



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

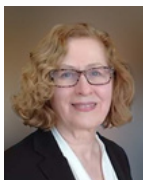
*... creating pathways toward dialogue & reconciliation
through research & education on conflict transformation & peacebuilding*

PEACEMAKERS TRUST'S WORK IN 2022-2023

In 2022 and 2023 Peacemakers Trust launched several new initiatives while continuing its media monitoring and educational activities. Peacemakers Trust continues to be operated by volunteers who appreciate the support of our generous donors. In 2022, a new Associate, Rebekah Smith (photo below left), joined Peacemakers Trust volunteers to work on several projects.

Justice and Reconciliation: Indigenous Peoples in Canada

The 2019 findings of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls have made it clear to Peacemakers Trust directors that reconciliation in Canada must include acknowledgement, cessation and reparation of Canada's profound historic wrongdoing and ongoing human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples.



Peacemakers Trust director Catherine Morris (photo right) and Research Associate Rebekah Smith (left) have been conducting research and advocacy related to Canada's human rights record related to Indigenous Peoples. Of major, long-term concern in Canada are lack of investigation of disappearances of Indigenous persons, particularly women and children.

THE DISAPPEARED THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

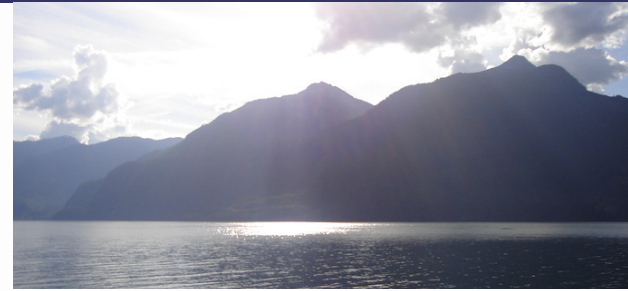
In 2023, Peacemakers Trust conducted research on these disappearances resulting in publications as well as submissions and statements to the UN Human Rights Council during 2023. Rebekah Smith made a statement about advocating universal ratification of the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 19 September 2023 (photo below).



Religion, rights and conflict in Canada: Freedom of religion or belief

In 2022 and 2023, Peacemakers Trust continued its research on religion and peacebuilding. Associate Rebekah Smith, together with Catherine Morris, has been examining Canadian cases in light of Canada's international human rights obligations.

The main focus of the research is on Canadian cases involving the right of religious communities and indigenous peoples to manifest their religion or belief, how international law applies to situations affecting Indigenous peoples, and how international human rights bodies are integrating understandings of Indigenous Peoples into international human rights law and standards. ...2



Our purpose . . . is to advance people's knowledge & capacity to understand, prevent & address conflict fairly, effectively & peacefully.

Our methods . . . include research and education for practitioners, officials, civil society and the public on:

- nonviolent methods for conflict transformation and peacebuilding;
- conflict analysis and mapping;
- fair and effective dispute resolution;
- effective planning, leadership, decision-making and problem-solving;
- fair, effective and accountable governance structures that adhere to international human rights principles.

What we do . . . Our work includes:

- www.peacemakers.ca: our bibliographic website used around the world by academics, students, practitioners and the public.
- Education and training on conflict resolution, reconciliation, and international human rights.
- Public dialogue on contentious matters including cultural or religious issues.
- Reporting on conflict: media monitoring on conflict transformation and peacebuilding, including human rights.
- Research and writing.

Our capabilities...

Peacemakers Trust directors and associates have proven track records in participatory education, research and policy development on conflict transformation, reconciliation, and human rights in several countries.

Contact Peacemakers Trust...

1745 Garnet Road, Victoria, BC, Canada V8P 3E2

Email: office@peacemakers.ca

Web: www.peacemakers.ca

facebook.com/PeacemakersTrust

mastodon.social/@peacemakers_ca

linkedin.com/company/peacemakertrust

**FOUNDED IN 1999, PEACEMAKERS TRUST IS A
REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION IN CANADA,**

NO. 87205 7823 RR0001.

Other research, education & writing



In 2022, Catherine Morris became a regular columnist for [Slaw: Canada's online legal magazine](#). She writes on a range of educational topics related to justice and peacebuilding with emphasis on international human rights. In 2022-2023, her research and writing for Slaw included pieces on business and human rights, enforced disappearances, violations against peace activists in Russia opposed to the war in Ukraine, age discrimination, and gun violence. (The photo above is a sculpture at the UN in New York, entitled "Non-Violence" by Swedish artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd.)

Thanks to our donors!

Your gifts in 2022 and 2023 made it possible for Peacemakers Trust:

- to update our online resources for students, academics, practitioners and the public;
- to travel to Geneva for meetings with diplomats and submissions to the UN Human Rights Council on remedies for international human rights violations affecting people around the world, including Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
- to continue our online media monitoring

Tax-deductible donations may be made by Interac e-transfer, CanadaHelps or cheque: See [peacemakers.ca/gifts.html](https://www.peacemakers.ca/gifts.html).



Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding A Selected Bibliography

Peacemakers Trust continues to offer its online bibliographic resources, edited by Catherine Morris, for students, scholars and practitioners. In 2022 and 2023, Peacemakers Trust research associate, Rebekah Smith worked on updating a bibliography on [business, human rights, and conflict](#) to be published in 2024 on the Peacemakers Trust website. In 2022 and 2023, Peacemakers Trust directors Ernie Fraser and Catherine Morris continue to monitor reports from around the world for posting on Facebook and Twitter (@peacemakers_ca). In late 2022, Peacemakers Trust decided to move its media monitoring posts to [Mastodon](#) while retaining posts on [Facebook](#).

In light of increased attention on the role of media in conflict around the world, we offer below an excerpt from Peacemakers Trust's web pages about responsible [reporting on conflict](#).

Featured excerpt from our website

Reporting on Conflict

Evaluating news reports in "post-truth" or "fog of war" environments

How can readers evaluate the news they are reading about conflicts around the world? The following suggestions were developed jointly by Conflict Resolution Network Canada (no longer in operation) and Peacemakers Trust in collaboration with journalists, using current knowledge in the field of conflict studies. These suggestions were used to guide the judging of entries for the Award for Excellence in Conflict Analysis given jointly by the Canadian Association of Journalists and the Conflict Resolution Network Canada awarded annually from 1994 to 2004. These guidelines were updated in 2022. See more in our Conflict Analysis Tutorial (.pdf) for those who read the news and the journalists who investigate and write it.

Above all, it is important that [except for opinion pieces] reporters are independent of those about whom they are reporting.

We believe good conflict analysis is seen in reports that:

- tell the truth, avoiding false balance, "both-sides-ism," and false equivalency in asymmetrical conflict...
- identify in a fair manner the perspectives of all important stakeholders...
- go beyond obvious conflict symptoms to the issues...
- explore the sources and effects of the conflict...
- explain the historical, legal and social context (including international human rights)...
- examine the relationships including escalation or de-escalation of the conflict...
- examine stakeholders' options and their implications...
- analyze attempts to negotiate or bridge gaps...
- use an effective style and medium for reporting.