre of Conflict and Negotiation](#). (Georgia) “International Centre of Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) works to build peace and accord in Georgian society, placing its main emphasis on conflict prevention and resolution in the Caucasus region with a special focus on Georgia.”

Monitoring and advocacy.

[Inmedio](#). (Romania) “Supporting people in (post-)conflict societies and strengthening their capacities to peacefully transform political conflicts.”

Dialogue and mediation.

[Institute for Integrated Transitions](#). (Spain) “IFIT's aim is to help fragile and conflict-affected states achieve more sustainable transitions out of war or authoritarianism by serving as an independent expert resource for locally-led efforts to find consensual solutions and improve political, economic, social and security conditions.”

Dialogue and Monitoring.

[Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy](#). (USA) “The mission of IMTD is to promote a systems-based approach to peacebuilding and to facilitate the transformation of deeply-rooted social conflict.”

Dialogue and Mediation.

[Interfaith Peace-Builders](#). (USA) “We lead delegations of people from diverse backgrounds to Israel/Palestine. These delegations emphasize listening to and learning from those immersed in the reality of the conflict, and advancing the work of Israelis and Palestinians committed to nonviolent struggle and peace with justice.”

Monitoring.

[International Alert](#). (UK) “Our mission is to build a more peaceful world by: Working with people directly affected by conflict to find peaceful solutions; Shaping policies and practices to support peace; Collaborating with all those striving for peace to strengthen our collective voice and impact.”

Governance advice.

[International Center for Conciliation](#). (USA) “The International Center for Conciliation fosters dignity and cooperation in conflict ridden communities through civic action, historical reconciliation, and community preparedness.”

Dialogue.

[International Center for Religion and Diplomacy](#). (USA) “By building relationships of trust, ICRD steers religious convictions away from fomenting conflict and toward strengthening communities in their ability to resolve current and future challenges to peace.”

Dialogue and Mediation.

[International Centre of Conflict and Negotiation](#). (Georgia) “International Centre of Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) works to build peace and accord in Georgian society, placing its main emphasis on conflict prevention and resolution in the Caucasus region with a special focus on Georgia.”

Monitoring and advocacy.

[International Crisis Group](#). (Belgium) “The International Crisis Group is an independent organisation working to prevent wars and shape policies that will build a more peaceful world.”

Monitoring and advocacy.

[Interpeace](#). (Switzerland) “Interpeace is dedicated to building lasting peace by reinforcing the capacities of societies to overcome deep divisions and to address conflict in non-violent ways.”

Dialogue and Governance advice.

[Kaiciid Dialogue Centre](#). (Austria) “KAICIID is an intergovernmental organization whose mandate is to promote the use of dialogue globally to prevent and resolve conflict to enhance understanding and cooperation.”

Dialogue and mediation.

[Karuna Center for Peacebuilding](#). (USA) “Our mission is to empower people divided by conflict to develop mutual understanding and to create sustainable peace.”

Dialogue.

[Kvinna till Kvinna](#). (Sweden) “The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation supports women in times of war and conflict. We cooperate with organisations that work for women's rights and peace.”

Advocacy.

[Mediators Beyond Borders](#). (Netherlands) “MBBI builds local skills for peace and promotes mediation worldwide.”

Mediation.

[Middle East Peace Dialogue Network](#). (USA) “Promote a comprehensive Regional Peace Plan based on the recommendations of the Geneva Accords, the Geneva Annexes and/or the Arab Peace Initiative as a road map to a negotiated two state solution.”

Dialogue.

[Musical Ambassadors for Peace](#). (USA) “We train and fund musical ambassadors who travel the world to build cross-cultural bridges, honor and preserve indigenous musical traditions and help heal those traumatized by war.”

Dialogue.

[Musicians Without Borders](#). (Netherlands) “Where war has raged, people need everything to return to life: food, water, shelter, clothing, medicine. But more than anything, people need hope. To reconcile, people need empathy. To heal, people need connection and community. Music creates empathy, builds connection and gives hope.”

Dialogue.

[Nairobi Peace Initiative Africa](#). (Kenya) “Our Mission is to initiate and facilitate conflict transformation processes towards the realization of a peaceful, thriving and cohesive Africa.”

Dialogue.

