

Case Note

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION AND COMBAT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION LEADING TO TERRORISM-WAR

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ABSTRACT

Background: *The civil society of different groups of actors, communities, and social formations, registered or unofficial, achieves responsibility and commitment in public life for the protection and promotion of values and common objectives for the good of society. Youth, women, and community representatives are the main actors in civil society that work to prevent and combat deviant phenomena in times of peace and especially during war, due to their influence and ability to promote social changes. Other interest groups, such as the media, law enforcement authorities, universities, researchers, and representatives of the academic world, as well as those involved in the private sector, can make important contributions to prevent wars and post-war events in crisis countries. The civil societies' capacities in war and post-war countries can be strengthened by exchanging good practices for the programs of international institutions. Countries that have endured this situation, such as Kosova, Bosnja, Hercegovina, and Croatia, identify and support lesser known, reliable groups, creating networks and regional platforms for collaboration, and bringing professionals into contact with researchers and academics to gain results based on practical data and their implementation as soon as possible towards the countries in crisis.*

Methods: *For this work, a combined methodology was used from the studies of self-accusation and victimisation to the fear of criminality: the method of legal analysis which is used to analyse the legal basis and current legislation that regulates strategies for the prevention of crimes, terrorism, and radicalism. The method of systemic analysis is used to study and analyse the position of legislation in the field and its position in the current legal system. The historical analysis method is used to explain the rates from the past and to compare the new rates with the historical ones. Finally, the researcher analysis method is used to explain the purpose and objectives of the study from the actual perspective of the survey and interview.*

Results and Conclusions: *The paper is only the beginning of the research and analysis into the role of civil society in preventing and fighting extremism and terrorism that leads to harsh wars. The case studies and analysis will primarily encompass countries that have suffered from the following: the wars during 1990 to 1999 in the former Yugoslavia, the war in Syria, the unrest in Libya, and the current war in Ukraine. These will be part of the publication in the future.*

The main topics will cover the state of a country before, during, and after a war, the level and extreme inertia that led to terror and war, the consequences after conflicts, material and human trafficking, corruption and organised crime, humanitarian problems and refugees, and, finally, the role of civil society in this field, especially in light of human rights and freedom.

Understanding the role of civil society in preventing, combating, and protecting human values is the first step in efforts towards national and comprehensive strategies to address the fear of horrific attacks from extremism and terrorism at war. This paper aims to provide good practices in the post-crisis country for crisis experiences, advance ideas and adequate methods of success, as well as give various suggestions and descriptions of their connection, describing the civil society that should follow, including educational programs, both preventive and rehabilitative with a positive impact on the community.

It is important that civil society is given criteria, political issues, financial resources, and guidelines to succeed in its reasoning, and that its role appears as a reason to promote the adequate company in society. Prevention, combat, rehabilitation, and resocialisation programs in conflict and post-conflict countries, as a result of wars, are long-term and complex. Their success depends largely on the promotion of good practices and the sharing of lessons learned and resources in different contexts, both nationally and internationally. Through this work, we aim to contribute to this discourse by highlighting international organisations, such as the OSCE, UN, IOM, and the EU, and the role that civil society can and will play in making communities safer and more resilient to the challenges in the future, after wars end, as a result of extremism caused by wars in the 21st century.

1 INTRODUCTION

If a definition of civil society were to be sought, then the interpretation would be more focused on the components that do not constitute civil society, such as “field outside the family, the market, and the state,” “non-governmental” organizations, “non-profit” and “non-commercial”, rather than focus on the characteristics of civil society’s organisations. In general, civil society is better understood as “groupings of different actors, communities and social formations, registered formally or informally, representing a variety of roles and commitments in public life for the protection and promotion of the values and objectives of common.”³ Civil society actors typically include: leaders and community groups; local associations and entities; religious leaders and religious organisations; online groups and social media communities; international, national, and field-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs); trade unions and professional associations; charitable and philanthropic foundations; academic and research institutions; and community arts groups.⁴

Civil society is dynamic, vibrant, and influential, but also selectively limited. Over the past two decades, civil society has significantly evolved. Globally, civil society appears to flourish. Technology, geopolitics, and markets have created opportunities and pressures, fuelling the creation of millions of civil society organisations around the world, creating exciting models for citizen expression, both online and offline, and generating increased involvement in governance processes and global governance. An explosion in the number of civil society organisation (CSO) registrations has been observed, including a significant increase in activity in emerging and developing economies. Although under-resourced when compared to business and government, funding for civil society activities has greatly increased in specific areas with the support of major foundations and matched funds.

