



Working Together for Peace

GPPAC Annual Plan 2019



A Network of People
Building Peace

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Introduction

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a network of more than 200 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) operating in 15 geographical regions and coordinated by a Global Secretariat based in The Hague, Netherlands. All of our member organisations are working under one vision and one voice to advocate for the importance of peacebuilding and conflict prevention using peaceful means based on justice, gender equality, sustainable development and human security for all. We see peacebuilding as an approach to resolve conflicts before they turn violent, minimise the negative effects of armed conflict, and ensure the inclusiveness and sustainability of peace processes. To realise this vision, GPPAC supports its member organisations by acting as a platform for knowledge exchange between a diverse group of local, national, regional and international actors, for bringing local voices to global policy arenas such as the United Nations, and by providing immediate assistance, financial and otherwise, for quick impact projects in times of crisis.

Every year in July, the global secretariat of GPPAC organises a strategic reflection day. The aim of this day is to assess the progress made and the results achieved by our network around the world towards achieving its three strategic long-term goals as set out the current [Strategic Plan 2016-2020](#): Enabling Collaboration, Improving Practice, and Influencing Policy. As a result of this yearly review, which follows a participatory and inclusive approach, GPPAC develops the following Annual Plan.

Based on this reflection, GPPAC recognises key global challenges going into 2019, namely the shrinking civil spaces around the world. Our members face challenges like limitations on their freedom of assembly and fierce political rhetoric that has fueled feelings of marginalisation in even the most mature of the world's democracies. We, as GPPAC, are committed to mobilising and empowering our national and regional members to strengthen, adopt, and implement norms, laws, and policies aimed to prevent conflict, reduce impunity, and the ultimate protect the local populations.

Purpose of this Document

The GPPAC Annual Plan for 2019 presents the main strategies, themes, and objectives that the network will work on over the next year. This document provides brief overviews of each area, first outlining GPPAC's global strategies, followed by its global and regional objectives. The following section will discuss two cross-cutting themes - namely, the demystification of conflict prevention and youth and gender participation - that the GPPAC network has identified and will continue to focus on in 2019. The penultimate section of this document summarises the GPPAC Working Groups, which will continue to work on identified issues in 2019. The last section of this document outlines the GPPAC networks' budget and its partners.

GPPAC Global Strategies

The activities and objectives planned for 2019 are based on the three main strategies GPPAC established in its 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. These are to **Enable Collaboration, Improve Practice, and influence Policy.**

These objectives are a reflection of the GPPAC network's guiding principles and values of achieving just peace through peaceful means; the primary principles of local participation and ownership; diversity, inclusiveness and equality; multilateralism; dialogue; accountability and transparency; and learning from practices. This broad framework allows for enough direction and flexibility to achieve our overarching goal of *achieving a shift from reaction to prevention in the way violent conflict is addressed.*

1. Enable Collaboration

We aim to improve collaboration at several levels: within our own network, between civil society actors beyond our network, between civil society and (inter)governmental and non-state actors, and between (inter)governmental actors. Societal conflicts are complex and include multiple actors that are affected by them differently and at various levels. We understand that these actors must work together and that no conflict can be prevented unilaterally.

2. Improve Practice

We aim to improve conflict prevention in two distinct areas: through ensuring knowledge exchange and action learning of those working in the conflict prevention field to improve the practice of our partners and ourselves; and holding (inter)governmental actors to account on the policy promises they have made to ensure that their policies are put into practice, and providing them with expert civil society advice on how they might do so effectively. There is often a gap between intent and practice, and we aim to close this gap.

3. Influence Policy

GPPAC promotes and advocates for inclusive policies for prevention, and we seek to influence the norms, frameworks, and institutions that play a role in conflict prevention. The GPPAC network itself promotes inclusiveness through involving its member organisations and affected local communities in political processes for drafting conflict prevention policies. We lead by example and ensure that local voices, including marginalised groups, are heard and taken into account when making policies. We additionally advocate for the inclusion of progressive norms in conflict prevention frameworks at all levels – norms like the Responsibility to Protect (RtP) and those proposed by the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250 frameworks on women and youth in peace and security, respectively.

