

WHY THE CPS IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER: TWO EXAMPLES

The war in Syria also has an impact on neighbouring Lebanon. Population numbers in many places have doubled because of the influx of refugees. Housing, jobs, food, and water are in short supply. That, in turn, leads to tension. Local partners and CPS experts have launched a number of community projects. Local people and refugees address problems together, get to know one another and find ways to resolve conflicts peacefully. This helps to ease tensions before violence breaks out. The CPS could also help refugees and locals elsewhere to live together in peace if it expanded its work.

In Colombia, the government and the FARC rebels signed a peace treaty. Yet to give peace a realistic chance, the country's disunited society needs to overcome the rifts. This requires a constructive atmosphere. CPS experts train Colombian journalists to report about the peace process in a conflict-sensitive manner to defuse rather than fuel tension. The CPS is also able to help media workers in other countries to promote peace. To do so, the CPS needs to expand its work.



Peace journalism helps to deescalate conflicts



Coming to grips with traumatic experiences helps to heal wounds

CIVIL PEACE SERVICE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Since the foundation of the Civil Peace Service in 1999, more than 1,200 international CPS experts have been working in more than 60 countries. In 2016, approximately 300 experts were on assignment: 120 in Africa alone, nearly 60 in Latin America and Asia each, around 40 in the Middle East and some 20 in Southeast Europe. Currently, there are approximately 300 international CPS experts involved in 43 countries (as at 31 December 2016). CPS experts work within the framework of the Development Aid Workers Act (EhFG) on site for several years.

Government and civil society work together in the Civil Peace Service. Nine German peace and development organisations have joined hands to carry out the work of the CPS together with local partner organisations. Funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the budget in 2017 is EUR 45 million.

ONE ROUTE TO BUILD A PEACEFUL WORLD

Civil conflict resolution cannot ensure that every violent conflict will die down. However, it can open up peaceful ways of reconciling groups with different interests so that they can live together in peace. In doing so, it lays the foundations for lasting peace.

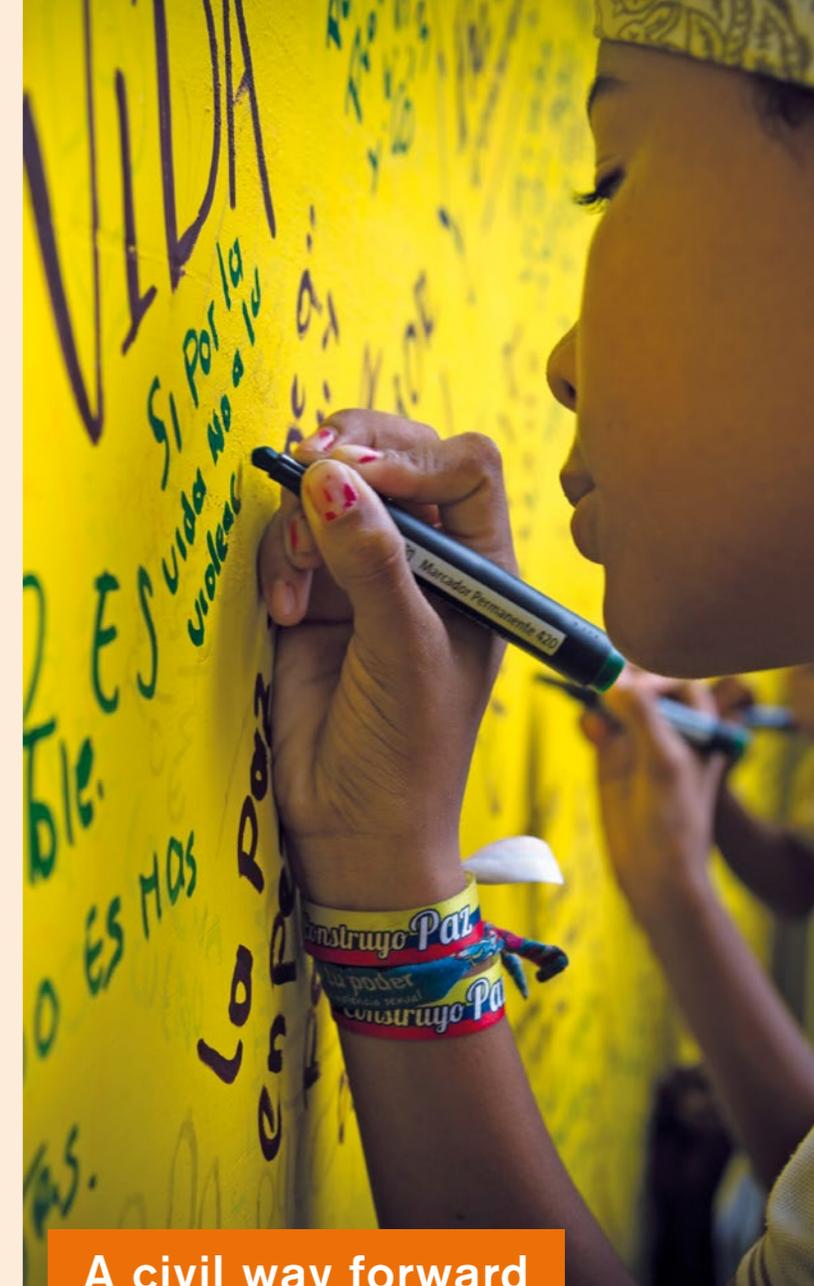
The Civil Peace Service prevents violence. This is its contribution to making the world a more peaceful place.