The roles that different stakeholders play in civil society have become blurry. Sources of social capital are constantly changing in an increasingly global, hyperconnected, and multi-stakeholder world. Within the complex ecosystem of a myriad of civil society’s activities and relationships, some actors, such as those in faith and religious cultures, as well as in social media communities and networks, are starting to play an enhanced role.

3 Center for Civil Society, *Report on activities, July 2005 - August 2006* <<https://www.csis.org/analysis/concept-and-definition-civil-society-sustainability>> accessed 2 June 2023.

4 The European Union, the multi-year indicative program for the Thematic Program «Organizations of civil society (CSO) and local authorities for the period 2014-2020» includes the following examples of CSOs: ‘Non-governmental organizations, organizations representing indigenous peoples, organizations representing national minorities and/or ethnic groups, diaspora organizations, migrant organizations in partner country clubs, local trade associations and groups of citizens, cooperatives, employers’ associations and trade unions (social partners), organizations representing interests economic and social, organizations that fight against corruption and fraud and that promote good governance, civil rights organizations and organizations fighting discrimination, local organizations (including networks) involved in regional cooperation and decentralized integration, consumer organizations, women’s and youth organizations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organizations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, philosophical and non-religious organizations, the media and any non-governmental association and independent foundation. The new ‘Thematic Program for Civil Society Organizations: Multiannual Indicative Program 2021-2027’ may be found here <https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-9158-civil-society-organisations-annex_en.pdf>

2 THE ROLE OF THE MAIN CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS IN CRISIS AREAS

Civil society roles include:

- Watchdog: holding institutions accountable; promoting transparency and accountability
- Advocate: raising awareness of societal issues and challenges; advocating for change
- Service provider: delivering services to meet societal needs, such as education, health, food, and security; implementing disaster management, preparedness, and emergency response
- Expert: bringing unique knowledge and experience to shape policy and strategy; identifying and building solutions
- Capacity builder: providing education, training, and other capacity building
- Incubator: developing solutions that may require a long “gestation” or payback period
- Representative: giving power to the voice of the marginalised or under-represented
- Citizenship champion: encouraging citizen engagement; supporting citizens’ rights
- Solidarity supporter: promoting fundamental and universal values
- Definer of standards: creating norms that shape market and state activities

Various policy documents from international institutions primarily address the prevention and combating of extremism that leads to war. As a model, we use that of the OSCE. During the last years, especially the Ministerial Declaration 4/15, it has encouraged states to work in all sectors, reaching out to civil society and other community actors to proactively engage in prevention and combating of deviant behaviours that lead to extremism or war.⁵

Youth, women, and community representatives, including political, religious, and university leaders, are key civil society actors who can make effective and sustainable contributions to preventing and countering extremism. Young people in particular are recognised as initiators of social change and as valuable partners in efforts to achieve success with restorative strategies in crisis areas, such as those with ideological and political challenges, and those with socio-economic problems.⁶ Community representatives are critical for fostering cultural tolerance and open dialogue, and easily work with members of vulnerable communities in the fight against violent ideologies. In this case, we see socio-economic,

5 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No 9/11 ‘On the Strengthening Coordination and Coherence in OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats’ (7 December 2011) <<https://www.osce.org/mc/86089>> accessed 2 June 2023; OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration No 5/14 ‘On the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014)’ (5 December 2014) <<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/a/130546.pdf>> accessed 2 June 2023; OSCE Ministerial Declaration No 4/15 ‘On Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism’ (4 December 2015) <<https://www.osce.org/cio/208216>> accessed 2 June 2023; OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration No 1/16 ‘On Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism’ (9 December 2016) <<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/f/2/288176.pdf>> accessed 2 June 2023.

