

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CONTENT

Peace and the Pandemic	5
The HDP Nexus.....	7
Twentieth Anniversary of UNSCR 1325	10
Dialogue about Water	13
The Year in Numbers	14
ASPR helpline & Mobile Peace Weeks	16
Humanitarian Assistance in West Afrika.....	18
IPT Online Lecture Series.....	20
Online ASPR Dialogue Series on the OSCE 2020	21
ESDC goes Online	22
About Us.....	24
Our Partners	26
Our Donors, Clients, and Institutional Members	27
Abbreviations	27

Imprint

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Dear Reader,



No Annual Report 2020 will be able to get by without mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on programmes and activities. And at the same time, we are already tired and weary of this topic. We are all in the same boat, spending countless days in home office and endless hours in front of the screen in online meetings, conventions, and conferences. What more do you want to read about it?

In our training programmes on peacebuilding and conflict transformation, we often use the example that in Chinese language the character for crisis also means chance, in order to illustrate that crises do not only have negative aspects, but also positive ones. Crises are interruptions of patterns that make change possible. And since you should apply what you preach, I will try to reflect on the positive aspects of the crisis in my review of the year 2020. It goes without saying that in this crazy year everything turned out differently than planned.

Since we deal a lot with complex crises in our work, it was clear to us at an early stage what could be in store with the new type of virus. Already on 18 February 2020, the first version of the „ASPR COVID-19 Policy“ came into force and all staff members were equipped with the necessary technical tools for home office. When the lockdown finally came in mid-March, we were all fully operational from day one, and in the first few weeks a tense concentration spread through the team, which constructively increased production and precision. While the first days were still marked by bringing all employees, who were still abroad on business trips, safely and in good health back to Austria and working out a home office regulation together with the workers' council, the team very quickly also started discussing the content: What impact will the pandemic have on peacebuilding and conflict transformation? Will social tensions escalate, or will social cohesion be strengthened by the crisis? What does the lockdown mean for our freedoms and fundamental rights? Will our funding landscape change? What is needed now?

After two weeks of lockdown, when the „crisis adrenaline level“ in the team dropped again, creativity increased: the pattern interruption opened spaces that wanted to be filled

and for me as a team leader it was a gift to witness how much professional enthusiasm and commitment the entire team put into filling these spaces:

Already at the beginning of April, we launched an international survey on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Thanks to our alumni network, which includes more than 8,000 people working in this field, we quickly received a lot of feedback and were able to publish the first results as early as May. This survey was later taken up by our research partner, the „Political Settlement Research Programme“ at the University of Edinburgh and was again investigated in greater depth. Overall, our research publications almost doubled in 2020, as we were less busy with organisational matters and were able to concentrate on the substantive work.

At the same time, our „ASPR Helpline for pedagogues and parent carers“ went into operation at the beginning of April as part of our peace education programme: after two weeks of lockdown, the first signs of excessive demands had already become apparent: teaching staff had to teach digitally and parent carers became teachers, new roles that were not easy for everyone. Excessive demands and stress are a good breeding ground for conflicts, and unresolved conflicts often lead to violence. It was therefore important for us to act quickly and preventively.

In the training department, we had the same challenges as the teaching staff: we had to redesign our programmes as online trainings, get to grips with a wide variety of digital learning platforms, produce videos, and moderate live sessions not in front of a group of people but in front of the camera. To do this, we set up a „recording studio“, which became more and more professionally equipped over the course of the year. Suddenly there were not only signs in our office regarding COVID19 rules of conduct, but also „Please keep silent - video recording in progress“ and with almost childlike curiosity we marvelled at the effects of „green screens“ and video editing programmes. In autumn, the time had come for the first training programmes, „Lecture and Dialogue Series“, to go digital. We experienced that online formats are more inclusive. We had many participants from countries that normally have great difficulties in obtaining a visa to enter Austria. And: We were able to record an increase in female participants. Often women cannot participate in international training courses due to family obligations, because they cannot leave their

PEACE AND THE PANDEMIC

Research work at the ASPR in times of Covid-19

families alone for days. A digital programme is different, it usually only lasts a few hours a day, and it contains self-paced learning elements. This suits women, especially mothers, and so we have noticed an increased interest from women in our offers. Great!

The pandemic also encouraged us to consider whether our expertise in peacebuilding and conflict transformation is also increasingly needed in our own society. This was a very interesting process that eventually led to us developing a concept for „Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland“. To our astonishment, the political decision-makers at provincial as well as municipal level in the communities reacted very positively to it. The aim is now to offer and institutionalise services in the field of conflict mediation and citizen participation processes for the municipalities in the coming years with the support of the provincial government. This should contribute to strengthening social cohesion in Burgenland. We will certainly continue to report on this in the coming years.

We also owe our new website indirectly to the pandemic: We had already started working on a new website for the ASPR since 2018, which should not only provide a more systematic and comprehensive overview of our portfolio, but also give the possibility to register for events directly on our website. For this, a database had to be designed and programmed in the background. Time and again in 2018-2019, we had to pause work on the website because more urgent things came up. However, the pandemic also gave us the time we needed for this. The hours we normally spend in cars and planes travelling to meetings and events could now be used for this. Visit our website www.aspr.ac.at and give us feedback on how you like it. We are grateful for any kind of suggestion.

Finally, in 2020 we also prepared very intensively our international campaign „Homeland Earth“, which will run the whole year 2021. But I will not tell you anything about that here, you'll have to visit our website!

Dear readers, we knew that 2020 would be an „exceptional“ or „transitional“ year, because our Peace Castle Schlaining and the Burghotel were closed for the whole year for renovation work and we reside with the ASPR office in our conference house „Haus International“. Perhaps this was also a reason why we were able to react relatively quickly to the pandemic situation; we had already been in emergency and improvisation mode beforehand. It is great that the renovation work has nevertheless remained on schedule and we will return to the castle in mid-2021.

This Annual Report 2020 hopefully gives you an interesting insight into our activities. I would like to thank the entire team for their heartfelt commitment, enormous creativity and flexibility and the impressive impacts that have been achieved. Thank you also for not losing our sense of humour in these times and for not losing the team spirit even over the screen. This year, I would also like to thank our funders in particular, who showed a lot of understanding and eased many a bureaucratic hurdle so that we could act quickly and in a needs-oriented manner. And as always, thanks to the ASPR board, all our partners, supporters and members who share our goals and appreciate our work.

Yours sincerely,

Gudrun Kramer

The ASPR's research activities in 2020 were dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Conference and workshop participations could not take place as originally planned. The ASPR Summer Academy had to be cancelled, the State of Peacebuilding Conference StoP20 had to be conducted online. Covid-19 also played a role in the topics dealt with. Various research activities examined the impact of the pandemic on peace processes, as well as on peace policy in a broader sense. The ASPR reacted immediately and launched an online survey among graduates of ASPR courses offered in recent years. The methodology of this survey fed into a wider survey of around 100 experts from over 20 countries on the influence of Covid-19 on peace processes. Finally, the StoP20 conference was dedicated to the consequences of the pandemic and asked about its consequences for emerging new realities of peace and conflict, and conceptual implications for research.

