

Peacemakers Trust Newsletter December 2019

2019 highlights

In 2019 Peacemakers Trust continued its research & education initiatives begun in 2017 and 2018 and accepted invitations to undertake educational initiatives with partners in Southeast Asia. Peacemakers Trust also joined with Canadian advocacy initiatives aimed at accountability in Myanmar (Burma) and implementing Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Research and writing of a chapter on the role of truth-telling-in-reconciliation, commenced in 2017, is now in the hands of editors in last stages of production of a collection on Christian perspectives on reconciliation.

Rohingya people in Myanmar and Bangladesh

In March 2019, Peacemakers Trust director Catherine Morris accepted an invitation to speak to lawyers in Vancouver about Accountability and Responsibility for Atrocity Crimes in Myanmar against Rohingya people in Myanmar's Rakhine State. In June 2019, Peacemakers Trust partnered with Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada to seek a non-partisan motion by Canada's Senate that Canada petition the International Court of Justice seeking accountability for suspected genocide against Rohingya people by Myanmar. Catherine Morris drafted a briefing note and participated in an Ottawa press conference on Parliament Hill. In December 2019, Canada announced it would support the current initiatives in the International Court of Justice to seek international accountability and prevent impunity.

Speaking tour: Thailand, Cambodia

On 1st November 2019, Catherine Morris spoke at King Prajadhipok's Institute's annual Congress in Bangkok on the topic of "Human Rights and Equality." From 4-22 November, she co-conducted three-day workshops on "Building Cultures of Integrity in Universities and Society" in four cities in Thailand in partnership with Dr. Vanchai Vatanasapt, director of the RUC School.

in partnership with Dr. Vanchai Vatanasapt, director of the RUC School, Khon Kaen. Academics from several Thai universities were introduced to concepts of participatory policy planning and restorative discipline. On 25



November, Catherine discussed conflict resolution and negotiation strategies with students of the Karenni Social Development Centre, a leadership training centre in northern Thailand for Karenni refugees from Kayah (Karenni) State in Myanmar. Catherine also visited Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where she gave a 30 November lecture to graduate students at Paññāsāstra University's Faculty of Law on "Gaps Between Promises and Implementation: International Human Rights and Global Challenges."

TRC calls to action: Canadians & Indigenous Peoples

Peacemakers Trust directors Ernie Fraser & Catherine Morris & volunteer Paul Scambler continued to participate in initiatives exploring the responsibility of churches to take up Canada's 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to engage in reparative actions with indigenous peoples. Peacemakers Trust was among the civil society organizations advocating passage of Canadian legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a cornerstone of the Calls to Action. Peacemakers Trust plans to continue this education and advocacy in 2020.

Online bibliographic resources

Peacemakers Trust's bibliographic website averaged about 13,000 visits per month.

Media monitoring

Peacemakers Trust directors Ernie Fraser and Catherine Morris continue to monitor reports and news from around the world for posting on Peacemakers Trust's <u>Facebook</u> news page and Twitter @peacemakers_ca.

Peacemakers Trust continues to be operated by volunteers

Peacemakers Trust directors continue to make themselves available for educational or research initiatives and plan to continue research on religion, rights and conflict in 2020.

Thanks to our donors! Your gifts make it possible for Peacemakers Trust:

- to update our online resources for students, academics, practitioners and the public;
- to respond to invitations to conduct research & education in several parts of the world.
- Thanks for your tax-deductable gifts by Interac e-transfer, CanadaHelps or cheque: http://www.peacemakers.ca/gifts.html.

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

Founded in 1999, Peacemakers Trust is a Registered Charitable Organization in Canada, number 87205 7823 RR0001.

Our purpose ...

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

Our methods . . .

include research and education for practitioners, officials, civil society leaders 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.

What we do...

Our work includes:

- www.peacemakers.ca: our acclaimed bibliographic website used around the world by academics, students, practitioners and the public.
- Education and training on conflict resolution, international human rights & reconciliation.
- Public dialogue on matters of contention including cultural or religious issues.
- Reporting on conflict: media monitoring on conflict transformation and peacebuilding.
- Academic 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 in several countries.

Contact us...

1745 Garnet Road Victoria, BC, Canada V8P 3E2 Email: office@peacemakers.ca Web: www.peacemakers.ca Tel: (+1) 250-477-0129

f

facebook.com/PeacemakersTrust



Twitter.com/peacemakers ca