6 UN Secretary-General, ‘Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General’ (24 December 2015) <<https://digitalibrary.un.org/record/816212?ln=en>> accessed 2 June 2023.

ideo-political problems that pose a risk wherein the residents of crisis countries will turn into socio-pathological problems.⁷

The changing nature of war compels civil society to use unconventional tactics by warring parties, which dramatically increases the costs of conflict for ordinary people. Non-combatant civilians are the main targets of violence, and civilian deaths account for the majority of all casualties. Forcible displacement and massacres; the targeting of women and children and abduction of children as soldiers; environmental destruction and economic collapse, creating profound impoverishment; the legacies of crippling bitterness, fear, and division are some of the many reasons that cause civil society actors feel compelled to use their energy and creativity to find alternatives to violence, to end wars, and prevent them from starting or reoccurring. As people become directly affected by armed conflict, they develop a central interest in contributing to its resolution. Living alongside the armed actors, they share in a greater need and potential to participate in peacebuilding.⁸

While often part of the forces supporting war, it is also one of the powerful forces in promoting peace. Civil society's roles in humanitarian relief, development, and human rights protection are well understood. What is lesser well-known is the myriad of ways that they actively build peace. Civil society plays a role during every point of the conflict's development and resolution, from surfacing situations of injustice to preventing violence, from creating conditions conducive to peace talks to mediating a settlement and working to ensure its consolidation, from setting a global policy agenda to healing war-scarred psyches. These roles can be mapped out into eight main functions of civil society peacebuilding.⁹

2.1 The role of young people in preventing extremism and terrorism that leads to war through civil society

Young people are the primary target of recruitment and mobilisation efforts by violent, extremist organisations when changes are expressed in countries with ideological and socio-economic crises. Regardless of objective criminogenic factors, such as geographic location, religion, nationality, or educational level, young people are the most vulnerable social group to violent extremism. Psychologists attribute this sensitivity to several factors, including, but not limited to, young people's search for identity and to find meaning in life, society, purpose, recognition, and religious affiliation.

Youth representatives, activists, volunteers, and young professionals are often effectively engaged in prevention programs at the local level, both offline and online, through engaging with their peers or communities, raising awareness of recruitment's negative consequences by terrorist groups, and providing alternative, positive ideas. Facilitating dialogue is another common practice by young people. This practical approach offers opportunities for reflection and constructive debate on topics related to personal and social development, education, independence, justice, honour, identities, gender norms, belonging, post-conflict reconciliation, etc. Other topics to explore that require help from professional counsellors those related to post-traumatic stress, discrimination, intolerance, and domestic violence. As a result of crises in a country that has been disrupted due to the area's armed conflicts,

7 General Secretariat of the Council of EU, 'Council Conclusions on EU External Action on Counterterrorism' (19 June 2017) <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23999/st10384en17-conclusions-on-eu-external-action-on-counter-terrorism.pdf>> accessed 2 June 2023.

8 Catherine Barnes, *Agents for Change: Civil Society Roles in Preventing War & Building Peace (The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Iss 2, European Centre for Conflict Prevention 2006)* 7.

9 *ibid* 8.

it is necessary to treat young people and provide adequate professional rehabilitation; in this way, civil society has a special importance in having the right approach.¹⁰

2.2 The role of women in preventing extremism and terrorism leading to war through civil society

There is a broad international consensus among policymakers and professionals that efforts to engage women in preventing extremism leading to terrorism and war should occur. International and national efforts for peace and security were emphasised with the adoption of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council on Women, Peace and Security and, more specifically, regarding the prevention of extremism leading to terrorism and war (PETW) through the drafting of Resolution 2242 of the United Nations Security Council (2015).¹¹