The results of these studies reveal two insights: firstly, in all crisis regions, an increase in authoritarian tendencies due to Covid-19 could be observed. Whereas initially there was increased approval of the executive, measures to combat the pandemic were soon misused to tighten the repressive screw. The repression of the opposition during the election campaign in Uganda is a striking example of this. Challenged by the well-known musician transformed politician Bobi Wine, long-term president Yoweri Museveni used the Covid 19 emergency decree to break up election rallies with sometimes brutal violence.

Secondly, in numerous cases, for example in Yemen, Libya, Sudan or South Sudan, the pandemic led to a delay in peace negotiations or in implementing ongoing peace processes. This was identified by an in-depth qualitative study on the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the South Sudanese peace agreement, conducted by ASPR as part of the Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) for the Covid Collective, funded by the UK Foreign Office. Lack of international oversight and the failure of regular mee-

tings for monitoring resulted in a six-month stalemate in the implementation of the envisaged measures. A simultaneous flare-up of violence in different parts of the country is not a direct consequence of the pandemic. However, the reduction of international monitoring through limited activity of the UN peacekeeping mission UNMISS, together with the late appointment of provincial administrations, has prevented a rapid response to the escalation of violence and possible conflict management.

These findings take us to the second research focus of 2020, which was dedicated to local peace processes as well as perceptions of peace in the everyday lives of people in conflict areas. The ASPR is part of an international research team that is conducting a study on public perceptions of the peace process in South Sudan with funding from the United States Institute for Peace. In February, a first, qualitative part of this study was undertaken in Juba, Bentiu and Yei, while colleagues from other institutions visited Wau, Bor and Pibor.

The first survey, which was planned for April and May, unfortunately had to be called off due to the pandemic. However, circumstances allowed for a research trip from October to



UNMISS Camp in Bentiu

THE HDP NEXUS

Aligning humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding for sustainable solutions



UN-Vehicles

December 2020, during which the data collected so far was brought up to date. In general, it can be concluded from the first qualitative surveys that the security felt on a daily basis is the greatest influence of the peace agreement and also constitutes the most important peace dividend. The availability of connecting routes to markets without the immediate threat of being attacked or going to the toilet in the dark without the risk of falling victim to rape are indicators of the tangible success of a post-conflict transition

expressed in all regions surveyed. A first wave of surveys scheduled for March and April 2021 will further test these qualitative research findings.

Not least against this concrete background, the StoP20 conference was dedicated to, among other things, the conditions for empirical research in times of the pandemic. The push towards online meetings and conversations, for example, opens up new opportunities for participation for colleagues from the Global South. However, cultural differences and practical discrepancies are clearly visible. For example, mobile internet is much more expensive in South Sudan than in Europe, while income levels are much lower, and free Wi-Fi is almost non-existent. These conditions represent a striking structural barrier that works against such integration. It also complicates the cultural acclimatisation that most of us have had to go through this year regarding the various online tools for communication and collaboration. It is not only for this reason that it is to be hoped that the conditions for empirical peace and conflict research will improve again sustainably in 2021.

Modern crises are taking on increasingly complex forms. They are characterised by protracted or recurrent conflicts and humanitarian disasters. Possible solutions do not follow a simple linear path, such as „emergency aid => reconstruction => development aid = lasting peace“. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach is the most significant recent attempt by the international community to find solutions to these complex crises through greater coherence in humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding. The World Humanitarian Summit (2016) and Agenda 2030 (2015) have strengthened the agreement to improve cooperation and coordination at the policy level, but many challenges remain in practice.

An interdisciplinary team from the ASPR implemented a study to better understand the issues around the HDP Nexus approach in the context of the African Peace and Security Architecture. On the basis of the study, the team developed a training concept for a course to meet the training needs for implementing the HDP Nexus approach in the African context. The course was developed in cooperation with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana. The study and curriculum development were commissioned and funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The ASPR won the tender for this project thanks to its broad expertise in the fields of peace research, humanitarian assistance in West Africa, conflict transformation, and training, as well as its staff's expertise in development cooperation.

The study on the HDP Nexus includes an extensive content analysis of current literature, primary documents, and interviews with over 20 experts from international non-governmental

organisations (INGOs), UN Agencies and Missions in Africa, think tanks, and regional organisations such as the African Union (AU) and the West African Economic Union (ECOWAS). The findings show, among other things, that the HDP Nexus is not a rigid instrument that can be implemented in a top-down manner, but rather an approach that needs to be applied in a contextualised manner and requires the engagement of a wide range of actors. The involvement of national governments is important, but at times ambivalent, especially when they are actively involved in an ongoing armed conflict. Funding often still lacks flexibility to bridge the different funding cycles between humanitarian aid (ad hoc funding), development cooperation (three- to five-year cycles) and peacebuilding (ideally a long-term engagement), and to enable joint (conflict) analysis, planning and risk acceptance. The curriculum for the training was developed based on the research findings and reviewed in a four-day learning, design, and development workshop with the ASPR team, the training department of KAIPTC, and representatives of the African Union (AU), the West African Economic Union (ECOWAS), INGOs, international experts, and the GIZ. The resulting HDP Nexus curriculum will be tested for the first time in a pilot course at the KAIPTC in 2021.



Local Project Partnership - Dialogue and Research Institute (DRI) Team



Workshop to finalise the training curriculum in November 2020 at KAIPTC in Ghana

PUBLICATIONS

ASPR Policy Briefs

Hewitt, Sarah/Jenna Sapiano (2020): Missed Opportunities, Future Directions, Women, Peace and Security and the Politics of Exclusion. ASPR Policy Brief 5/2020.

Oringa, Christopher (2020): Dynamics of National and Local Conflicts in South Sudan. ASPR Policy Brief 4/2020.

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Pospisil, Jan: The Ungovernance of Peace. Transitional Processes in Contemporary Conflictscapes. ASPR Report 6/2020.

Pospisil, Jan/Laura Wise/Christine Bell): Untangling Conflict: Local Peace Agreements in Contemporary Armed Violence. ASPR Report 5/2020.

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ASPR Comments

Kramer, Gudrun: Ende der EU oder Phönix aus der Asche – Es liegt in unserer Hand. ASPR Kommentar, 19.3.2020, Wintersteiner, Werner: Die Covid-19 Krise aus einer Global Citizenship Perspektive. ASPR Kommentar, 23.03.2020.

Scharinger, Julia: Soziale Ungleichheit in der Krise. Zu Diversität und Intersektionalität im Kontext der globalen Pandemie. ASPR Kommentar, 01.04.2020.

