PLATFORM
PEACEFUL
CONFLICT
TRANSFORMATION

The challenge: Overcoming violence

Crises, tensions and violence in all its forms up to and including (nuclear) war dominate the headlines. Fear and enemy images are intensifying. Security apparatuses are expanded, military forces are rearmed, fences and walls are erected.

Many people recognize that this is a destructive development. But they often feel powerless or angry. What concrete ways out are there? What political course must be set in order to achieve peace and not to produce new violent crises? How can conflicts be constructively transformed with the inclusion of human rights? How can peace processes be designed in a sustainable way, in which human security is increased, human rights are better implemented and the natural foundations of life are protected?

"Rethinking the Logic of Peace" means taking up well-founded knowledge of peace and conflict research and developing alternatives to a policy that is ultimately also based on instruments of violence. A variety of possibilities for action become visible which initiate a paradigm shift from the Logic of Security to the Logic of Peace. Peace is to become the guiding principle of social and political practice. Approaches to civil conflict management in prevention, conflict transformation and peace consolidation need both social commitment and coherent political decisions.

With "The Logic of Peace – thinking ahead", the concept and application of the Logic of Peace is being further developed. Discussion processes in civil society and with political leaders on constructive ways to promote peace are initiated and supported. The concept is introduced into

» social discussion forums,

» political debates,

» peace and other non-governmental organizations, as well as at institutions and multipliers of educational work.

"The Logic of Peace – thinking ahead" is a central work project of the Platform Peaceful Conflict Transformation, the open network in Germany for networking and advocacy in the field of civil conflict transformation.

Would you like to learn more? You can find information about events, publications and initiatives at: www.pzkb.de/friedenslogik/

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The Logic of Peace:
thinking ahead

AVERTING DANGER
VIOLENCE PREVENTION
ALLOCATION OF BLAME
CONFLICT ANALYSIS
DETERRENCE
DE-ESCALATION
NATIONAL INTERESTS
HUMAN RIGHTS
ESCALATION
CIVIL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Network of the German civil society to promote peaceful conflict transformation

Peace Perspectives

Thinking and acting based on the Logic of Peace means tackling conflicts with a certain perspective. The focus is on the problem of violence – irrespective of who is committing it, who it affects and in what form it manifests itself. The goal is to prevent it in advance. Where violence has already occurred, the aim is to put an end to it and to provide aftercare, which also counteracts a renewed resort to violence.

This raises the following questions: What caused the problem of violence? How can the underlying conflicts be transformed? What is one's own part in the conflict? Which actors have to be involved in order to commonly find a solution? What ethical principles guide action? And finally: How are failures dealt with?

A Logic of Peace approach makes it possible to take action, that lead out of the spiral of violence. It is very different from Logic of Security approaches. This becomes clear in the adjoining juxtaposition.

A reflection based on the Logic of Peace leads to changes, including:

» relations between individuals, groups and states
» all structures and processes that generate violence
» the methods and instruments for conflict management

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The Logic of Peace at a Glance

	▼ Logic of Security	▼ Logic of Peace
What is the problem?	**Threat, danger, insecurity**	**Any violence that is imminent, takes place, has taken place**
	Actions aim to: Avert danger and defend oneself	Actions aim to: Protect people from violence and distress – prevent, reduce and deal with the effects of violence
Who or what caused the problem?	**The problem was caused by others / External factors**	**The problem is a result of destructive conflict dynamics**
	Actions are aimed at: Blaming others while safeguarding and protecting one's own interests	Actions are aimed at: Transformation on the basis of a comprehensive understanding of conflict, including own contribution to or role in the conflict
How is the problem addressed?	**By defending and protecting oneself**	**Through civil conflict transformation**
	Actions taken: Unilateral means, including escalatory ones – expansion of the security apparatus, deterrence, threat or even use of direct force	Approaches taken: De-escalating, dialogic, confidence-building, cooperative measures – excluding direct violence
How do actors justify their deeds?	**By asserting that their own interests prevail**	**By using the ethos of humanity – human rights and international law**
	Courses of action: Values and norms are re-defined, subjected and adapted to one's own interests	Courses of action: Implementing norms, modifying one's own interests, recognizing the legitimate interests of others
How do actors react to failure?	**By affirming rather than reflecting critically on themselves**	**By reflecting oneself, learning experientially, willingness to recognize mistakes**
	Approaches to action are directed at: Intensifying the means used so far and, if necessary, withdrawing and ignoring the situation	Approaches to action are directed at: Dealing constructively with mistakes, avoiding harm through impact assessment, closing perception gaps, implementing non-violent alternatives