

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a white school uniform with a red V-neck collar, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. She is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. In front of her is an open book and a blue folder. Other students in similar uniforms are visible in the background, some looking at their books.

Annual report 2018

Building bridges for peace



A Network of People
Building Peace



Introduction

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls
Chair GPPAC Board

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres' much anticipated Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace was welcomed across our GPPAC network in February 2018 as it amplified our collective resolve to continue to strive a shift from reaction to prevention of armed conflict.

With more countries becoming less peaceful in 2018, and the fragility of peace experienced in homes and communities, due to political and environmental insecurities, it is clear that our approach of gender-inclusive prevention is needed more than ever.

Conflict prevention is increasingly recognised as a critical strategy for sustaining peace by – among others – the UN and its Member States. The international community sees the need to work together to prevent conflict and to sustain peace. We see this with the UN, how they themselves have placed the highest priority on conflict prevention.

Despite this, investment in conflict prevention has remained relatively low compared to investments in warfare and peacekeeping after conflicts have turned violent.

GPPAC is a classic example of how coalitions and networks can work together

Introduction

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls
Chair GPPAC Board

“When we brokered peace (and) then we knew that we had to sustain it. So it’s sustainable peace that we are doing, all the work that we are doing is geared towards that.”

Agnes Titus
Bougainville Women’s Movement.

with a focus on achieving collective goals by supporting a range of strategies that builds on and supports each other’s strengths and enabling action learning together.

In 2018, together with our members, we sustained our focus to support preventative action and to foster peace in our communities. We did so through our work on human security, through gender and youth inclusivity and dialogue. We also continued to bring local expertise on conflict prevention to the UN through our work with the Civil Society – UN Prevention Platform as well as our membership of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Through our work GPPAC is recognised as a go-to resource for connecting with civil society to inter-governmental processes as well as at country-level.

One particular highlight of 2018 is how GPPAC supported our member from Cameroon to prevent further violence following the Cameroonian presidential elections, which you can read more about in this report. We also launched our project empowering Kyrgyzstani youth to become agents of change, and bridge social, gender, and ethnic divides.

We continued to demystify conflict prevention amplifying the peace, development and humanitarian nexus.

As we look forward, we are determined more than ever to ensure conflict prevention becomes more widely known and understood as an effective set of tools and approaches to prevent violence and save lives.

We will continue to amplify the wealth and importance of local expertise available in our network such as through our first-ever podcast series, [The Peace Corner](#), which we launched in 2018.

In 2019, we will continue to work with our members, governments, international institutions to forge ahead so commitments are implemented in practical ways within national government frameworks – development plans, national budgets, peace and human security and humanitarian frameworks.

We will persist for peace – after all it is part of our network DNA and as Agnes Titus of Bougainville said at the GPPAC Pacific Pasifika Peace Talanoa event in April 2018, “when we brokered peace (and) then we knew that we had to sustain it. So it’s sustainable peace that we are doing, all the work that we are doing is geared towards that.”



“ Being part of a global network allows us to raise our voice at the global level, such as with the UN. We also know that, being part of a network, we always have people behind us.”

Tajykan Shabdanova
Foundation for Tolerance International,
Kyrgyzstan.



A Network of People
Building Peace

Introduction

Darynell Rodríguez Torres
Executive Director

I grew up in the midst of the Colombian armed conflict. It was a time characterised by a number of violent actors with different ideologies, values and interests. They had in common the belief that violence, torture, kidnapping and forced displacement would help them reach their goals.

From an early age, I experienced the way in which this widespread violence filled people's lives with fear. I came to realise that finding a way to address this fear and rebuild trust is key to building sustainable peace. This process does not only involve people, but also the governing institutions.

To establish common ground through dialogue and place people's concerns at the center of attention is an approach to start rebuilding trust. It is a way to let go of fears and prejudice. This lies at the core of what we do in GPPAC.

Sustainable peace can only be achieved with the participation of all members of society. We do this through our work on human security. Together, we address social, economic, and political grievances that are often the root causes of violent conflict.

Collective action on the local, regional and global level is fundamental to GPPAC's work. Today, there is still a need to create spaces for dialogue that involve a variety of views from local actors at different levels, including municipal and national governments, state security forces and multilateral forums. Local actors should be able to bring their voices to these forums and reflect on what it means to be secure.

We continue to work together for peace not only with our members on the ground, but also with regional inter-governmental organisations, governments and institutions such as the UN. We thank our main donors, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for their support and belief in our work.

We continue to put people at the center and to engage actively in dialogue about conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Human security is about creating our own reality free from fear, want and indignity. We might not realise it, but our conversations create the reality we live in. By creating spaces for dialogue among different actors, we contribute to empower people to act as creators of their own reality and move towards a future free from fear, want and indignity.



Our stories

The Long Road Ahead

Sri Lanka

It has been over two decades since Visaka Dharmadasa's son went missing in action during the heat of the Sri Lankan War. Ever since that moment, Visaka and other mothers strove with all their might to end the war in their country.

Now, almost ten years after the war ended, the questions arise: Where are we now? What happened after the government crushed the rebel groups? What has been done for reconciliation in the country? Is the country really at peace? Go on this journey with GPPAC to find out.

[Video: The long road ahead](#)

About Us

GPPAC seeks
a world
where violent
conflict is
prevented and
resolved by
peaceful means.



A Network of People
Building Peace

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), founded in 2003, is a member-led network of civil society organisations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding around the world. We consist of fifteen regional networks of local organisations with their own priorities, character and agenda. These regional networks are represented in the International Steering Group (ISG), which sets our global priorities and course of action.

Our mission is to promote a global shift in peacebuilding, from solely reacting to conflict to preventing them from turning violent. We work with different actors and bring together different groups to find peaceful solutions to conflict.

Together we support our regional networks to take joint action by facilitating regional and global exchanges: members from diverse regions meet to learn from each other's experiences. Our members also connect with other actors, including the UN, regional intergovernmental organisations, state actors, the media and academia. This has resulted in unique initiatives, showing our ability to bridge global policy making with local ownership and practice on the ground.

Our work is guided by and is structured around three core strategies: enabling collaboration, improving practice, influencing policy.

Our thematic priorities include gender mainstreaming, human security, peace education, and dialogue and mediation and we strive to integrate these thematic perspectives in all our work.

This report provides snapshots of what GPPAC does and is not a full account of the work we embarked upon and accomplished in 2018.

For more information about our work, please visit our [website](#).