Book Chapters and Articles

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Graf, Wilfried: Auf der Suche nach einer komplexen Friedenslogik – Versuch einer metatheoretischen Verortung und Neuorientierung. In: S&F Sicherheit und Frieden, Jg. 38 (2020), Heft 3, 158 – 163. Mayerhofer, Birgit: „Neutral“ heißt nicht geschlechterblind! Humanitäre Hilfe im Kontext der Resolution 1325. In: Zeitschrift Frauen*solidarität Nr. 153/154 (3+4/2020).

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Peace and Conflict Studies. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, Pospisil, Jan: The Limits of Humanist Ethics in the Anthropocene', In: E-International Relations, 24 March 2020.

Ravitzky, Roie /Ofer Zalberg, Negotiating Peace Between Deeply Heterogeneous Societies: Allowing Competing Justifications In a Reality of Colliding Worldviews. In: Hirschfeld, Yair/Naama Koreh (ed.): Despair and Hope: Israel and the Middle East after the Oslo Process. Contentonow 2020. [Article in Hebrew]

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Scharinger, Julia: Friedensdiener*innen erzählen: Nepal. In: Spinnrad. Zeitschrift des Internationalen Versöhnungsbundes – Österreichischer Zweig. Nr. 4, December 2020, 18.

Reports, Blogs, Briefings, Reviews

Pospisil, Jan: Sudan: The Potential Price of Peace. Ponto Blog, 23 July 2020.

Pospisil, Jan/Christine Bell/Tim Epple: The Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Transition Processes: Tracking the Trends. PSRP Research Report: Covid-19 Series, Political Settlements Research Programme, University of Edinburgh 2020.

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Pospisil, Jan: The Virus that Ends Us: On the Ethics of Withdrawal and Affirmation. CPD Policy Blog, 25 March 2020, University of Graz.

Pospisil, Jan/Christopher Oringa/Sophia Dawkins/David Deng: South Sudan's Transition: Citizen's Perception of Peace', US Institute for Peace Analysis, 19 March 2020.

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Zalberg, Ofer: Leveraging Arab-Israeli Rapprochement for Israeli-Palestinian Progress, Carnegie Middle East Center, Sada Forum, 10 November 2020.

Unpublished Reports

Freitekh, Suheir: Turkey's Deployment of Soft Power in East Jerusalem: Contrasting Reality with Palestinian Perceptions. Jerusalem 2020.

Pospisil, Jan/Christopher Oringa/Vanda Santos: South Sudan

Peace and Conflict Analysis, peace and conflict analysis for the UN RCO/UNDP Juba, December 2020.

Pospisil, Jan/Birgit Mayerhofer/Augustin Nicolescou), The HDP Nexus in the Context of Peace Operations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Study for the GIZ KAIPTC Office, October 2020.

Bachelor Thesis

Struppe-Schanda, Julia: „Ich hatte immer schon ein reiches Innenleben“ - Eine Rekonstruktion der Gegenstandsbeziehung Angehöriger psychosozialer Berufe. Arbeit zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades Bachelor of Science (BSc.). SFU Wien 2020.

Further

Kramer, Gudrun/Jan Pospisil: Die Stoßrichtung der Heeresreform ist nachvollziehbar, Der Standard, Kommentar der Anderen, 25. Juni 2020.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESEARCH AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS 2020

Academic Conferences and Workshops

- State of Peacebuilding Conference (online) on the topic "Peace Ethics after the Pandemic – Exploring the Long-term Impact of Covid-19 on Peace and Peace Research", 17. December 2019. Participants from 9 renown international universities intensively discussed this topic.

ASPR Vienna Lecture Series

- „The Enduring Crisis in the Near East. Russia's Search for New Positions. Wien, in cooperation with ICEUR, 21 January 2020

- „Israel, Covid-19, and the Middle East. An Interview with Ofer Zalberg", online in cooperation with IIP, 22 April 2020

University Teachings

- SS 2020: Seminar "Friedens- und Sicherheitspolitik der Europäischen Union nach der Global Strategy", University of Vienna (Jan Pospisil)

- WS 2020: MA-Seminar "Inclusive Development, Inclusive Peace", University of Vienna (Jan Pospisil)

- WS2020: MA-Seminar „Vergleich von Friedensprozessen“, University of Graz (Jan Pospisil)

Further

- Input during the „Dialogue Conveners Community of Practice – Conference“ at USIP, Washington DC, 9 – 10 January 2020 (Gudrun Kramer)

- Panel-contribution to the discussion at the Kreisky-Forum concerning the protests in Hong Kong, 13 January 2020 (Pascal Abb)

- Panel-contribution at the conference "Faith Based Organizations and the UN Sustainable Development Goals", Universal

Peace Federation Austria, VIC 27. January 2020 (Augustin Nicolescou)

- Panel-moderation at the conference "The Global Women's Forum for Peace & Humanitarian Action: Women Peacebuilders & First Responders Defining Key Priorities in 2020 and Beyond", ADA Vienna, 19 - 20 February 2020 (Gudrun Kramer, Birgit Mayerhofer)

- Lecture „UN Resolution 1325 and Recovery“ during the Online conference of the University Curitiba, Brasil, 20 Years UN SCR 1325, 3 September 2020 (Susanne Brezina)

- Input during the working group „Dialogue Conveners' Experience During the Pandemic“, 10 September 2020 (Gudrun Kramer)

- Lecture „Wer bekommt das Geld für die Waffen und auf wen wird mit ihnen geschossen?“ Sirene Operntheater, 4 September 2020 (Birgit Mayerhofer)

- Introduction of the ASPR during ÖAD Online „Kamingespräch“, 10 September 2020 (Julia Scharinger)

- Contribution to the European Day of Jewish Culture (06 September 2020): Virtual Walk through the community of Stadtschlaining. Video production in cooperation with "Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft". (Viktoria Pichler)

- Lecture during the award ceremony of „International Nelson Mandela Award for Peace and Conflict Resolution“ of the Madras Development Society, 8 September 2020 (Gudrun Kramer)

- Lecture „Comprehensive Protection of Civilians“ during ESDC Orientation Course at LAVAK, 16 September 2020 (Susanne Brezina)

- Panel-contribution "Has UNSCR 1325 Improved the Lives of Women in Conflicts?" during Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, 21 September 2020 (Jan Pospisil)

- Presentation „HDP Nexus in the Context of Peace Operations in Sub-Saharan Africa“, GIZ Africa Governance Network, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, 22 September 2020 (Jan Pospisil)

- Panel-contribution "Gender Provisions in Peace Accords: Reflections on Negotiation, Design and Implementation in Support of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda", Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, 15 October 2020. (Jan Pospisil)

- Moderation of the Breakout Session „Disarmament as Humanitarian Action“ during the conference „Less Arms, More Peace. Vienna Conference on WPS & the Future of Disarmament von WIIS/IIP, 22 October 2020 (Birgit Mayerhofer)

- Presentation "Sustaining Peace in South Sudan: Peace and Conflict Analysis" during UN RCO/UNDP Validation Workshop, Juba, South Sudan, 2 December 2020 (Jan Pospisil)

- Lecture "South Sudan's Transition: Citizens' Perception of Peace" during the PAX Protection of Civilians Conference 2020, 2 December 2020 (Jan Pospisil)

- Lecture "Local Peace Agreements and Conflict Transitions" during PSRP Peace Talks, 3 December 2020 (Jan Pospisil)

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNSCR 1325

In 2000, the UN Security Council established the Women, Peace, Security (WPS) Agenda. Its anniversary is a reason to celebrate successes and denounce failures.