Learn more about our work on

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A civil way forward



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Young adults in Afghanistan participate in the CPS "Life and Leadership" - training programme

WHAT IS THE CIVIL PEACE SERVICE?

The world spends many times more on armaments and the military than on civil violence prevention and conflict resolution. At the same time, the number of armed conflicts is rising. Yet violent conflicts cannot be resolved sustainably with military means – as we have known for a long time. If we want to have sustainable peace, we must take a non-violent course of action. One such course of action is the Civil Peace Service.

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) is a programme aimed at preventing violence and promoting peace in crisis zones and conflict regions. It supports building a fair world in which conflicts are resolved without resorting to violence. Since 1999, trained CPS professionals have been supporting people on the ground in their long-term commitment for dialogue, human rights, and peace – successfully so.

CPS is an important element of Germany's peace and development policy. It is funded by the German Government.

A CIVIL WAY FORWARD

Peace is not only under threat from states waging war. Violence is also on the rise within states. Civil wars and violent conflicts over resources and power inflict deep wounds on societies. The Civil Peace Service works to counteract violence. CPS experts help people to return to dialogue and balance their interests.

At the heart of CPS activities is civil conflict resolution. It takes place primarily at the grassroots of society: here, people analyse conflicts, persuade those affected to sit at the negotiating table, develop non-violent solutions, and thus pre-empt the outbreak of violence. If peace can be achieved in this way, it has a chance to grow long-term.

The Civil Peace Service contributes towards

- preventing the outbreak of violence,
- resolving conflicts in a civilian and peaceful manner, and
- building sustainable peace.

PEACE IS MORE THAN WEAPONS FALLING SILENT

It is people who make peace; it cannot be enforced by using arms. It cannot be prescribed but only be achieved jointly by all parties to a conflict and the people affected. It often requires all those involved to overcome deep divisions. Trust and reliable relations, which are so important for reconciliation and lasting peace, grow only slowly. The activities of the Civil Peace Service aimed at promoting peace are, therefore, long-term.



Cambodian students learn how to analyse conflicts

The CPS works, as a matter of principle, with local, mostly civil-society organisations. The reason is that they are firmly embedded in their respective societies and cultures and often have access to all groups of the population affected and involved in the conflict.

WORKING FOR PEACE HAS MANY FACETS

How can the outbreak of violence be prevented? When are people willing to lay down arms? How can people who used to fight one another live together in peace? These are the questions that throw a light on some of the many facets of working for peace. Trained CPS experts support local partners with their expertise in civil conflict resolution, providing a fresh outside perspective.



Just one of the many facets of CPS activities: non-violence training

They make an effort, for example, to

- communicate methods and concepts of civil conflict resolution and management,
- bring conflict parties together and help to balance their interests,
- dismantle enemy images,
- strengthen legal certainty at the local level,
- advocate for human rights,
- provide psychological and social counselling to victims of violence,
- reintegrate former combatants into society,
- support disadvantaged groups to have their concerns heard, and
- train journalists to defuse rather than fuel tension by conflict-sensitive media reporting.