Global Objectives

GPPAC has identified several thematic areas to focus on in 2019:

1. Sustaining peace to furthering progress on SDG 16+ and relevant UN resolutions

Sustaining Peace (SP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important global frameworks to guide political and operational directions on peace and justice, through which our work can be usefully articulated in engagements with the UN and national governments. In 2019, progress on SDG 16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies will be reviewed at the UN, providing an opportunity for national and international advocacy on our core issues. By building capacities and increasing spaces to engage, we aim to have civil society, relevant UN institutions, and member states working towards achieving the SDG peace goals and indicators and to operationalise the relevant resolutions to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

Additional planned activities include:

- Three workshops and two capacity building modules to train GPPAC members on how they can use the SDGs in their work.
- A side-event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York from July 9-18 focusing on presenting national progress on peace goals (SDG 16+) and promote role of CSOs in the process.
- A research project on translating Sustaining Peace into practice in four countries, producing four country briefs and one research report jointly with the International Peace Institute.

2. Filling the gap between national, regional, and international peace and security architectures and strategies

Capacities for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace are weakest and most uneven at the regional level. It is therefore vital to harness the full potential of regional actors and to improve the working relationships among regional intergovernmental organisations (RIGOs), global multilaterals, and key actors. In 2019, GPPAC and partners will work towards increased collaboration between CSOs, RIGOs, and the UN for prevention. In this regard, GPPAC will organise a major conference bringing together the main continental, regional, and sub-regional organisations, civil society actors from those regions, and representatives of the UN system, to reflect on how to better articulate efforts for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. To sustain this engagement, we will maintain strategic contacts with relevant actors, particularly the UN institutions in New York.

Additional planned activities include:

- The production of resource materials on the role of RIGOs in conflict prevention, including a policy brief, a report, and an infographic.
- Two trips to New York by GPPAC members for key advocacy moments to engage with the United Nations.

3. Strengthening inclusive conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Sustainable peace can only be achieved through the participation of all members of society. Inclusive approaches will be key in 2019. Part of that is done through the work on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), but also by looking at the role of youth as positive change agents. The newly created GPPAC Working Group on Youth, Peace, and Security will help to mainstream youth in GPPAC's organisational structure and work in 2019. While inclusion is mainstreamed across our activities and features in all of our goals, the activities planned with regard to women and youth are elaborated further under the cross-cutting issues on page 11 of this document.

Additional planned activities include:

- A youth policy to mainstream youth within GPPAC network
- A delegation of six GPPAC gender experts to attend the 2019 Women, Peace and Security week in New York to advocate for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325, particularly women full participation in conflict prevention, and in preparation to the 2020 review of UNSCR 1325
- One policy brief on the successful youth empowerment project implemented by GPPAC over 18 months in Kyrgyzstan and funded by UNPBF.

GPPAC:

Preventing Conflict Worldwide

The past years have shown a drastic increase in the number of violent conflicts worldwide. As a result, many thousands have died and many more had to flee their homes. The solution is not in reacting to violent conflicts when they appear. We need to shift our focus from reacting to violent conflicts to the longer-term focus of prevention. In [this animation](#) we explain what conflict prevention is, why it is important and what GPPAC is doing for sustainable peace worldwide.

we can make it happen!



Regional Objectives

GPPAC's global operations are spread over 15 regions covering the globe. Each region is coordinated by a member that is appointed Regional Secretariat and through a Regional Steering Group with representatives from various regional member organisation. These two bodies set their own objectives based on the particular needs and capacities of their region. Brief summaries of what each region will work on in 2019 are listed below.