The ASPR had planned several events on topics related to the WPS Agenda. Unfortunately, some of them could not be realised due to the pandemic. This article gives an overview of what did take place.

Conference “Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action”

In February 2020, the Austrian Development Agency together with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund invited activists from all over the world to Vienna for a two-day conference. Gudrun Kramer, Director of ASPR, [see page

12] moderated the panel discussion on the „Continuum between peace and security, humanitarian aid, human rights and development” during the conference. The conference ended with the Vienna Declaration, which defines priorities for the implementation of the UN resolution, available here: <https://wphfund.org/2020/02/20/vienna-declaration-2020/>

“EUPCST Women, Peace and Security Conference”

The European Union Police and Civilian Service Training (EUPCST) is carried out by a consortium of the ASPR, police forces and other civilian organisations. It is dedicated to training police and civilian personnel for EU missions. The

1979

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is adopted as an agreement under international law. Women’s organisations from Africa, South America and Asia in particular contributed to its creation.

EUPCST International Conference on the 20th anniversary of UN SR 1325 in October 2020 was organised by ASPR and others and focused on women’s experiences in peace-keeping missions in the past of 20 years. Challenges as well as potentials for the future were identified in order to meet the WPS agenda. With 119 participants the conference

generated a lot of interest. The ASPR is therefore planning to follow up this conference with an online training in 2021.

Online presentations and discussions

The head of ASPR’s research department, Jan Pospisil, participated in several online discussions on the role of UNSCR

The stronger integration of women, peace and security agendas into the UN’s work on counterterrorism and countering violent extremism and the establishment of an informal Security Council expert group on women, peace and security are the main elements of **Resolution 2242**.

2015

1995

At the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing and the simultaneous NGO Forum “Acting for Equality, Development, Peace”, 189 countries agree on a list of demands to promote gender equality, an important milestone on the way to the women’s peace-security agenda.

2008

Resolution 1820 reiterates the demands made in Resolution 1325 and focuses on the issue of sexual violence in times of crisis. Sexual violence in armed conflicts is recognised as a war crime.

Resolution 1888 calls for mandates for UN peacekeeping missions to include the active protection of women and children from sexual violence in armed conflict and called on the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to combat these crimes.

2009

Resolution 2106 is the first to refer to the fact that sexualised violence as a tactic of war also affects men and boys, and can traumatise entire communities.

2013

After decades of mobilisation by feminist movements and lobbying by women’s organisations, the United Nations Security Council passes **Resolution 1325**, the first - and still the most important - resolution to link women’s rights, gender justice, peace and security. For the first time, the gender-specific impact of armed conflict on women is addressed and women’s equal participation is recognised as the key to lasting conflict resolution and peace. Resolution 1325 is the **starting point of the women’s peace-security agenda**, which now comprises 10 resolutions.

2000

Milestones - 1979 to 2020

on the way to women’s rights and gender justice concerning peace and security

Resolution 1889 focuses on the role of women in post-conflict situations and for reconstruction.

2009

Resolution 1960 emphasises that justice, including punishment of perpetrators, is important for societies to build lasting peace.

2010

2013

Resolution 2131 calls for the equal participation of women in peacekeeping operations and in political processes such as disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, as well as security sector reform.

1325 in peace processes. On 21 September he participated at a roundtable of peacebuilding practitioners hosted by Young Professionals in Foreign Policy and discussed whether the resolution 1325 is actually able to improve the situation of women in conflict regions. Despite a mixed assessment, the overall rating of the participants was optimistic. On 15 October, Jan Pospisil, together with Laura Wise from the University of Edinburgh, presented an overview of the different inclusion strategies used by women in peace processes. The PeaceFem app (developed by PSRP with the participation of ASPR and other partners for UN Women) for mobile phones provides a streamlined, easy-to-view overview of these strategies and was presented at this event. Birgit Mayerhofer, coordinator of the Capacity Building for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa project, moderated a breakout session on 'Humanitarian Disarmament', 'Less Arms, More Peace. Vienna Conference on Women, Peace and Security & the Future of Disarmament'.

Publication

Dr Jenna Sapiano of the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre was already a speaker at our 2019 ASPR Vienna Lecture 'Women, Peace, and Security' and Peace Processes: One



Programme Manager Birgit Anna Mayerhofer and Director Gudrun Kramer (from left to right)

Agenda or Many?' In the ASPR policy brief 5/2020, 'Missed Opportunities, Future Directions. Women, Peace and Security and the Politics of Exclusion', she and her colleague Dr Sarah Hewitt examine the process by which the last two UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCR 2467 and 2493) were drafted in the context of the WPS agenda. 'The original faith put into the UNSC by advocates and activists leading up to the adoption of UNSCR 1325 is no longer merited. The UNSC has become increasingly subject to global geopolitical tensions.' Is the relevance of the WPS agenda weakened by the watering down of recent resolutions? See ASPR policy brief 5/2020, Missed Opportunities, Future Directions. Women, Peace and Security and the Politics of Exclusion to build up your opinion.

2020

On its 20th birthday, Resolution 1325 seems a bit outdated. Its essentialist image of women and its focus on biological women are no longer up to date, and sometimes there is frustration that - although there are important successes to celebrate - the actual impact on conflicts seems small and women's political participation has hardly improved. Nevertheless, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is a milestone and still the flagship of the women's peace-security agenda! It is a symbol that global feminist civil society can make its voice heard together!

DIALOGUE ABOUT WATER

The ASPR expands its portfolio in conflict transformation

The ASPR was able to significantly expand its portfolio in the area of conflict transformation in 2020. This is partly because the Austrian government programme provides for the establishment of mediation facilities in the Foreign Ministry. In this regard, the ASPR was in active exchange with the MfA and explored various possibilities to initiate and accompany dialogue processes between conflict parties.

For example Libya: Libya has large underground water reserves in the south of the country. Water comes almost exclusively via the 'man-made river' from the south-west of the country to the capital Tripoli and the surrounding region. In Libya, which has been severely destabilised by war and humanitarian crises since 2011, water has repeatedly been used as a means of exerting pressure. In recent years, for example, there have been several acts of sabotage against wells and parts of the supply system have been damaged by acts of war. In 2019, when the conflict escalated again in the interim, the supply to Tripoli was also cut off in phases and water was thus used as a weapon. Weak Libyan institutions are failing to distribute water resources equitably and this is straining relations between rural communities and the nominal government in Tripoli.

