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## KOFF – swisspeace

### Links

- [Egyptian Center for Women's Rights \(ECWR\)](#)
- [L'Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates \(ATFD\)](#)
- [KOFF Gender Websites](#)

Further information:  
KOFF [Rahel Fischer](#)

### Gender Relations and Women's Rights in the „Arab Spring“

Images of women wrapped in their national flag demonstrating side by side with men were seen around the world at the beginning of the year as demonstrations toppled the regimes of Tunisia and Egypt. What effect will the „Arab Spring“ have on gender relations in the long term? What are the risks and opportunities for women's rights associated with the ongoing upheaval in the two countries? And how can Swiss actors support women's movements in Egypt and Tunisia without undermining local initiatives or imposing an external agenda? These are some of the key questions discussed in the KOFF Gender Roundtable on 27 May with the Egyptian expert in women's legal rights, Nehad Abolkomsan, and Tunisia's Bochra Bel Haj Hmida.

Participating in the lively debate were representatives of civil society, the Federal Administration and various embassies, all of whom agreed that the active participation of women is important in the current process of transition. There is however a real danger that women will be excluded from the political process. This is made clear for example by the fact that the Constitutional Reform Committee in Egypt does not include a single woman. However young women, who to date have above all been active in the gender-blind sphere of the internet, also need to learn how to transfer their activities from the virtual world to the real political arena.

24.06.2011

### Links

- [HEKS: Honduras](#)
- [FIAN: Honduras](#)
- [SDC: Central America](#)

### Honduras – Two Years after the Military Putsch

A recent discussion on Honduras as an example of development cooperation in a fragile context was conducted by Leticia Flores, Coordinator for Honduras of Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS); Martin Wolpold-Bosien, the Coordinator for Central America of the Foodfirst Information & Action Network (FIAN); and Roger Denzer, Head of the Latin America Section of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC/FDFA). In the view of these three experts, despite the Presidential elections of 2009, the recent return of the ousted former President, and the country's readmission to the Organization of American States, Honduras remains in a state of crisis, with an elite oligarchy exploiting the majority of the population – a situation which often leads to conflicts over land. Political opposition is repressed with impunity.

What Honduras needs most according to the experts is „real peace“, full democracy with guaranteed legal redress, effective protection of human rights with no impunity, poverty reduction with access to healthcare, education and land for all. This would mean greatly improving a security situation which at present allows virtually no room for human rights activities.

Further information:  
KOFF [Marcel von Arx](#)

Roger Denzer pointed out that Switzerland's current foreign policy is based on dialogue with various protagonists in Honduras. Switzerland is represented in international bodies including the G-16 as well as the development banks and actively supports their role. Moreover the SDC, which is active in rural areas of Honduras, tries to influence political conditions through conflict-sensitive efforts to reduce poverty and improve general conditions, for example in collaboration with UN human rights projects as well as through a vocational training project aimed at youth at risk.

Martin Wolpold-Bosien would like to improve synergies and strengthen networks between national and international human rights organizations, with more intensive monitoring. He regards the work of the civil society Truth Commission as of the greatest importance. He also sees as meaningful the opening of a local office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Leticia Flores as well as some of the 30 participants would like to see greater determination on the part of the international community to impose conditions for cooperation with the government of Honduras. As far as Flores is concerned the comprehensive promotion of human rights and strict prosecution of crimes are the *sine qua non* of sustainable peace and democracy in Honduras. 22.06.2011

## Links

- [CDA](#)
- [swisspeace: Peacebuilding Analysis & Impact](#)

## Do no Harm Consultation

Collaborative Learning Projects (CDA) conducted a consultation on the Do no Harm (DnH) concept in June 2011 in Boston. The event brought together around 30 experts and practitioners – including KOFF – from organizations worldwide.

The DnH concept has been developed by CDA over the past 18 years through a learning process which included case studies on its implementation in the areas of humanitarian aid, development and peacebuilding. Marking the completion of the case studies, the consultation focused on the transition from learning to action.