This intensification of women's engagement can be considered positive due to analytical approaches to gender dynamics around terrorist radicalism and addressing the knowledge gathered from PETW policies and programmatic activity. Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, needs, and expectations built on social models that are considered appropriate for women and men in a society. These roles are considered contextual, variable, and time-specific.¹²

Women can exert influence on PETW efforts as policymakers, political leaders, educators, mothers, community members, and activists, as they are directly related to the younger individuals, and face challenges in war and post-war zones in managing this group towards performance and prevention of extremism in general. They can shape and lead education programs, actively engage with vulnerable youth, and be portrayers of the counter-extremism narrative, especially when they speak as victims or survivors of terrorist attacks or as former violent extremists. One of the key roles women can play in PETW relates to their ability to directly intervene with girls and women either at risk of terrorist radicalisation or already radicalised, as well as influence girls and women who have returned from conflict zones to countries abroad where they may have been involved in armed conflict. This is especially important in conservative cultural communities.¹³

3 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PREVENTION OF PETW

Community representatives can serve as mediators between communities and government authorities. Partnerships are useful for addressing a variety of public safety concerns,

- 10 Peter R Neumann, *Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism: Ideas, Recommendations, and Good Practices from the OSCE Region* (OSCE 2017); Bibi van Ginkel, 'Engaging Civil Society in Countering Violent Extremism: Experiences with the UN Global CounterTerrorism Strategy' (The Hague Research Paper, ICCT 2012); OSCE, *Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: Report on Findings and Recommendations* (Expert Roundtable of the Joint OSCE Secretariat – OSCE ODIHR, Vienna, 23-24 October 2012).
- 11 UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) (31 October 2000) <<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1325>> accessed 2 June 2023); UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015) (13 October 2015) <<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2242>> accessed 2 June 2023.
- 12 Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, 'Gender Mainstreaming: Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality' (UN Women, August 2001) <<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>><http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2242>> accessed 2 June 2023.
- 13 Veton Vula dhe Mensut Ademi, *Kriminaliteti i Organizuar* (Kolegji AAB 2020) 112.

including PETW. Working with community leaders to create a sense of shared purpose in PETW is a good investment that leads to successful outcomes.¹⁴

Community leaders can influence a range of efforts ranging from early-stage prevention to the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist perpetrators and returning foreign fighters. As credible activists with unique knowledge on sensitive issues to vulnerable community members, they can effectively communicate alternatives to violence. They can use their position, authority, image credibility, and close ties with community members to orient young people to value peace and tolerance, building resistance to hate messages.¹⁵

The effectiveness of the “integrated society” approach to PETW depends on the active and continuous participation of many actors in its implementation. In addition to the main civil society actors as described above, there are other important people involved, including educators/teachers, law enforcement professionals, academics/researchers, former violent extremists, information technology and media professionals, journalists, and media specialists. It is important to recognise the influence of actors holding different views within the community, as well as formal and informal local organisations, which can exert a negative influence on the PETW program. In the following section, a comprehensive, non-exhaustive treatment of the spectrum of actors with a direct and positive influence in this field is given.

3.1 The role of educators and educational institutions in PETW

Schools are especially sensitive to PETW as they are considered avenues of social interaction for young people in the construction of their personal and social identities. Educators, as frontline professionals, are imperative to preventing violent extremism, not only because of their ability to impart knowledge that can influence students’ worldviews and value systems, but also because they can identify vulnerable individuals to these impacts and those in need of support. Training teachers to understand the risks of PETW and to approach these situations carefully and constructively is a critical investment. They can support efforts through the preparation of curricula and texts that foster respect for diversity and promote non-violent social norms. Educators can play a vital role in rehabilitation and reintegration by providing technical vocational training and programs to increase the cognitive skills of violent and extremist perpetrators in preparation for reintegration into society.¹⁶

3.2 Law enforcement services, preventive measures, and community policing PETW

Police services are responsible for maintaining public order and safety. The practice of community policing emphasises “cooperative efforts between the police and the community to identify, prevent, and solve problems with crime, potential risks for crime, safety and physical security issues, social unrest, and problems of peaceful and disorderly