In November 2020, ASPR, with the support of the Austrian Embassy on the ground, held a first online workshop. The aim was to get to know the subjective conflict perceptions of those involved, to better understand contradictions in this complex conflict constellation and to find out whether there is a need for dialogue and mediation among the various actors.

The lively discussion resulted in the identification of numerous issues that should be discussed and negotiated in a dialogue process. Participants stressed the importance of bringing civil society representatives together with managers of technical institutions to address challenges related to awareness and capacity building for water use.

In general, they considered dialogue crucial and indispensable to reach out to communities and understand their concerns, especially in areas where disputes arise. In this context, participants pointed to a serious lack of dialogue skills across the Libyan spectrum (government agencies, NGOs, businesses, etc.). There were several direct requests for ASPR's continued support and we hope to continue this dialogue in 2021.

In addition, ASPR engaged in the following dialogue processes in 2020:

Israel/Palestine: the focus of the initiative 'Developing a Complex Understanding and Engagement with the Political Religious Conflicts over the Holy Esplanade and the Holy Land' is on the conflicts around the Temple Mount / Haram-al-Sharif and the religious aspects of the conflict (including religious groups in the dialogue as they have not been heard so far).

Results so far: Demonstrable contribution to de-escalation of violent clashes around the Temple Mount / Haram-al-Sharif since 2016, or prevention of violent escalation.

Sudan: The aim of the dialogue project 'Sudan Dialogue Platform' is to contribute to a non-violent transition in Sudan.

Results to date: After representatives of the Darfur rebel groups signed the 'Joint Declaration on Explosive Remnants of War and the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Darfur/Sudan' at the ASPR in March 2019, the dialogue focuses on the transition in Sudan as a whole.

Iraq: The aim of this project is to contribute to social cohesion and stability in Iraq. Due to confidentiality, no further information can be disclosed. The dialogue process started in September 2020 and is still in its initial phase.

Resolution 2467 places conflict-related sexual violence at the centre of the broader women, peace and security agenda. As a new issue, attention is drawn to the challenge of children born of rape.

2019

Resolution 2493 calls for the full implementation of all previous resolutions on women, peace and security and calls on the United Nations to develop context-specific approaches to women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes.

2019

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS


A graphic overview



35 TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS
864 PARTICIPANTS

CANCELLED

HELPLINE
83
COUNSELLING SESSIONS
with parents and pedagogues

SOCIAL MEDIA

SUBSCRIBERS
+ 16 %  Facebook

FOLLOWER
+ 55%  Twitter
+110%  LinkedIn

2
15
650
VIA INTERNET
NEW TRAINING OFFERS
ONLINE LECTURES
PARTICIPANTS
from **63** countries
8 time zones

 **1** INTERNATIONAL AWARD
International Nelson Mandela Award for Peace and Conflict Resolution

2.000 PUBLIC AWARENESS
Subscribers to the ASPR-News
100+ References in the media
Regional - National - International

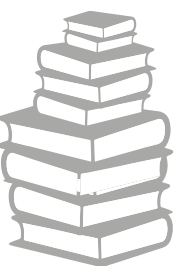
866 TRAININGS + EVENTS
PARTICIPANTS
IN ONSITE EVENTS

100+ NEW SITES IN THE WEB
New Design and Online-Photoproject
New content
- General overview of the ASPR portfolio
- ASPR-History

REMOVAL PEACE LIBRARY

31.000 BOOKS
150 MAGAZINE SERIES
FAREWELL AFTER
31 YEARS
Peace Library
Synagogue

1.890 New titles
& Archiving
500 Cardboard boxes in storage



ASPR HELPLINE & MOBILE PEACE WEEKS

Peace education in times of pandemic can promote mental health

Many uncertainties and distance from normality and from each other remain our companions. Not infrequently, nerves are on edge. What to do when camp fever threatens? What to do when home-schooling sparks fly?

The pandemic left no stone unturned. Everything that was normal was suddenly no longer possible: kindergarten, school, meeting friends, family get-togethers... And this new world was a big challenge for everyone, especially in the field of education. Suddenly parents/guardians became teachers. Suddenly school was at home. Suddenly teachers had to teach their pupils virtually. This often led to stress and excessive demands and thus provided a good breeding ground for conflicts. And unresolved conflicts can quickly lead to violence. In order to offer help to people in this exceptional situation, the ASPR launched the „ASPR helpline“ during the first lockdown. The ASPR wanted to offer unbureaucratic and anonymous support in case of conflict, so that despite challenging times, an appreciative relationship can be maintained or re-established.

The target group of the ASPR helpline were teachers and parents/guardians who were in conflict with each other, with pupils or their own children and/or with themselves. The counselling was offered by phone, Skype or Zoom and was so well received that the helpline was reactivated at every further lockdown. The costs for the service were covered by the Province of Burgenland, which agreed to a partial reallocation of the subsidy for the Peace Weeks. „Especially now in this exceptional situation, this support can be very beneficial for parents and teachers. Help from outside, an appreciative conversation, a few tips on how to deal with conflicts can often make a big difference. And this in turn benefits the children,“ said Daniela Winkler, Regional Minister for Education, welcoming the initiative. The ASPR team of Peace Week trainers (mediators) was gladly and competently available to help parents/guardians and teachers with their concerns. More than 80 counselling sessions were held, and the feedback from the clients was positive throughout. The ASPR helpline will therefore be continued in 2021.



Training session as part of „Mobile Peace Weeks“ with students of the Bilingual Federal Grammar School (ZBG) Oberwart .



Mobile Peace Weeks at ZBG Oberwart: Together instead of against each other - especially in times of crisis



© ZBG Oberwart

Mobile Peace Weeks

In 2020, only a few „Peace Day ..“ trainings could be held in Schlaining due to the pandemic. However, as the need was particularly high in this exceptional period, the project was expanded to include the „Mobile Peace Weeks“: individual modules of the peace weeks were carried out directly at schools, this new offer was very popular. After the lockdowns, team building and respectful interaction with each other were particularly necessary to quickly re-establish a positive class climate. The Mobile Peace Weeks will continue to be offered in 2021.

More than 15,000 pupils from all over Austria have already taken part in the Peace Weeks, the ASPR's most renowned and quantitatively largest peace education project. The content of the project focuses primarily on training in the areas of conflict and peace skills, violence prevention, appreciative communication and team building.