The participants found that although there is much awareness about DnH in peacebuilding and development organizations, its implementation is still a challenge for various reasons: staff is often overstrained by guidelines, guiding principles and regulations; some organizations lack the necessary human and financial resources; donors and implementing organizations are not flexible enough to adapt funding to rapidly changing conflict contexts; the integration of DnH in the Project Cycle Management remains a challenge.

The consultation was structured around the ladder of impact which leads through different stages; from the individual level of awareness over different steps to organizational change. Outcomes of the consultation are new ideas on the integration of DnH in monitoring and evaluation systems, and the integration of DnH and other concepts such as Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) to facilitate implementation. The participants discussed DnH in new areas such as the

Further information:  
KOFF [Sidonia Gabriel](#)

security sector and climate change and adjusting the terminology to these fields. The group provided ideas on how to better demonstrate the positive impact of DnH in project implementation and the cost of not applying it.

CDA and the participants committed to building on this momentum and further developing the ideas discussed in collaboration with the global network of practitioners.

11.06.2011

## Links

- [Peace Process and Federalism in Nepal - Experiences, reflections and learning, edited by Bishnu Upreti, Nicole Töpperwien, Markus Heiniger \(2009\)](#)
- [KOFF Websites on Nepal](#)
- [Ximpulse](#)

Further information:  
KOFF [Marcel von Arx](#)

## Federalism in Nepal – From a Vision to Reality?

Nepal is about to undergo a paradigm shift, in the transition from a centralized state to one with federal structures. Nicole Töpperwien of Ximpulse is supporting this process while – on a mandate from Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – advising various actors including indigenous groups, women, political parties and members of the Committee on State Restructuring and Distribution of State Power in the Constituent Assembly. At the recent KOFF Roundtable she outlined the most urgent questions and challenges.

Some of the most difficult questions that arise concern the number, size, boundaries and names of the future provinces. This will require reconciling a wide variety of political, economic and even emotional interests. Ensuring a stable balance of power and interests is the ultimate objective. According to Töpperwien much has already been achieved in the sharing of power and responsibilities between Kathmandu and the provinces.

Negotiation skills, readiness to compromise, technical know-how and access to the decision makers are the trump cards that enable Switzerland to continue to play a constructive role in the search for solutions in Nepal. Swiss involvement is based on the firm belief that federalism can provide an optimum framework for inclusion of the traditionally disadvantaged population segments, notably in the Tarai region, as well as a sustainable basis for poverty reduction. Actual implementation of the new constitution will show whether or not federal structures will indeed help to achieve these objectives.

14.06.2011

## Focus

### Links

- [swisspeace: Dealing with the Past](#)
- [PD IV: Dealing with the Past](#)
- [Swiss Federal Archives](#)
- [Joinet-Report: The Administration of Justice and the Human Rights of Detainees, Question of the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations](#)
- [Orentlicher Report: Updated Set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity](#)
- [Human Rights Council, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the seminar on experiences of archives as a means to guarantee the right to the truth](#)
- [ICTY](#)
- [Argentina: Memoria Abierta](#)

### Archives as an Essential Means of Dealing with the Past

**The importance of archives and records in periods of transition and dealing with the past initiatives is often underestimated and forgotten. This article sheds light on the importance of protecting material which documents human rights violations. Technical issues such as the location and ownership of records are as sensitive as the privacy and security of victims and witnesses. Switzerland provides expertise both on archival techniques and in questions of dealing with the past and is in the process of starting a project on „Archives and Dealing with the Past“**

Several decisive UN documents exist that mention the linkage between dealing with the past and archives. The United Nations High Commission on Human Rights principles against impunity, prepared by Louis Joinet and amended by Diane Orentlicher, underline that „the right to know implies that archives must be preserved, especially during a period of transition“. The steps required for this purpose are: measures against the removal, destruction or misuse of archives; the establishment of an inventory of available archives; and regulations of access to such archives. Archives in this context include not only paper, but also video, audio, artifacts and other material which prove human rights violations e.g. personal items of victims or weapons.