[Nansen Dialogue Network](#). (Norway) “To support actively and effectively intercultural and interethnic dialogue processes at local, national and international levels with the aim of contributing to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace building.”

Dialogue and mediation.

[Nonviolence International](#). (USA) “Nonviolence International researches and promotes nonviolent action, a culture of peace, and seeks to reduce violence and passivity worldwide. We believe that all people of every culture and religion can employ appropriate nonviolent methods for personal fulfilment, positive social change and international peace.”

Mediation.

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#). (France) “Nonviolent Peaceforce is a global non-profit organization. We protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies. We build peace side by side with local communities. We advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity.”

Dialogue and monitoring.

[Outward Bound Peacebuilding](#). (USA) “We challenge and inspire emerging leaders in divided societies to work together to build peace.”

Dialogue.

[PAX](#). (Netherlands) “PAX means peace. PAX brings together people who have the courage to stand for peace. Together with people in conflict areas and concerned citizens worldwide, PAX works to build just and peaceful societies across the globe.”

Dialogue and governance advice.

[Pax Christi](#). (Belgium) “Pax Christi International is a global Catholic peace movement and network that works to help establish Peace, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation in areas of the world that are torn by conflict.”

Mediation and advocacy.

[Peace Boat](#). (Japan) “Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment.”

Dialogue.

[Peace Brigades](#). (UK) “PBI is an international NGO that has been promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights since 1981.”

Monitoring.

[Peace Catalyst](#). (USA) “We wage peace by bringing Muslims and Christians together and creating space for conversations to happen and real relationships to be built.”

Dialogue.

[Peace Parks Foundation](#). (South Africa) “Peace Parks Foundation facilitates the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas (peace parks) and develops human resources, thereby supporting sustainable economic development, the conservation of biodiversity and regional peace and stability.”

Dialogue.

[Peace Players](#). (USA) “At PeacePlayers, we use the power of sport to unite, educate and inspire young people to create a more peaceful world. We offer sport programming, peace education, and leadership development to those living in communities in conflict.”

Dialogue.

[Purdue Peace Project](#). (USA) “The PPP’s mission is to convene groups of local citizens in fragile states where clearly identified situations threaten to lead to political violence, and to encourage and assist these citizens in their efforts to bring about peaceful solutions.”

Dialogue and mediation.

[Saferworld](#). (UK) “We work to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives.”

Mediation.

[Search for Common Ground](#). (USA) “End Violent Conflict: It’s our purpose — our call to action. We strive to build sustainable peace for generations to come. We work with all sides of a conflict, providing the tools needed to work together and find solutions.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Seeds of Peace](#). (USA) “We inspire and cultivate new generations of global leaders in communities divided by conflict.”  
Dialogue.

[Swisspeace](#). (Switzerland) “Swisspeace is a practice-oriented peace research institute. Our mission is to contribute to the improvement of conflict prevention and conflict transformation.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[United States Institute of Peace](#). (USA) “USIP is America’s nonpartisan institute to promote national security and global stability by reducing violent conflicts abroad. Our staff guide peace talks and advise governments; train police and religious leaders; and support community groups opposing extremism—all to help troubled countries solve their own conflicts peacefully.”  
Dialogue and mediation.

[Veterans for Peace](#). (USA) “Veterans For Peace is an international organization made up of military veterans, military family members, and allies. We accept veteran members from all branches of service. We are dedicated to building a culture of peace, exposing the true costs of war, and healing the wounds of war.”  
Advocacy and dialogue.

[War Child](#). (UK) “War Child works toward a world in which no child’s life is torn apart by war. Armed conflict is a reality for millions of children today. War Child is committed to supporting these children to overcome their experiences, and have a real chance at a better future.”  
Advocacy and dialogue.

[Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom](#). (Switzerland) “Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.”  
Monitoring and advocacy.

[World Faith](#). (USA) “World Faith’s primary goal is to de incentivize violence.”  
Dialogue.

## About the author

The inspiration for this project came from Milt Lauenstein, who designated the parameters of the database and offered guidance and advice to Elliot Short, who compiled the list.

At the time of publication, Elliot Short was in the final stages of completing a PhD at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, UK. His research is focussed on the relationship between the state, identity,

and the military, and his thesis is (currently) titled “The State, Identity, and the Military: Building a Multi-Ethnic Army in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

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