14 *Global Counterterrorism Forum, ‘Lifecycle Toolkit: The role of families in preventing and combating violent extremism: strategic recommendations and opportunities programming’ (GCTF, 2016) <<https://www.thegctf.org/BU/Tools-and-Manuals/Overview>> accessed 2 June 2023.*

15 *Abbas Barzegar, Shawn Powers and Nagham El Karhili, Civic Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism: Sector Recommendations and Best Practices (EU, Georgia State University, British Council, Institute for Dialogue Strategic 2016).*

16 *‘Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Perpetrators of Violent Extremism Offenders’ (Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), 2012) <https://capve.org/components/com_jshopping/files/files_products/GCTF-Rome-Memorandum-ENG-rehab_reintegration.pdf> accessed 2 June 2023.*

neighbourhoods, and to improve the quality of life for all.”¹⁷ Close cooperation, based on mutual trust, between law enforcement institutions and communities to reduce tensions and grievances improves the ability to intervene in the cycle of terrorist radicalisation, reduce threats to public safety, and make communities more capable of responding to the situation.¹⁸

According to the author R. Maslesa, these efforts provide real results if the components of policing in the field reflect the racial, ethnic, and religious diversity of the communities that are addressed. Moreover, the development of clear and transparent policies to coordinate contacts, collect and administer confidential information, and use in criminal investigations furthers the common trust and effectiveness of police engagement in these areas. After 1999, in the Republic of Kosovo, community advisory boards or security councils were formed in the former Yugoslavian war zone. They have proven to be effective forums for raising and dealing with relevant issues related to the prevention of extremism and terrorism that leads to war. They are also useful and transparent platforms for engaging civil society and community leaders for feedback to law enforcement in ongoing efforts to coordinate potential interventions.¹⁹

3.3 University staff and their role in PETW

National security policies related to the quality of studies should be adapted and analysed for their support of their development and guidance of the implementation of PETW intervention programs. Therefore, the integration of experienced researchers, research institutes, and academic institutions in the PETW policy-making processes and program implementation is of strategic importance. Evidence-based and rigorous techniques, as well as objective evaluation methodologies, can accurately identify the causes and dynamic tendencies of radicalism that leads to terrorism and war.²⁰ In turn, this information can help design effective responses as needed. However, opportunities for studies may not be possible, so government actors should consider continuous training and capacity building for researchers as one of the main courses of PETW. The study's quality depends on access to information. In this way, by facilitating researchers' access to relevant and reliable data, it can systematically and periodically contribute to better evaluations and policies. Another step to develop a strategic approach to PETW is to establish policy forums to discuss policy priorities, disseminate research findings, and facilitate regular exchanges between researchers, policymakers, and professionals.

3.4 The sector of information technology (IT) and social media in its role towards PETW

The internet and social media revolution has broken down traditional communication barriers, creating an active online world of communication. Violent extremist organisations recognize and exploit the unparalleled power and opportunities that social media platforms

17 Ramo Masleša, *Policia Dhe Shoqëria* (Univerzitet u Sarajevu 2016) 23.

18 OSCE, *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach* (OSCE TTD, ODIHR 2014).

19 David Schanzer and others, *The Challenge and Promise of Using Community Policing Strategies to Prevent Violent Extremism: A call for community partnerships with law enforcement to enhance public safety: Final report* (National Institute of Justice, US Department of Justice 2016).

20 Ivan Nađ (ed), *Crisis Management Days: Book of Papers 8th International Scientific Conference*, Velika Gorica, Croatia, 14–15 May 2015 (Veleučilište Velika Gorica 2015).