Central Asia

The region has predominantly focused on the Ferghana Valley area and Kyrgyzstan during the past several years. In 2019, the region aims to widen its focus to other areas. Key priorities are to:

- Increase the members' capacities to tackle security concerns in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan, through activities such as workshops;
- Support local projects focused on youth and women's empowerment through a small grants program;
- Facilitate cross-regional cooperation between peacebuilding organisations from Central Asia and South Caucasus.



Children with Cameras in Hands Leading Kyrgyzstan toward a Peaceful Future

GPPAC, specifically through its regional secretariat based in Kyrgyzstan, Foundation for Tolerance International (FIT), was awarded a grant from the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) on youth empowerment to complete the '[Cameras in Hand](#)' project. The project empowers Kyrgyzstani youth from various ethnic, gender, and social backgrounds in local communities to work together and produce videos to reflect on how conflict affects their lives.

The project has been successful in bridging societal divides not only among the youth, but also within communities. In 2019, we will release and promote the movies during community sessions at the local, national, and international levels – and on social media.

Eastern and Central Africa

The GPPAC Eastern and Central Africa network has recently been revitalised, including the appointment of a new Regional Secretariat: Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Uganda. Key priorities for 2019 are to:

- Capitalise on ‘windows of opportunity for peace’ initiatives for collaboration and support the members’ ability to lobby and advocate in peacebuilding opportunities and at key policy dialogues;
- Advance advocacy efforts regionally and nationally. For example, the Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation and the regional CSOs network will develop a report to recommend measures to ensure successful implementation of the peace agreement between Salva Kir and Riek Machar in South Sudan;
- Provide information and support to use available guides and toolkits for conflict prevention.

Eastern Europe

The GPPAC Eastern European network will continue to work on its activities from previous years that have shown most results. Key priorities are to:

- Mainstream national peace education programs and the *Culture of Good Neighbourhood* course;
- Support joint civil missions to areas of conflict in Ukraine;
- Enhance the influence of civil society actors by monitoring gender-related issues in debates during presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine, and create a toolkit on international civil peacebuilding experiences.

South Caucasus

The plan of GPPAC South Caucasus is to further analyse and engage relevant stakeholders in regional economic and geopolitical processes. Key priorities are to:

- Strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms by increasing the members’ knowledge on human security , through activities such as using the Conflict Prevention Tool (toolbox) in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict;
- Coordinate dialogues and policy briefs on SDG 16;
- Increase the visibility of peacebuilding and our members’ work through platforms such as the Network of GPPAC Freelance Press-Officers.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The regional GPPAC Network in LAC is currently strengthening its network and activities due to the rapidly changing context, while still specifically focusing on the support of the Colombian peace process. Key priorities are to:

- Expand the network following the recently conducted regional mapping of peacebuilding organisations;
- Hold meetings to produce recommendations for policy makers on the Nicaraguan and Venezuelan crises;
- Develop a regional program to address the new socio-political dimensions in Brazil that have been exacerbated by recent waves of migration.

Middle East and North Africa

The plan of GPPAC MENA for 2019 is to continue strengthening the capacities of its members, particularly our Syrian members and CSOs (and related actors) within and outside of Syrian territories. Key priorities are to:

- Strengthen the network on human security, through translating the GPPAC Handbook on human security into Arabic, and exchanging best practises on human security;
- Advance conflict prevention mechanisms in Syria through our national network 'Syriappac', by expanding on our members' practical knowledge of human security;
- Enhance youth's efforts in peacebuilding processes through activities such as a training course on media and advocacy.

North America

A new Regional Secretariat for North America has recently been appointed and hosted by a GPPAC member from Mexico. The regional members will be holding their Regional Steering Group meeting in early 2019 to consolidate their plan for 2019 and joint efforts in the upcoming years. From discussion with their newly elected Regional Liaison Officer, their priorities are to:

- Localise SDG 16;
- Advance work on peace education.