In addition, the following peace education activities were carried out in 2020:

- Holocaust History Project in cooperation with the Austrian National Fund for Victims of National Socialism: 5 school classes with a total of 96 students.
- University Course „Global Peace Education“: second and third semester with 22 students, 5 face-to-face and 5 on-line events.
- BMLV-SOS Children's Village - ASPR Project (Phase 2): SOS Peace NOW! 10 project days were carried out with a total of 40 children/youths and 47 adults (social pedagogues).
- Start of the first ASPR school partnership with the ZBG Oberwart. Two workshops (one on-site and one online) were held with all first-grade classes of this secondary school.
- Participation in the following working groups: PH-BD-KIJA-ASPR working group on school development; PH Burgenland working group on bullying prevention; UNESCO Advisory Board for Transformative Education.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN WEST AFRICA

Strengthening local capacities

“Preparedness” is one of the core elements of the ASPR’s courses for capacity development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA) at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana. In 2020 we had to demonstrate that we can also deliver in practice what we have been teaching. On the last day of the eight edition of the core course on Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa in March 2020 Austria imposed the first lockdown. Within the same period, the KAIPTC in Accra temporarily closed due to the pandemic and hence the scheduled training of trainers could not take place. As a result, we could not prepare graduates of the core course for their task to hold courses - i.e. „Multiplier Modules” - in their countries of origin.

Challenges for project management

Nevertheless, in order to achieve the project goals within the project time-frame the ASPR immediately adapted to the new circumstances and started „contingency planning” - also a course content.



Princella Akor Godzi, Assistant Course Director at Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana

Formal processes (e.g., planning instruments, review of project progress through meaningful monitoring and reporting, as well as strict financial control) are important quality features of successful project cycle management. While these standards are very important the crisis showed clearly that beyond that, networking and good personal relationships are crucial for successful project implementation. Only based on the trust built up through regular contact with our graduates and partner organisations in the target countries was it possible to carry out the planned multiplier modules in Senegal and Burkina Faso despite the COVID 19 restrictions. Also, our West African partners appreciate that the ASPR continued the cooperation during the crisis.

Strengthening local capacities for humanitarian assistance

When disaster strikes, local professionals are usually the first responders to the crises and need to be particularly well coordinated. This is why the ASPR decided to carry out the multiplier modules at the local level and not in the capital cities where response mechanisms are usually better than more remote areas. Graduates of various HAWA core courses formed country teams, developed, and taught specific context-tailored content. They were supported by a mentor. As with the HAWA core course, it was important to bring together representatives of governmental civil protection agencies, the military and police, and above all local NGOs. In the multiplier modules, local risk factors and mechanisms for crisis management were discussed. A special focus was placed on civil-military coordination.

Being prepared for 2021

Resilience is the ability to cope with crises and use the lessons learnt for development. The HAWA core course planned for November 2020 had to be postponed to 2021. Based on various possible scenarios, several project management plans were drawn up to achieve the goal of capacity development for humanitarian assistance in West Africa.



Course participants from the multiplier module in Burkina Faso in September 2020.

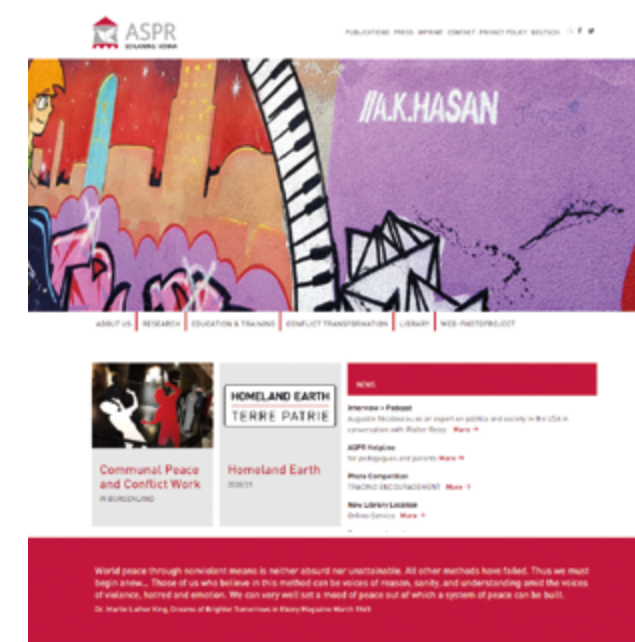
Even small contributions have an impact

In the event of a crisis humanitarian assistance should save lives, alleviate suffering, and create the basis for a return to dignified living conditions, be it a natural disaster, an armed conflict or a pandemic. The people in the Casamance region of Senegal have already suffered many of these crises. It was only in 2014 that the 30-year civil war ended with a ceasefire agreement. Violent attacks are now on the decline, but the effects of global warming are becoming more threatening. The situation in the Boucle du Mouhoun region of Burkina Faso is similarly difficult. 37,000 internally displaced people need to be cared for, natural resources such as water, pastures, forests and fertile soil form the basis of life for the majority of the population and are becoming increasingly scarce. The ASPR trainings contribute to a better management of crises at the local level.

WEBSITE PHOTOS

Tracing encouragement

The ASPR has been online for 22 years, and now its diverse range of activities can also be accessed intuitively. The new website provides an extensive insight into current ASPR activities and also offers plenty of data for a comprehensive review. The website is illustrated with graffiti photos from all over the world, which send encouraging messages: Especially in war zones and fragile societies, these give hope to people in their everyday lives. We would like to share these messages with our website visitors and link them to a competition: for professionals in crisis regions, graduates of the training programmes as well as students, we have created space for participation - we call on you to take pictures of these murals and/or words as well as lines of text and send them to ipt@aspr.ac.at until the end of August 2021. On 21 September, the World Peace Day, the best photo entries will be awarded. More at www.aspr.ac.at



ASPR website - new design and expanded content

IPT ONLINE LECTURE SERIES

Caring conversations for peace and justice

For almost 30 years the ASPR has been offering relevant professional training opportunities for civilian experts from all over the world within the framework of the „International Civilian Peacebuilding-Training Programme“. The scope, field of work, and theoretical and practical knowledge of peacebuilding have changed considerably during this time. Today, we observe more comprehensive mandates and more diverse forms of deployment, which consider the growing understanding of the complexity of the causes, dynamics, and effects of armed conflicts - especially regarding the needs of different groups such as women, children or ethnic minorities. The ASPR therefore updates the training content every year to offer state-of-the-art peacebuilding training. Challenged by COVID-19, but also inspired, for example, by processes in the context of „me too“ and „black lives matter“, the ASPR therefore developed a freely accessible online lecture series called „Caring Conversations for Peace and Justice“. With this new format, the ASPR aims to annually address particularly con-

temporary issues around peace, violence, conflict, and justice. Over the course of eight lectures throughout the first series, the ASPR invited interested people from all over the world to engage with processes of feminist, intersectional or decolonising work in the realms of peacebuilding, conflict transformation and social justice. Prominent persons from academia and the field gave insights into findings, approaches, and experiences regarding the ways in which women, LGBTIQ+ communities or refugees shape peace processes towards more inclusive and sustainable ways, which challenges and resistances they encounter. Experiences from Sri Lanka and approaching peacebuilding together with decoloniality also shed light on the past, present and future of moving beyond ethnic or racialised tensions and dividing lines within our communities. Celebrating Johan Galtung's 90th birthday, another lecture was offered, which dealt with Galtung as a „pioneer and unconventional thinker in peace research“.