#### How to keep records

The protection of such material is often urgent since out-going regimes tend to destroy records documenting their own human rights violations. Relocation might therefore be necessary, but this is expensive and often controversial. As a principle, except where the physical survival of archives is at stake, the originals should remain in the country concerned and only security copies should be placed abroad. For example, in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Swiss National Archives hold security copies of the most important documents of the archives of the National Police of Guatemala since 2006, while the originals of this enormous and important archive remains in Guatemala. These previously abandoned records were discovered accidentally in 2005 and contain essential information on human rights violations committed by the former Guatemalan police forces.

It is not only archives of state actors which are important with regard to transition processes but also records of mechanisms established with the purpose of dealing with a violent past. Such mechanisms include truth or historical commissions, investigations and inquiry bodies, national, international and mixed tribunals, missing person commissions, international entities with prosecutorial powers and other transition mechanisms. All of these bodies produce large archives that can be of immense importance for subsequent dealing with the past processes, for instance for national criminal prosecutions, for vetting procedures, reparation programs and memorial projects. The confidentiality of information – mainly in relation to witness protection, the access of the public to sensitive information (e.g. regarding national security) as well as the location and ownership of such records are often highly controversial and sensitive issues.

Therefore, there are other extremely important concerns in addition to purely technical archival questions which are at stake, in particular concerning records documenting human rights violations: The level of restriction required to safeguard the privacy and security of victims and witnesses; the cooperation between archives and truth finding mechanisms, as well as national and international judicial bodies; the issue of access of the public to confidential information; the issue of outreach to different publics by opening archives and records to researchers, pedagogues, journalists and the broader public; and the use of archives for memorials.

### **Swiss expertise**

After many years of work in this field, the Political Division IV Human Security (PD IV) of the FDFA has achieved a high visibility regarding its activities in the area of dealing with the past. Based on this foundation the FDFA and has taken the initiative to convey a joint venture with the Swiss Federal Archives, one of the leading archival bodies in the field of digitalization of archives. Due to this specific combination of expertise in dealing with the past and in archival work, Switzerland has been approached several times in recent years with requests regarding support for safeguarding archives and records on human rights violations. At an international level, the FDFA and the Federal Archives together have already played an important role in this field: Besides the above mentioned support in securing the Guatemalan archives, the Federal Archives have sent archival experts to Albania, Eritrea, Burkina Faso, Russia and Lithuania. Since 2006 the FDFA has co-authored several Resolutions in the Human Rights Council on the right to truth. Switzerland has also provided technical support to three documentation centers collecting records on violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the Balkans and has organized workshops on these issues in Colombia, Burundi and elsewhere.

### **Project „Archives and Dealing with the Past“**

The increasing number of requests related to archives and dealing with the past have lead the FDFA and the Swiss Federal Archives to set up the project „Archives and Dealing with the Past“ in cooperation with swisspeace. Activities started on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. The main goals in this initial phase of the project will be to reach out to existing experts in this field, to contribute to the consolidation of a network, and to act as a nexus between governments and organizations requesting expertise and support and the experts who can provide it.

An example of what this project will be able to realize in the future is the workshop that was organized jointly by the FDFA, the International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and swisspeace. This workshop took place between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 in Zagreb with the aim of sharing best practices in terms of archival strategies. Experts from Argentina (Memoria Abierta), Slovenia (Study Centre for National Reconciliation), Spain (Archivists without Borders) and the US (Holocaust Museum in Washington, USA) shared their experience with the participants, especially regarding public access to archives, outreach strategies, memorialisation, education and political strategies. Government delegates and ICTY representatives also took part in informal exchanges about the legacy strategy of the ICTY in the region, regarding its public archives and the possible establishment of information centers in the region. 28.06.2011

Further information:

swisspeace

[Elisabeth Baumgartner](#)

Coordinator of the project  
Archives and Dealing with  
the Past

## News from Swiss NGOs

### Links

- [mission 21: Interreligious Cooperation for Peace](#)

Further information:  
mission 21  
[Katharina Gfeller](#)

### Interreligious Cooperation for Peace in Indonesia

A court in Central Java sentenced a Christian to a five-year prison term. He had insulted Islam. Finding the sentence too lenient, more than a thousand demonstrators destroyed the courthouse and three churches. In another case, radical Muslims in West Java attacked members of a Muslim community of Indian origin. The police stood idly by.

