

Call for Contributions



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We are welcoming chapter contributions for the forthcoming volume:

**“From Trauma-Sensitive to Trauma-Responsive Peacebuilding:
A Guide for Organisations and Practitioners across the
Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus”**

co-edited by Dr. Sara Clarke-Habibi and Dr. Cordula Reimann.

We invite the submission of original contributions that draw upon key concepts, theories, field experiences, case studies, tested methods and innovative approaches around the world in policy and practice contexts that illuminate different aspects, challenges and best practices in trauma-sensitive and trauma-responsive peacebuilding. The aim of the volume is to broaden and deepen conceptual and practical understanding and engagement with individual and collective trauma in violent conflict and peacebuilding contexts.

We welcome a broad range of empirical research, case studies, and conceptual analyses that address trauma-sensitive and trauma-responsive approaches to peacebuilding in conflict-affected settings.

The volume will be structured as follows:

Part 1:	Understanding Individual and Collective Trauma in Violent Conflict and Peacebuilding Contexts
Part 2:	Understanding Resilience and Healing in Violent Conflict and Peacebuilding Contexts
Part 3:	From Trauma-Sensitive to Trauma-Responsive Peacebuilding
Part 4:	MHPSS, Trauma and Resilience within the HDP Nexus
Part 5:	Trauma-Sensitive and Trauma-Responsive Peacebuilding: Case Studies

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Background

In recent years, international attention has turned to finding ways to work effectively within the “humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus”. Actors across the HDP spectrum agree that greater coordination and collaboration is required, but questions remain about how to translate discourse into practice in complex settings in order to increase the quality and sustainability of interventions. A key challenge is how to deal with trauma among conflict- and crisis-affected populations.

Global efforts are being made to mainstream mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) not only in humanitarian settings, but increasingly in development and peacebuilding initiatives (UNICEF, 2022; UNDP, 2022). The UN Security Council called on member states in 2022 to ensure that MHPSS be both an element of humanitarian programming and a core component of preventive and responsive strategies in the UN system in areas affected by conflict and humanitarian crises.

Beyond the humanitarian field, the psychological turn in development and peacebuilding work is long overdue and thus welcome. At the same time, the MHPSS lens has tended towards short-term approaches to dealing with individual trauma, giving less attention to collective trauma and its longer-term legacies (see e.g. IASC, 2007, 2022). The trauma legacies from prolonged crises and violent conflicts can have deep and wide-ranging impacts on society. Trauma-affected identities, worldviews, narratives and behaviours, both at the individual and collective levels, can impede development and peacebuilding progress. Similarly, HDP actors are still learning about what drives and hinders individual and collective resilience and post-traumatic growth in peacebuilding contexts and what the role of external actors can and should be, if any. This volume asserts that a deeper examination of individual and collective trauma and resilience is thus required for effective peacebuilding and HDP nexus engagement.

This volume builds on a recognition of the vast existing body of research and practice on trauma that has grown over many decades in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience, social-psychology, political psychology, sociology, conflict studies, and the new insights brought to these fields through decolonization perspectives. This volume aims to gather, work with and build upon these foundations, extending the discussion to the specific challenges, needs and opportunities in development and peacebuilding contexts.

While international organisations have increasingly brought MHPSS into the policy mainstream, gaps continue to exist in terms of learning between the fields and disciplines cited above and those who are designing and implementing interventions on the ground. There is a need to break down the disciplinary, regional and policy-practice silos in order to foster dialogue and learning through the diverse insights these different perspectives offer and to explore how a deeper understanding of trauma can benefit practice in complex peacebuilding contexts.

This multidisciplinary volume thus seeks to extend the discussion and identify good practices in trauma-sensitive and trauma-responsive engagement in order to support improved peacebuilding gains. It will critically explore the needs, challenges, requirements, conditions

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and experiences related to addressing trauma in peacebuilding work. The book is a global call to listen to diverse and marginalized voices, geographies and disciplines.

Chapter Contributions

Against this backdrop, this volume seeks chapter contributions that address important questions including, but not limited to:

- **Part 1: Understanding Individual and Collective Trauma in Violent Conflict and Peacebuilding Contexts**
 - What are the psychological and social causes and effects of human violence on perpetrators, victims and witnesses? How can these factors become intertwined in complex peacebuilding contexts?
 - How are individual and collective trauma responses similar and different?
 - How can trauma affect individual and collective identities, worldviews, narratives and behaviours with regard to peacebuilding and across generations?
 - How do short-term and long-term perspectives on trauma intersect and differ?
 - How can the legacies of collective trauma affect willingness to participate in peacebuilding processes? How can recent and historical trauma be interrelated?
 - What are the “politics of trauma” in peacebuilding contexts? How can trauma be politicised and instrumentalised?
 - How does an understanding of trauma and its legacies shift the approaches we take to peacebuilding and conflict transformation?

- **Part 2: Understanding Resilience and Healing in Violent Conflict and Peacebuilding Contexts**
 - How do we understand resilience in the context of trauma and adversity?
 - How do we understand healing and post-traumatic growth at the individual and collective levels?
 - What is the relationship between resilience, healing and post-traumatic growth?
 - Which working ethics and practices promote and hinder resilience of the trauma-affected & vulnerable populations ?
 - What are important strengths and weaknesses of trauma management approaches (coping / resilience focus) vs healing approaches (healing focus)? When are these different approaches more effective and why?
 - What can we learn from Global North and Global South perspectives on resilience and healing?