This lecture series was a virtual contribution to the professional development and networking of relevant personnel. With it, we were able to increase accessibility for participants from all over the world, different socio-economic backgrounds, experiences, etc. Indeed, the lecture series was very well received. On average, about 50 people attended the live lectures, with 571 more views (as of 22.01.2021) from those five lectures that were put on Youtube. In total we recorded 726 registrations and then 435 direct participants from over 60 countries and all continents. 72% of these participants were women. If you are interested in watching the lectures from this series, you can do so via the ASPR YouTube channel: ASPR Schlaining - YouTube.



Jan Eberwein, Administrative Assistant Silvia Polster, Programme Manager/Moderator Julia Scharinger and Hadil Freihaat (from left)

ONLINE ASPR DIALOGUE SERIES ON THE OSCE 2020

Security and co-operation in the OSCE area: challenges and opportunities

In the framework of the annual „Summer Academy on OSCE“, OSCE experts present and discuss the history and functioning, old conflicts and new dividing lines, as well as recent developments, challenges and opportunities of the OSCE and provide insights into the diverse activities of this unique international organization. Especially in difficult times like these, when the pandemic has ruthlessly shown us the crisis of multilateralism, the ASPR wanted to offer a broader audience the opportunity to participate in the discussions otherwise traditionally held in the Academy. Thus the idea was born to offer an online dialogue series on the OSCE replacing the Summer Academy in 2020.

In Phase 1 (Phase 2 will follow in 2021), five online dialogues were held with international experts. Around 300 interested people followed the events and turned them with their input into a lively and interactive exchange. The target group was basically everyone who was interested in the topics presented. The participants came primarily from the national OSCE delegations and the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, from OSCE field missions, from OSCE Partners for Co-operation, from the circle of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and from the alumni network of the Summer Academy on OSCE.

As with the Summer Academy, the aim of the online dialogues was to broaden and deepen knowledge about the OSCE by using the deliberately provocative questions posed by the moderators to invite constructive criticism of certain aspects and to take a look behind the scenes in order to gain a better understanding of diplomatic work and the relevance of multilateralism. Furthermore, the online series aimed to provide food for thought for further discussions on whether and how the OSCE could boldly break new ground in its engagement in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and conflict mediation. Although independent of the OSCE, OSCE diplomats and staff

were specifically invited to actively participate in the virtual discussion.

The idea of the dialogue series was presented to Austria as the main sponsor of the Summer Academy on OSCE and welcomed by those responsible. This made it possible to reallocate the scholarship funds in 2020. Interest in the online dialogues grew steadily from the beginning. The ASPR-OSCE working group therefore decided to continue the dialogue series in 2021 with another five events and to further exchange views on central topics and new challenges of the OSCE in an interactive and constructively critical manner within the framework of this new format.



The Vienna Hofburg is the seat of the Permanent Council, the OSCE's main decision-making body, which meets regularly.

ESDC GOES ONLINE

An international success story

Out of the six specialisation courses planned at the ASPR as part of the ESDC academic programme for 2020, only two courses could still be held on site before the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit Austria: The February ESDC Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians in Vienna, and the ESDC Pre-Deployment Training in Brussels in March. Thereafter followed a series of continuous postponements and cancellations, as the restrictions and regulations to control the pandemic made the travel and stay of both the international participants and the expert trainers impossible.

In its endeavour to nevertheless fulfil its training mandate, the ASPR developed an online version of the ESDC Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (CPOC) in the second half of 2020 and offered it in this new format from 16 to 20 November. The initiative to modify the course was taken in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV), which had already originally developed the course with the ASPR and furthermore finances its implementation as an ongoing contribution of the Republic of Austria to the EU twice a year. With its new format, the course is the first ever ESDC course in Austria to be conducted in a fully online version.

However, in the redesigning process, a couple of challenges were to be met, among others:

- The long-established team of trainers from international partner organisations, who had helped to develop and shape the course over many years, was spread across several time zones. As a consequence, there was only a narrow time window in the afternoon allowing the simultaneous participation of all trainers.
- The usually packed programme with up to six modules per day could not simply be transferred into the online version. Experience has shown that the time to concentrate on the screen is much shorter than in an on-site classroom, whe-

re the dense programme is lightened up by coffee breaks, discussions with colleagues and trainers.

- The interactive character of the course had to be rethought with the use of virtual tools and redesigned according to the possibilities, furthermore with the direct eye contact between trainer and participants being absent in the online version, an immediate reaction to the learning pace is difficult to realise. This meant, that the learning curve and progress had to be anticipated and well prepared in advance to ensure an interactive exchange between trainers and participants.
- To restrict the daily video conferencing time, a large part of the training modules had to be recorded in advance and were made available to the participants as video clips to be studied and prepared in self-paced learning on an e-learning platform. Much of the content had thus to be learned individually by the participant and was then repeated in a daily interactive course module with exercises and group work to ensure that all content was understood.

The course comprised 26 participants from 13 different countries. Together with the trainers, the course participants were spread across 8 different time zones, from the Philippines to Brazil and from Holland to Ethiopia. After initial technical challenges with the online format, which was unfamiliar to many, a lively exchange within the group and an enthusiastic learning dynamic soon developed, as it usually does in the interactive face-to-face courses of the ASPR. Even in the new format, the learning content could be fully conveyed, and the learning experience was rated as consistently positive by the participants in the final course evaluation. Our international trainers, who had been sceptical about the redesign of the course, were very enthusiastic about the shared learning experience of the first online ESDC course in Austria.

Within the training department 2020 following courses and lectures were delivered:

ESDC:

ESDC Course Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (PoC), 9 - 14 February 2020
ESDC Pre-Deployment Course, 3 - 6 March 2020
ESDC Course Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (PoC) - online, 16 - 20 November 2020

OSCE Online-Dialog Series:

14 Oktober 2020

Cooperative Security: Who needs it?

Reinhard Krumm, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Regional Office for Co-operation and Peace in Europe (FES ROC-PE), Head of Office Vienna

Ambassador Florian Raunig, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE

30 October 2020

Can the OSCE be saved?

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, High Level Expert, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Former High Commissioner for National Minorities/OSCE

Ambassador Christian Strohal, Former Director of ODIHR

20 November 2020

Mediation: Can the OSCE do more?

Anna Hess Sargsyan, Senior Programme Officer/ETH Zürich

Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Former OSCE Special Envoy to Ukraine

Malgorzata Twardowska, Deputy Director for Operations Service, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

26 November 2020

Values and Interests: Can they be reconciled?

Bob Deen, Clingendael Institute, Co-ordinator Russia and Eastern Europe Centre

John Packer, Human Rights Expert, University of Ottawa

2 December 2020

A year of OSCE anniversaries: who cares?