Violent attacks like these, targeting religious minorities, are not uncommon in the Indonesian archipelago. Some 85% of the population are moderate Muslims. Since the fall of Suharto in 1998, the religious freedom guaranteed by the State has been eroded. Moreover a religious element has crept into conflicts over political power and economic resources. Fundamentalists have gained ground in some areas, introducing Sharia laws and taboos that discriminate against religious minorities. mission 21 is working with local partners in Indonesia in the project „Interreligious Cooperation for Peace“.

mission 21 promotes and supports dialogue and cooperation between people of different beliefs and traditions through a number of peace initiatives, both at the national diplomatic level and at the grass roots, in an effort to support cohabitation. In 2010, in Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi, mission 21 provided support for a camp for Indonesians of different religions and denominations who work with young people. It was organized by the Dialogue Center of the State Islamic University (UIN) in Yogyakarta. This led to the emergence of low threshold interreligious projects and networks, devoted among other things to combating poverty and political education.

06.06.2011

### Links

- [CETIM \(with videos of the conference\)](#)
- [UN Working Group](#)
- [Montreux Document](#)

### Private Armies and the Privatization of War? The Beginning of a Public Debate

Private military and security companies (PMSCs), although a new phenomenon in the geostrategy of peace and security, are now numerous. Some have established head offices in Switzerland. Offering their services to governments, international organizations and corporations, these companies employ hundreds of thousands of persons – many hired in the world’s poorest countries – and operate in conflict zones or elsewhere, often in defense of private interests. The many violations of fundamental rights of which these private forces are accused and the present lack of control over their activities, are sufficient to justify the introduction of strict legal controls. Legally the employees of PMSCs do not have the status of mercenaries, and the companies claim to exert their own controls on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, the governments that contract out these services do not want legislation that would limit the activities of PMSCs too extensively.

The debate on this question is also taking place in Switzerland. The Swiss government’s position is summed up in the so-called „Montreux Document“,

Further information:  
GSoA [Christophe Barbey](#)

which limits itself, however, to recapitulating the law as it currently applies, and is otherwise a recommendation of certain „Good Practices“. The Swiss parliament nonetheless wants legislation to be put in place, with the banning of such companies on Swiss soil. And the UN Working Group on PMSCs would like to see a comprehensive convention, with a control mechanism similar to what can be found in human rights treaties.

Joining in the debate, the Group for a Switzerland without an Army (GSoA) and the Europe-Third World Centre (CETIM) organized a conference in Geneva, inviting José Luis Gomez del Prado of the UN Working Group, Vincent Chetail, a professor of international law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), and a representative of the GSoA. The view expressed by all of the speakers and endorsed by members of the public present was that civil society must remain vigilant and be ready to intervene whenever possible to ensure that the activities of these companies are suitably controlled. 22.06.2011

## Links

- [Azerbaijan Summer School: Transition from Conflict to Peace & Non-violence](#)

Further information:  
ICP [Tanja Mirabile](#)

## First ICP Summer School in Azerbaijan

The potential for increased tension and conflict in South Caucasus is considerable, both within various states and between the states. In some cases it is a question of so-called „frozen conflicts“ with the ever growing danger of escalation.

The Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (ICP) held its first summer school on „Transition from Conflict to Peace & Non-Violence“ for a period of two weeks at the beginning of June in Baku, Azerbaijan. The participants included experts from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine and the USA. Some of the young people from Azerbaijan were able to participate thanks to scholarships.

The workshops focused on the principles and methods involved in conflict analysis and integrated conflict transformation and dialogue facilitation, as well as the conflict and reconciliation potential of religion, and international law's contribution to peace and security. Elements of conflict transformation and peacebuilding were outlined with the help of a case study from Bosnia Herzegovina. Participants also learned the basic tenets of intercultural and interdenominational education, focusing on such concepts as dialogue, empathy, respect and reconciliation.