provide, using them to inspire, recruit, and mobilise support, incite psychological warfare, instigate and coordinate attacks, and raise funds. Their propaganda refers to media platforms as tools of comparable importance to lethal weapons used on the battlefield. Given the strategic and tactical use of the internet and social media by violent extremists, the IT sector has an important role in disrupting the abusive use of its platforms and supporting civil society PETW initiatives. Social media platforms, in recent years, have increased their efforts to address online abuse and online hate speech, leading to the removal/reporting/blocking of content promoting violent extremism online. These efforts must be done carefully and within the parameters of laws protecting free speech. Adding a proactive approach to this reactive behaviour can yield even better results. In partnership with CSOs and IT, institutions handling technology have the capacity and technological resources to develop communication strategies and campaigns that challenge narratives of violent extremism and promote a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and non-discrimination. They can also encourage and support research on the misuse and exploitation of the internet and social media platforms by violent extremist organisations that help policymakers develop more effective responses. Other efforts could focus on empowering victims to engage in PETW work by providing them with online forums to share their stories.²¹

4 ANALYSIS OF THE ADEQUATE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS BY CIVIL SOCIETY IN PREVENTING EXTREME WARS: CASE STUDY KOSOVO

Networking and cooperation between CSOs: Experts point out that cooperation between CSOs in the region differs from each organisation's specific history, although the general level of direct communication and cooperation is insufficient and rare. Civil society networks are often cited as good practice, but significant regional links are rare. Although civil society actors often meet during conferences, they do not often engage in joint project implementation efforts.

Overlapping efforts: Experts appreciate the existence of new ideas and initiatives for PETW, but the tendency to create new structures and platforms dedicated to each challenge can be inefficient, especially when the sector itself offers few capacities. Local security councils are repeatedly mentioned as useful tools of engagement in the context of PETW.

Reputation and personal safety issues: When talking about involvement when working for PETW, we address reputational and personal safety issues, especially if these issues are named as such. For fear of putting their reputation and personal safety at risk, but also because of the possible legal obligations that may come resulting from working with individuals who are radicalised or convicted of terrorist crimes, many civil society organisations are reluctant to engage in this field.

Terminology issues: Some experts point out terminology issues that do not translate well in the context of the region, such as: "community leaders" and "youth leaders." Furthermore, "countering violent extremism" is translated as "fighting violent extremism" in all Western Balkan languages. However, participants also suggested that this challenge should not be addressed by creating new terms or adapting language-specific terminology, but by providing concrete explanations and examples.

Lack of access: Conservative communities rarely offer opportunities for CSOs to engage with them. Religious leaders, who enjoy higher credibility than others within particular communities, may be better able to work in these settings.

²¹ Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (n 6).

The complex challenges listed above require approaches tailored to each context. The guidelines outlined in the following section provide an opportunity to learn from existing good practices and develop effective responses to these and other challenges in the PETW field.

Local dynamics and socio-economic sensitivities: In today's globalised and interconnected world, violent extremism is an increasingly complex phenomenon resulting from the dynamic interaction between geopolitical factors and a highly contextual set of conditions, grievances, and circumstances. Therefore, the treatment of local manifestations of violent extremism requires both a general understanding of its transnational dimension and ideological nature, as well as an objective and nuanced assessment of the local and dynamic drivers of terrorist radicalism. In communities with highly politicised ethnic or religious identities that may have experienced sectoral discrimination or violence in the past, violent extremism may emerge across political, ethnic, or religious divides. Programs should be designed so that they do not target or stigmatise specific groups, increase polarisation, or exacerbate ethnic tensions.

5 PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE

Ultimately, civil society initiatives are often the source of innovative responses to conflict. While civil society is not necessarily a force for peace, the debates and initiatives cultivated by CSOs are often the motors for it. Their contributions to the underlying transformation of conflict and building peace extends from efforts to support individual development and cultivate positive norms in communities to tackling exclusionary policies, systems, and structures that give rise to grievances. Ultimately, a widespread, inclusive, and vibrant engagement within civic life can be the incubator for the institutions and habits needed to resolve conflict peacefully and generate more responsive and better governance for sustainable peace. While it is rare for grassroots efforts to transform wider systems of conflict and war, it is not possible for these wider systems to be transformed without stimulating changes at the community level. Therefore, many analysts and practitioners agree with John Paul Lederach's observation that there is a need to build peace from the bottom up, the top down, and the middle out.²² Yet, the methodologies for crossing the scale barrier simultaneously and in a coordinated manner are not well-developed. The key seems to lie in negotiating dynamic and strategic partnerships. Primary responsibility for conflict prevention rests with national governments and other local actors. Greater ownership is likely to result in a more legitimate process and sustainable outcomes.