Dialogue for Peace: A North Korean visit to GPPAC in The Hague

GPPAC Northeast Asia has been facilitating the **Ulaanbaatar Process** since 2015, a dialogue between Northeast Asian civil society members to support the creation of peace and stability throughout Northeast Asia. Due to the continued active presence and work of our members, particularly Korean members, trust and active engagement have been nurtured, as exemplified by the publication in 2017 of "[Reflections on Peace and Security in Northeast Asia: Perspectives from the Ulaanbaatar Process](#)". In 2019, we plan to hold the 5th Ulaanbaatar process meeting in Mongolia.



Northeast Asia

The planned activities have a clear focus on training and skills building for civil society members, namely members of the Ulaanbaatar Process (including representatives of the Korea National Peace Committee (KNPC), from North Korea). Key priorities are to:

- Advance the dialogue for peace and stability in Northeast Asia and support for the Korean Peace Process through organising another round of the Ulaanbaatar Process;
- Further the region's work on peace education and capacity building, with a focus on youth;
- Engage with the Sustaining Peace and SDGs through regional networking activities and participation at high-level political forums.

Northern and Western Europe

The focus of 2019 is to revitalise the GPPAC Europe network. European CSOs focus on efforts outside of Europe, but very few of them convene within their own host countries. The priorities are to:

- Conclude the mapping of new potential members and existing platforms;
- Re-activate the network through the formulation of a common agenda;
- Establish consistent meetings on an established joint priority by the revitalised network.

Southern Africa

The region's main focus for 2019 is on conflict analysis, human security, and multi-stakeholders processes. Key priorities are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of women and youth in conducting peaceful dialogues and mediation, lobbying and advocacy;
- Engage with governments, regional economic communities (including the Southern African Development Community (SADC)) and relevant stakeholders to operationalise a regional collaborative Early Warning and Early Response System;
- Increase access to political space for civil society to engage in political processes and around election-related conflict.

South Asia

The newly revitalised network plans to advance its efforts on inclusivity. They aim to:

- Hold a conference on conflict prevention with a focus on youth and establish a GPPAC Youth Network;
- Further mainstream gender through activities, such as capacity building workshops.

Southeast Asia

GPPAC Southeast Asia plans to use the power of its network to continue advancing its work on human security, and supporting peace processes within the region. Key priorities are to:

Sri Lanka: The Long Road Ahead

It has been over two decades that Visaka Dharmadasa her son went missing in action at the heat of the Sri Lankan War. Ever since that moment, Visaka and other mothers strived with all their strength to end the war in their country. Now, almost 10 years after the war ended, the questions arise: where are we now? What has happened after the government crushed the rebel groups? What has been done for reconciliation in the country? Is the country really at peace?

See the story of Visaka and Sri Lanka in [this video](#).



- Develop regional capacity-building and training on lobbying and advocacy for peacebuilding and human security;
- Engage regularly with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (focus on the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)) and Ministries/Departments of Foreign Affairs;
- Strengthen the regional network through the consolidation of a Working Group on Monitoring and Supporting Peace Processes in the Philippines and Myanmar/Rohingya.

The Pacific

In 2019, GPPAC Pacific will continue working on building resilient and gender sensitive communities in times of crises –especially with regards to climate change–, as well as on public outreach around SDG 16 and UNSCR 1325. Key priorities are to:

- Undertake advocacy for including women and youth in local, national, regional, and global frameworks tackling the monitoring of and reaction to climate change and natural disasters;
- Influence and consult with organisations and governments in the region on human rights and human security frameworks.

West Africa

In West Africa, GPPAC will continue its work with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) around peace education and building local resilience for communities in the Sahel sub-region. The goals for 2019 are as follows:

- Promote and strengthen a peace education curriculum by advancing regional and international activities that address inclusivity issues related to the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) at national levels;
- Revitalize the GPPAC West African network by expanding the network to CSOs beyond the existing WANEP network.