Thanks to the summer school the participants have been able to network at the international level, and the ICP in turn established contact with organizations and universities for the purpose of long term collaboration, enabling it to continue *in situ* efforts in the areas of conflict transformation and peacebuilding and to strengthen local activities. 09.06.2011

## Links

- [emPower: Intercultural Education for Young Adults](#)

Further information:  
Pestalozzi Children's  
Village [Marlen Rutz](#)

## Intercultural Education for Young Adults

Ana, a 23-year-old young woman from Serbia, is an emPower student at the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen. Growing up in a multicultural society, she first visited the Village at the age of 17 with an exchange group. Ana studied sociology at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia, and has since been working as a volunteer with the non-governmental organization „Ravangrad“. She has benefited from many experiences in the context of *in situ* intercultural projects and plans a career in this field. Ana has been enrolled in the Intercultural Education for Young Adults program since March.

Teaching communication skills is the most important aspect of the emPower program. The Pestalozzi Children's Foundation provides partner organizations in Central America, East Africa, South Asia and Southeast Europe with opportunities that enable young adults to develop intercultural and educational skills. The program, which is under the patronage of UNESCO, brings young adults to the Village to live together and study for a period of nine months. On their return home they serve as multipliers, passing on what they have learned to children, youths and adults alike through various projects. Some aspects of the program have been further developed following an internal evaluation. Steps have been taken to better integrate partner organizations in the whole process, using their projects as case studies. And the cultural background of students is now taken into greater consideration in all modules. The course that began in March, the fourth of its kind, had 20 students from Macedonia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Tanzania. As for Ana, when she returns to Serbia in November to complete her studies in sociology, she will be able to pass on what she has learned to colleagues at „Ravangrad“.

16.06.2011

## News from Swiss Government Agencies

### Links

- [SECO: Economic Cooperation and Development](#)
- [Event on „Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit und Streitschlichtung im Mittelmeerraum“](#)

## SECO Promotes Mediation for Commercial Disputes in Egypt and Wider MENA Region

Going to court to enforce a contract is one of the main obstacles that businesses face when operating in Egypt. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) offers disputants the possibility to avoid the long and expensive process of taking a case through the courts. The two most common forms of ADR are mediation and arbitration. While arbitration involves a decision by an intervening third party, the parties retain full control over the process in mediation with the mediator assisting the parties in negotiating their own settlement.

In Egypt, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) support ADR through commercial mediation to help extricate the private sector from expensive and lengthy litigation and unblock assets caught up in commercial disputes. Mediation is generally quicker than arbitration or litigation. Also, mediation is cost effective, and allows parties to return to doing business on good terms with one another.

Further information:  
SECO [Eva Krummenacher](#)

In order to make mediation an effective alternative method for resolving commercial disputes, the project engages in awareness raising activities on the benefits of commercial mediation, offers trainings, and provides capacity building for mediation centers. The project has a regional component and is thus also implemented in Lebanon and Morocco. 20.06.2011

## Links

- [FDFA: Sudan](#)
- [swisspeace: Sudan Platform](#)

Further information:  
FDFA [Frank Schürch](#)

## Integration of Traditional Authorities in South Sudan's New State Structures

On 2 October 2009 Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). The MoU calls on PA IV to help develop the legislative foundations of the Councils of Traditional Authority Leaders (COTALs) in the 10 member states of Southern Sudan, plus an 11<sup>th</sup> COTAL at the GoSS level. Also called for is a contribution to the formation/election of these COTALs as well as training those who will sit on them, notably in the area of conflict prevention and resolution. In future these COTALs will be the interface between the traditional societies and the new modern state structures.

The third COTAL Forum was held 25-26 May in Juba for the purpose of removing obstacles to adoption of the COTAL Acts in each member state. The legislation has already been ratified by parliament and has taken effect in the state of Upper Nile. The Forum was opened by the Vice President and was accompanied by the Presidential Adviser on Decentralization. Participants included representatives of the Ministries, traditional authority leaders from all member states and representatives of the Government of Southern Sudan, whose President Salva Kiir announced his support for the conference in an audience with the Deputy Special Representative of the FDFA for the Sudan and the Horn of Africa.