The primary role of outsiders is to create spaces and support inclusive processes that enable those directly involved to make decisions about the specific arrangements for addressing the causes of conflict. Outsiders should help to build on the capacities that exist and avoid actions that displace and undermine homegrown initiatives, or that promote short-term objectives at the expense of long-term prevention.

Based on a collaborative understanding of the sources of conflict and the factors that continue to generate it, people based elsewhere can seek to address some of the causes that are "located" elsewhere in the conflict system (such as arms suppliers in third world countries or policies promoted by foreign governments that further escalate war). Partnerships for peace may be the antidote to systems and networks that sustain war. To achieve this potential, we need to acknowledge the legitimacy of CSOs in peace and security matters and strengthen official recognition of their roles in conflict prevention partnership. The partnership can then be

22 John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (US Institute of Peace Press 1997).

operationalised through stronger mechanisms and resources for interaction between IGOs, CSOs, and governments to institutionalise the capacity for prevention. It is likely, however, that efforts to shift to a culture of peace and prioritise prevention over crisis management will be sustained only when there is widespread awareness amongst the general public around the world that common security cannot be obtained through the barrel of a gun. Instead, we can all best work towards sustainable peace through collective efforts to meet basic human needs and strengthen systems for managing differences peacefully.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Problems arising from conflicts, such as war, riots, protests, and epidemics force civil society to use tactics with the aim of offering help to the endangered population, accounting for the cost and unconventional tactics and techniques from warring parties, which dramatically increases the costs of conflict to ordinary people. In every conflict, civilians who are not in military formations, police, or any other combat organisation are the main targets of violence; the deaths of civilians make up the majority of all casualties. Use of civilians as shields, forced displacement, massacres, the targeting of women and children, abduction of child soldiers, environmental destruction and economic collapse creating deep impoverishment, the legacy of bitterness, fear, and crippling division are some of the reasons why civil society actors feel compelled to offer their energy, volunteerism, and creativity to find alternatives to prevent and combat the occurrence of violence against civilians, to end wars, and to prevent wars from starting or re-emerging. As individuals are directly affected by armed conflict, they develop a central interest in contributing to its resolution. Living alongside armed actors, they have a greater need and potential to participate in peacebuilding.

The roles of CSOs in humanitarian aid, development, and human rights protection are well understood. What is less well known are the multitude of ways they actively build peace. However, they play roles at every point in the development of conflict and its resolution: from the emergence of situations of injustice to the prevention of violence, from creating favourable conditions for peace talks to mediating solutions and working to ensure their consolidation, from defining a global political agenda to healing the war-wounded psyche. These roles can be defined in eight main peacebuilding functions of civil society.

Networking and cooperation between CSOs, in relation to the prevention and combating of radicalism and extremism, should aim to provide adequate answers to:

1. Crime prevention through the development of the intervention-early response system using well-known scientific methods and studies.
2. To implement the laws in action and further develop the legal infrastructure in accordance with the laws and international conventions.
3. Provide training and preparations for the advancement of institutional and civic capacities in countries in conflict with the aim of crime prevention.
4. Promotion and advancement of scientific research in criminal law, criminology, crime prevention policies, and disciplines related to the further development of cooperation and coordination of all governmental and non-governmental institutions for crime prevention.
5. Establishing cooperation with other institutions, organisations, and associations in crisis countries and those in conflict and post-conflict that have the same or similar program goals as education and training, moving in the direction of achieving the objectives of the policies of the fight against extremism and radicalism.

6. Providing scientific and professional contributions to the creation and implementation of policies for the prevention and fight against extremism and radicalism leading to terrorism.

Therefore, dealing with the manifestations of violent extremism requires a general understanding of its dimension and ideological nature, as well as an objective and nuanced assessment of the local and dynamic drivers of radicalism and extremism leading to terrorism.

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