- **Part 3: From Trauma-Sensitive to Trauma-Responsive Peacebuilding**
 - What changes when we shift from trauma-blind interventions to trauma-sensitive, trauma-informed and trauma-responsive modes of peacebuilding? Why is it important to ensure that peacebuilding is (at least) trauma-sensitive?

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- What needs to change in peacebuilding discourses, strategies, approaches and methodologies in order to take both individual and collective trauma seriously?
 - How does a trauma-responsive approach to peacebuilding challenge and change current theory and practice in peacebuilding?
 - What methods and techniques (such as embodied approaches and expressive arts, therapeutic methods, trauma-informed facilitation techniques, etc.) are useful for working with trauma-affected individuals and communities in conflict and peacebuilding contexts?
 - What does trauma-informed / trauma-sensitive / trauma-responsive facilitation of peacebuilding processes, dialogues and capacity-building engagement look like in practice?
 - How can peacebuilding organisations become internally trauma-informed and address sources of chronic and toxic stress in the workplace? How is the “duty of care” practised by HDP organisations?
- **Part 4: MHPSS, Trauma and Resilience within the HDP Nexus**
- What should be the place of trauma within HDP nexus engagement?
 - Why are trauma-sensitive and trauma-responsive lenses important for working on the nexus and for peacebuilding actors in particular?
 - How can HDP actors move from trauma avoidance to trauma engagement at programmatic, project, practice levels?
 - How can HDP actors advance beyond short-term MHPSS and engage more deeply with collective and intergenerational dimensions of trauma in peacebuilding?
 - Which working ethics and practices promote and hinder resilience of trauma-affected & vulnerable populations?
 - What ethical dilemmas, considerations and measures arise while engaging with trauma-affected & vulnerable populations for international actors?
 - “Why do we, as HDP nexus actors, do what we do”? How can biographic reflections on our work in the field of development, aid and peacebuilding help us to connect more deeply with trauma-sensitivity and responsiveness? How far do the peacebuilding practitioner’s own experiences of stress and trauma affect peacebuilding practice?
- **Part 5: Trauma-Sensitive and Trauma-Responsive Peacebuilding: Case Studies**
- What can we learn from peacebuilding processes that put collective and transgenerational trauma at their centre?
 - How are recent and historical trauma often related? offer strategic entry points for effective trauma-sensitive and trauma-responsive peacebuilding processes?
 - What methods and techniques (such as embodied approaches and expressive arts, therapeutic methods, trauma-informed facilitation techniques, etc.) are useful for working with trauma-affected individuals and communities in conflict and peacebuilding contexts?
 - What can HDP actors learn regarding the conditions and methods for effective trauma-engagement in transitional justice, restorative justice, community healing, societal reconciliation and healing?

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Deadline for submission of abstracts:

Please submit by **1 August 2023** an abstract of the proposed chapter (around 750-1000 words, with some key references) that includes a clear overview of the case, research or project being presented, its context and focus, methodology, key findings / arguments / lessons learned, and the implications for peacebuilding theory, policy and practice. Contributors are advised to state clearly the definition of the type(s) of trauma they are working with.

Contributions from the Global South and East and marginalized communities are particularly welcomed. Publication is scheduled for early 2025. Contributors will be invited to join a series of highly participatory dialogue and knowledge-exchange gatherings during and following the development and publication of the book.

The following timeline is expected:

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: by 1 August 2023
- Review and selection: by 15 September 2023
- Submission of first draft chapters: 15 December 2023
- Review of submissions: Jan-Feb. 2024
- Submission of revised chapters: 1 June 2024
- Final review and editing: 1 November 2024
- Submission of full manuscript to publisher: November 2024
- Publication: early 2025

Submission Instructions

Please send your abstract to both editors by **1 August 2023**. If selected to contribute, final manuscripts for peer review should be 6000-8000 words excluding references. Full chapters will be due **15 December 2023**.

For inquiries and submissions, please address both editors:

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About the Editors:

Dr. Sara Clarke-Habibi has 23 years' peacebuilding experience, centred on educational, psychological and psychosocial dimensions of peacebuilding among trauma-affected populations. Working with NGOs, UN agencies and UNITAR's Division for Peace, Sara regularly advises, designs and implements training on MHPSS and trauma-sensitivity. She has taught peace psychology and trauma-informed facilitation to civilian peaceworkers in Europe, Africa, Middle East and Asia, trained military peacekeepers in psychological first-aid and critical incident stress management, led psychoeducation workshops on loss and grief, and provided MHPSS support to 11 peacebuilding country teams. As a researcher, university lecturer and practitioner, she has explored the legacies of trauma in divided societies, strengthening the capacity of youth, schools and communities to foster societal healing and conflict-prevention through intergroup and intergenerational peacebuilding, constructive remembrance and reconciliation. Her interests include unpacking the legacies of historical and collective trauma, breaking cycles of violence, supporting human resilience and post-traumatic growth, and strengthening the quality of interventions for sustainable peace.

Dr. Cordula Reimann has worked for more than 25 years as process and dialogue facilitator, trainer, consultant, and coach on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding/conflict transformation, trauma and gender. As practitioner-scholar, Cordula has worked with/for local grassroots movements mainly in South Asia and Middle East, international and Swiss and German governmental and non-governmental peacebuilding, development, and aid organisations. Her main areas of interest are collective/transgenerational trauma, systemic conflict analysis, systems approaches to non-violent social change, mental health of activists, loneliness as social and political phenomena, application of international peacebuilding methods and approaches to social tensions and polarization in European countries, and climate change in the context of violent conflict, conflict transformation and non-violent resistance. Cordula has been visiting senior lecturer and professor at different universities including ETH Zurich, Switzerland and the UN University of Peace in Costa Rica.