The conference resolutions include a timetable for enactment of the legislation, and details of the electoral/nomination process for each individual member state. The next step will be to introduce a new process to create the legal basis for the 11<sup>th</sup> COTAL, which will represent the 10 other Councils at the GoSS level. This will be a milestone in the process of institutionalization of the traditional government structures in Southern Sudan. Also planned are modules for training future members of the COTALs in the exercise of the duties allocated to them by the new law. 22.06.2011

## Links

- [PA IV](#)

Further information:  
PA IV [Lukas Probst Lopez](#)

## Evaluation of a Peace Policy Program in the Great Lakes

Since the Arusha Peace Agreement of the year 2000 Switzerland has been committed to promoting peace in Burundi and the Great Lakes Region. Switzerland provided support for the Arusha negotiations, notably through mediation and constitutional expertise, as well as for subsequent negotiations between the Burundi government and the last remaining rebel group, the Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL). In 2009 the FNL was recognized as a political party. A Peacebuilding Adviser seconded by Political Affairs Division IV (PA IV) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, stationed in Bujumbura since 2006, has been responsible for the implementation *in situ* of a peacebuilding program. This program has four components: dialogue, facilitation and mediation; dealing with the past; human rights and small weapons. Last year swisspeace helped to evaluate the program.

Interviews which swisspeace conducted with Burundi actors and the partners of PA IV revealed that Switzerland is regarded as an able and trustworthy partner, particularly with respect to dialogue, and that on the conclusion of a national consultation process dealing with the past will increasingly become important. A workshop in which PA IV, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, swisspeace and an external consultant participated helped to gauge the relevance of the program components while attempting to show certain implicit underlying assumptions (theories of change) on the basis of the program development of the past five years.

The findings show that certain conflict dynamics in the Great Lakes have a strong regional dimension, and that regional approaches are needed for peace work. The small weapons problem for example can only be dealt with sustainably on a regional basis due to the permeability of boundaries. With a view to extending its activities in the East Congo PA IV and its partners are investigating such cross-boundary problems and the role of regional organizations. 28.06.2011

## International Partner Organizations

### Info

News from ten international KOFF partner organizations.

- [Berghof Conflict Research](#)
- [CDA Collaborative Learning Projects](#)
- [Conciliation Resources](#)
- [European Centre for Conflict Prevention](#)
- [EPLO](#)
- [forumZFD](#)
- [Gruppe Friedensentwicklung \(FriEnt\)](#)
- [GIZ](#)
- [International Alert](#)
- [Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung](#)

### Berghof

- Following the first volume of its Handbook for Conflict Transformation in 2004, Berghof Conflict Research (Berlin) now presents [Volume II](#). This edition collects new insights into nonviolent ways of managing inter-group conflict and what is needed for consolidating positive peace.

### FriEnt

- Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Working Group on Development and Peace (FriEnt) is publishing an eight-part [essay series](#) on current challenges at the interface of development and peace. Two essays published so far deal with peace work and the health sector, and the European Union's crisis prevention policy.

### CDA

- Collaborative Development Action (CDA) announces a newly released [report](#) written by Cheyanne Scharbatke-Church. It explores how Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) tools and concepts are being used in peacebuilding evaluations across the field, and suggests opportunities for greater organizational use of RPP in peacebuilding evaluation.

### Academy for Conflict Transformation

- Following its recent conference in Bonn the Academy for Conflict Transformation in the Forum Civil Peace Service has published some [reflections](#) on „Civil Conflict Transformation – Ambitions and Reality“ by guest speaker Karl Ernst Nipkow. Discussing his view that genuine professional qualification requires a clear orientation on values, he offers a number of guidelines in the areas of education, ethics and religion.

## Events

### Info

This section gives pointers to selected events in Switzerland pertaining to civil peacebuilding.

- The swisspeace Sudan Platform conducts a public [event](#) on „Sudan quo vadis? Perspectives on North and South Sudan after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement“ on 4 July at the Kuppelsaal of the University of Bern, 14:00-18:00.
- This year KOFF is offering a four-part [training series](#) on the following topics:
  - Designing and Facilitating Dialogue
  - Dealing with Survivors of Traumatizing Violence
  - Conflict Sensitivity in Practice
  - Peacebuilder's Security Management: A Road Map.
- The swisspeace annual conference due to take place on 15 November in Bern on the subject „Money makers as peace makers?“ is devoted to the role of business actors in conflict areas. [Program summary](#).