Western Balkans

The region plans to continue its efforts to mainstream peace education, as past activities and initiatives have shown great impact. Key priorities for 2019 are to:

- Advance teachers' knowledge on peace education through trainings;
- Organise a Regional Arts Competition dedicated to the International Day of Peace;
- Facilitate cross-border exchanges between secondary schools in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Demystifying conflict prevention and peacebuilding

In 2019, GPPAC's outreach will continue to focus on the need for conflict prevention. We will also work on increasing our visibility as a main actor in the field, and developing new and engaging content, like the new [Peace Corner](#) podcast and tools to reach the public.

The Peace Corner Podcast

GPPAC's first-ever podcast series, '[The Peace Corner](#)', is an intern-driven initiative that started as a conversation at lunch. The premise of our podcast is a personal one. Whether it be a fresh-faced intern or veteran peacebuilder, each of us carries a web of stories that often carves out the path that we pursue. So far we have had conversations with seven peacebuilders, who are making peace possible.

Listen to all our podcast episodes [here](#).



STORY OF CHANGE

Through our recently [re-launched website](#), we will work to improve the network's online presence. The website highlights the work of the GPPAC regions and our members. It also includes a private section for GPPAC members, where all member information is stored, accessed, and shared safely among members. Starting in 2019, we will also share our publications and stories from our members for the general public to understand more directly what is being achieved in the conflict prevention and peacebuilding fields.

In addition to ongoing communication efforts, GPPAC joined a global peacebuilding coalition called *Making the Case for Peace*, which includes the world's largest organisations working in this

field. Complementing the role of top-down, policy level approaches, the campaign will emphasise the role of bottom-up, grassroots peacebuilding work by individuals and local communities, promoting the realisation that peace is something that everyone can contribute to.

Youth Inclusivity and Gender Equality

In 2018, the UN Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to the comprehensive implementation of resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (UNSCR 2250). It called upon all relevant actors to consider ways to increase the meaningful participation of youth in formal peace processes. Against this backdrop and interest from our members, GPPAC established the GPPAC Working Group on Youth, Peace, and Security in 2018. In 2019, the working group will finalize the youth policy, which will then be used to mainstream youth within the GPPAC network.

At the same time, GPPAC is in the process of revising our Gender Policy and strengthening the role of Gender Focal Points (experts on gender issues that are consulted by the GPPAC regions and Global Secretariat) to ensure more structured and continuous mainstreaming across the network. In 2018, GPPAC joined the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security – a leading advocacy think-tank that provides input on Women, Peace and Security at the UN level. As a big review process of UNSCR 1325 is expected in 2020 by the UN, one of GPPAC's objectives for 2019 will be to ensure that it provides meaningful input for that process. Recommendations will be developed by the strengthening of our members' capacity to engage in review processes at national, regional and global levels.

GPPAC Working Groups Summary

The GPPAC WGs are made up of GPPAC members from across the regional networks, who have come together to work jointly on specific issues, all pertaining to our ultimate goal: *achieving a shift from reaction to prevention in the way violent conflict is addressed*. These working groups include: *Improving Practice*, the *Peace Education*, the *Influencing Policy*, *Enabling Collaboration*, *Youth, Peace, and Security*, and the *Preventing Violent Extremism*.

The **Improving Practice Working Group** of GPPAC is tasked with developing the capacities of network members to ensure that the principles of human security are practiced by CSOs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The WG also focuses on creating and learning exchange on training methodologies and attempts to be a platform for advice, best practices, and resources.

The GPPAC **Peace Education Working Group** aims to prevent violent conflict by supporting the mainstreaming of peace education in formal and informal educational systems, so far in six countries. It brings together civil society, peace education practitioners, academia and representatives of Ministries of Education to endorse peace education in national curricula and

countrywide and regional education organisations and exchange materials, manuals, curricula, learning modules and lessons learned around peace education.

The **Influencing Policy Working Group** analyses the latest global peacebuilding policies and methods and uses this to develop GPPAC advocacy positions. The working group strengthens the capacity of civil society organisations to lobby and advocate on a regional and global level.

