WORKING WITH CONFLICT 2

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WITH EDITOR DYLAN MATHEWS, ON THE SHOULDERS OF MANY BRAVE PRACTITIONERS AND SCHOLARS
WHY ANOTHER WWC?

- Research and Learning since WWC1
- Changed context
- Gaps: Power, Healing, Learning,
- Dialogue, Mobilising for change.
- Ourselves as reflective practitioners
INVITATION TO A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

• Pathways, Signposts, Reflective Questions to guide you to find your own direction
• Frameworks, Tools and Techniques to help you forge your own path
• Bringing academic and practitioner-based research and experience to bear
• In every day language
• For people everywhere working for change
• Professionalised peacebuilders
THE CONTEXT HAS CHANGED

• Pandemic
• Environmental collapse
• Increased inequality and exclusion
• Populism and fake news
• Migration and protectionism
• Network wars
• Mass movements meet repression
HOPEFUL SIGNS

- Social media
- Stronger global movements especially climate change
- Increased size and diversity of civil society, even as political space declines
- Evidence based research into peace building leads to wider acceptance.
- CDA, Berghof, Applied Conflict Transformation Studies
- Peacebuilders have become more skilled - but are we more technical than transformative?
INTERDEPENDENCE V DOMINATION

Two key roles
Organized oppression and violence
Facilitating conflict transformation across other fields
AND A FEW NEW CHAPTERS ....

- Healing – a vital component of peacebuilding
- Learning for change
- Dialogue: a space where meaning flows
- Mobilising for change

Let's see what's changed
HEALING – A VITAL COMPONENT OF PEACEBUILDING

• Healing is a vital component of peacebuilding

• It is important for their mental health that people can voice their needs and re-establish some control over their lives as soon as possible

• Solutions imported from different cultures and contexts may undermine rather than support healing processes

• Seeing the wider context, showing solidarity by listening and responding to the distress of others can be of real help

• In situations of continuing violence and conflict there can be no fully effective healing without social and political change
LEARNING FOR CHANGE

- Effective change agents are “reflexive practitioners”: self-aware and aware of others.
- Our failures are often our biggest neglected source of learning.
- Unlearning is important too and can be painful; we may need the help of others to do it well.
- Action learning is a highly effective tool for building capacity to plan, act and reflect.
- Evaluation is a huge opportunity for learning, as well as a way of meeting institutional requirements.

Training at its best is often an intervention as much as a preparation for action.

It can be highly effective and transformative.
DIALOGUE:
A SPACE WHERE MEANING FLOWS

• Dialogue – a way of talking about tension filled challenges; it has risks.
• Effective dialogue promotes good relationships, which continue after the process is over.
• Dialogue will be culturally specific: be aware of your own lens and those of other people.
• Structuring the dialogue will take it beyond the personal to the political.
MOBILISING FOR CHANGE

• When dialogue and negotiation fail, other approaches may be possible.
• Create space between opposing groups – expand the middle ground.
• Identify who is being overlooked – and also work with them.
• Be clear and focused in your goals.
• Mobilising for change involves context and structures, attitudes and values.
• Organisation is needed to maintain the momentum of the movement.
• Networking is key to movement building.
• Imagination and creativity can inspire and reach deeply.
• Movements can be powerful drivers of change.
POINTS TO PONDER

Unlearning
• How do we recognise what we need to unlearn?
• How do we do it?
• What have you unlearned? With what results?

Healing
• Is healing part of your peace practice?
• How does/can your work include concepts of healing?

And finally

Keep the Flame Burning