Ambassador Kairat Abrakhmanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Sweden and Denmark, designated High Commissioner for National Minorities/OSCE

Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, UN and IO in Vienna, Former OSCE Secretary General

IPT Online Lecture Series:

26 August 2020

Critical Feminist Justpeace

Dr Karie Cross Riddle, Assistant Professor, Calvin University

09 September 2020

Queering Peacebuilding: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Peacebuilding

Dr Henri Myrntinen, Lead Associate, Gender Associations

23 September 2020

Why Intersectionality is not a Luxury

Dr Emilia Zenzile Roig, Founder & Executive Director, Center for Intersectional Justice (CIJ)

07 October 2020

Unpacking Inclusion in Peace Processes and Resistance to it

Dr Esra Cuhadar, Associate Professor, Bilkent University

21 October 2020

Overcoming Violence and Exclusion towards Peace and Inclusion - Experiences from Sri Lanka

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

27 October 2020

Johan Galtung - Der Vor- und Querdenker der Friedensforschung wird 90

Dr. habil. Sabine Jaberg, Lecturer at Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr, Hamburg

4 November 2020

Women and Power-Sharing in Peace Processes

Professor Christine Bell, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Edinburgh

18 November 2020

Refugees as Active Agents in Peacebuilding-Processes

Dr Amanda Coffie, Research Fellow, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy

2 December 2020

Peacebuilding and the Decolonial Future

Terrie Beswick, MA, Strategist and Facilitator, iklektik

Additionally, the ASPR organised within the **European Police and Civilian Services Training Programmes (EUPCST)** together with the Spanish and Portuguese Police (Guardia Civil und Guardia Nacional Republicana) an Online-Conference regarding the 20th anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security on 29 October 2020.

ABOUT US

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)

The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) was founded in 1982 by Dr Gerald Mader and other like-minded people. We are located at Schlaining Castle in Southern Burgenland, with a second office in Vienna, the nation's capital. Our work has earned us the status of UN "Peace Messenger" and a UNESCO "Prize for Peace Education".

Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which people with different backgrounds and circumstances are willing and able to recognise and address conflicts by non-violent, constructive, and sustainable means.

Our Mission

We support people so that they can engage in conflicts non-violently, constructively and sustainably. In doing so, we acknowledge the close interdependence between research on, education about, and the practice of conflict transformation. We conduct research projects on peace and security policy, are involved in mediation between conflict parties and engage in political consulting; we offer target group-oriented training programmes and advanced education for civilian experts and youth. The constant advancement of innovative theory and practice is built upon a foundation of dialogue and cooperation with international institutions, networks, theoreticians and practitioners of conflict transformation.

Our Principles

In our work, we align ourselves along the following principles:

PLURALISM AND COMPLEXITY

There are no simple answers, particularly for managing long-lasting conflict situations. Therefore, in our work we strive for pluralistic approaches that sometimes even result in contradictory findings. In the process, we are guided by non-linear complexity theory.

PARTNERSHIP AND CRITIQUE OF VIOLENCE

For us the conflict parties themselves are the experts for their respective conflict. We support them to take responsibility for their negotiations, meet our partners and clients on equal footing and consider ourselves "Learning Companions". In doing so, we are deliberately critical of violence. We pay particular attention to the inclusion and the integration of perspectives and stakeholders, who are often "forgotten", marginalised, or excluded during conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

CREATIVITY AND REFLEXIVITY

Working for peace and conflict transformation requires creativity. At the same time we constantly reflect upon our work in order to learn from our successes as well as our failures. For us, creativity and reflection are the foundations for innovation. The mutual exchange and cross-fertilisation of practice and theory is especially important.

The ASPR is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent association. It focuses on research, education/training, and conflict transformation.

Research

The ASPR contributes through research, symposia and publications to the discourse of peacebuilding. The ASPR research is also the basis for policy support. The ASPR has two publication series: the ASPR Policy Briefs and the ASPR Reports. An important part of the research department is the ASPR library, which is located in the former synagogue of Stadtschlaining. The library serves as a resource for research but is also open to the public.

Education/Training

The foci of the ASPR Education/Training Department are peace pedagogy and various training programmes to prepare civilian experts to be deployed in crisis regions. Annually more than 1,000 pupils participate in the "Peace Weeks" training programme, and hundreds of civilian experts are trained in the frame of

IPT, ESDC, ENTRI, EUAV, EUPCST, and the Summer Academy on OSCE as well as in tailor made training courses. Until the end of 2019, the ASPR supported the scientific, artistic and pedagogical conceptualisation of the "Peace Museum", which

was located at Schlaining Castle and sought to contribute to a global culture of peace.

It also organises the annual Summer Academy, which is open to the broader public.

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 European Security and Defence College
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 Geneva Academy
 Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces
 Geneva Centre for Security Policy
 Gesellschaft für Organisation, Planung und Ausbildung
 Gesellschaft für psychoanalytische Sozialpsychologie
 Ground Truth Solutions
 GOPA, Worldwide Consultants
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 International Committee of the Red Cross
 International Crisis Group

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 International Institute of Social Studies
 International Security Sector Advisory Team
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 UNICEF
 Universität Edinburgh, PSRP
 Universität Wien – Institut für Politikwissenschaften
 University of Edinburgh, School of Law
 United Nations Department of Peace Operations
 United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 United Nations Office of the Special Representative

of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
 United Nations Standing Police Capacity
 Verein Zukunft Schlaining

United States Institute of Peace
 Volkshochschule Burgenland
 Volkshochschule der Burgenländischen Roma
 West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
 Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency	IPT	International Civilian Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping Training Programme
ASPR	Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution	KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
AU	African Union	KIJA	Ombudsoffice for Children and Youth Burgenland
BD	Burgenland Department of Education	LVAk	Landesverteidigungsakademie (National Defence Academy)
BMEIA	Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe and International Affairs	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
BMLV	Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence	ÖAD	Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation
CPD, CPDC	Conflict-Peace-Democracy-Cluster	OSZE, OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CPOC	Comprehensive Protection of Civilians	PH	Pädagogische Hochschule (Pedagogic Academy)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	POC	Protection of Civilians
ENTRI	Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management	PSRP	Political Settlements Research Programme
ESDC	European Security and Defence College	SFU	Sigmund Freud University
EU	European Union	StoP	State of Peacebuilding-Konferenz
EUAV	European Union Aid Volunteers Initiative	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
EUCTG	European Union Civilian Training Group	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EUCTI	European Union Civilian Training Initiative	UNMISS	UN-Peacemission
EUPCST	European Union Police and Civilian Service Training	UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
HAWA	Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa	USIP	United States Institute of Peace
HDP Nexus	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus	VIC	Vienna International Centre
ICEUR-Vienna	The International Center for Advanced and Comparative EU-Russia (NIS) Research, Vienna	VN, UN	United Nations
IIP	International Institute for Peace	WPS	Woman Peace Security
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation	ZBG	Bilingual Federal Grammar School



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