The **Enabling Collaboration Working Group** brings together civil society organisations around specific conflict situations and opportunities – and conducts in-depth analyses around such contexts. The working group is also a platform for key actors to engage in a productive peacebuilding strategy.

The **Youth Peace & Security Working Group**, established in 2018, advances youth empowerment and inclusion in peacebuilding processes, working closely with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). The main focus of the WG is the development of GPPAC Youth Policy with the aim of mainstreaming youth within peacebuilding efforts of GPPAC, and supporting the localisation of UNSC Resolution 2250.

The **Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Working Group** is coordinated by the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), GPPAC's South Asia Regional Secretariat. In 2019, the working group will be gathering experiences of GPPAC members' approach to violent extremism, and will develop a draft GPPAC position on how to best approach PVE.

Human Security

We place the security of people at the heart of peacebuilding, recognising the various grievances that are often the root causes of violence, in order to prevent conflict.

In [this video](#), Jon Rudy –Senior Advisor for Human Security at the Alliance for Peacebuilding and Co-Chair of the GPPAC Improving Practice Working Group– talks about the concept of human security, how it is relevant in the world today and his work with GPPAC.

Other resources developed by GPPAC on Human Security include the [Handbook on Human Security: A Civil-Police-Military Curriculum](#) and an [animation](#) explaining what human security is and why it is important.



Budget

The next table gives an overview of the financial requirements of the above-mentioned plans and activities. It shows per goal the budgeted amount for 2019 and also mentions the operational costs for the Global Secretariat.

TOTAL BUDGET 2019	IN EURO
Regional activities	488.500
Global activities, including working groups activities	821.400
Total regional and global activities	1.309.900
Organisational capacity	1.260.000
TOTAL COSTS	2.569.900

For the short-term future, GPPAC has secured two significant donor relationships:

1. Core funding agreement with the **Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)** until 2019.
2. Strategic partnership with the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)** until 2020.

In the past, we led and implemented several multi-year projects, including:

- **Whole-of-Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (WOSCAP)**: a 30-month project of two+ million Euros funded by the European Union involving 10 partners worldwide aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the EU for implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions (2015-2017).
- **Consolidating peacebuilding in the Great Lakes of Africa**: a 4-year project of three+ million Euros funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by a consortium of three organizations (2012-2016).
- **Civil Society for a Human Security Strategy in Mali**: a 3-year project of 800,000 Euros funded by the Austrian Development Agency and implemented by consortium of three organizations (2013-2016).

For 2019, GPPAC will be leading two projects:

- **Cameras in hand: transformation and empowerment of Kyrgyzstani girls and boys**: a 18-month project of 599,000 Dollars funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by FTI, GPPAC member in Kyrgyzstan (2018-2019).

- **Building peace through young adults peace champions in post-conflict communities - to prevent youth re-radicalization in Uganda:** a 10-month project of 149,000 Euros funded by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and implemented by CECORE, GPPAC member in Uganda (2019).

In addition to the grants from Sida and the Dutch MFA, which provide substantial input for the implementation of GPPAC's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, GPPAC is looking to enter into a trustworthy and collaborative partnership with additional donors whose financial support would enable GPPAC to:

- **Consistently execute the various activities and initiatives that support GPPAC's strategy on the ground** by directly financing the regions and working groups to complement their own funding
- **Develop the capacity and resources of the Global Secretariat to adapt and more efficiently serve the specific needs of the network** by providing training in advocacy, conflict analysis, monitoring and evaluation, gender-mainstreaming, etc., and
- **Complete the strategic goals of the GPPAC's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 while laying a strong foundation for the next Strategic Plan 2021-2025**, which the Global Strategy Group will start drafting in 2019.

Our Partners

We believe that conflict prevention is possible if we work together. Therefore, we partner with governments, donors, civil society and businesses. Our current donors are **the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands





A Network of People
Building Peace