- Peace Watch Switzerland and Peace Brigades International Switzerland will be holding [information sessions](#) for anyone interested in volunteering as a human rights observer, in Bern on 28 August and in Zurich on 10 September.
- „Peace starts with me“ is the motto of this year’s [World Peace Festival](#), being held in Berlin 20-27 August. The program includes a number of conferences and cultural events, and among well known speakers attending are Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Shirin Ebadi.

## Publications

### Info

- [The Politics of Peace: From Ideology to Pragmatism? Proceedings of the swisspeace 20th anniversary conference. Laurent Goetschel \(ed.\). 2011.](#)
- [Pre-order](#)

### The Politics of Peace: From Ideology to Pragmatism?

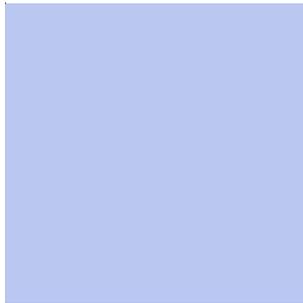
The politics of peace has undergone tremendous changes since the end of the Cold War: It moved from an ideological debate into a well established policy field. How does this affect its content? And what are the implications for peace research? At the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Swiss Peace Foundation (swisspeace) invited contributions from eminent experts to the most controversial issues of this debate such as state building, international interventions, civil society and business actors. The book „The Politics of Peace: From Ideology to Pragmatism?“ contains, in a first section, critical observations covering the origins of Swiss peace policy, the current practice of international peacekeeping operations, and the connection between peace research and peacebuilding. The second section concentrates on states as both actors in peacebuilding and objects of peace research. Another subject is the role of civil society and business actors. Furthermore, policy aspects of the EU and Switzerland are discussed and questions stemming from peacebuilding practices are raised. The book concludes with some thoughts on the interaction between research and politics. 07.06.2011

### Info

- [Hans J. Giessmann, Bernhard Rinke \(Hrsg.\): Handbuch Frieden, Wiesbaden \(2011\)](#)

### German Peace Handbook

„Handbuch Frieden“, which is available as a paperback, looks at the extraordinary wealth of today’s concepts of peace in a way that the reader is certain to find both clear and convincing. In its 600 pages 51 authors from the German-speaking world present a wide range of views that are both theoretical and practical, precise and substantial and add up to a comprehensive understanding of the concept of peace. Contributions on the subjects of peace research, peace in the theories of international relations and peace as a civilizing project are followed by many other peace-related subjects, definitions and concepts such as peace movements, peacebuilding, peace education and peace disturbers. Also covered are a great variety of peace contexts such as the relationship between peace and democracy, sustainable development, gender, trade, literature, neutrality, policy counseling, religion, resources, fragile states and the economy. The contributions, which relate equally to theory and practice, offer the reader the widest possible access to a variety of perspectives on the subject of peace.



Furthermore there is an up-to-date bibliography together with practical tips on useful internet sources with each contribution. The book is easy to navigate thanks to a detailed subject index at the end and cross-references to related articles at the beginning of each article. Students and teachers alike, whether involved in peace research, peace policy or active in the field, if at all interested in peace policy matters, can learn more about historical developments and the current debate on peace concepts with the help of this handbook, which will in the end enrich their own work.

16.06.2011

## Web Tip

### Info

#### ■ [Admitting Failure](#)

### Who Does Not Make Mistakes?

No one, naturally. Even so, development cooperation organizations – and in this they are of course not alone – always prefer to put their best foot forward in public. The spotlight is ever on success stories, while at best mistakes and failures are reserved for internal discussion and possible solution. In this way development cooperation organizations are missing opportunities to learn from their mistakes, according to the website „Admitting Failure“, based on its experience and an innovative approach. The website, which aims to be a source of information as well as a platform, addresses itself to development experts who are ready to share their own failures with others so as to foster mutual learning and avoid the repetition of such mistakes. The credo of this refreshing and somewhat different website can be summed up in the three words transparency, collaboration, innovation. See for yourself!

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