

PEACE MAPPING FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

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Strategists have always been very keen on mapping war, conflicts and disasters through counting soldiers, ammunition, military basis, etc. ! Numerous maps assess situations in the world that reflect and review casualties, destruction and needs. This means that so far we have only been confronting situations either where there was not peace either through the negative lens.

Consequently, 'Peace' has not yet received enough attention, much less attention than it deserves, and one could even argue that peace has, in many ways, been reflecting a 'distorted reality' of what is going on in the world community: every day, a huge amount of positive forces and actions are working for peace in the family, in the community and in the world.

This project aims at developing a new paradigm in quantifying and looking at peace from a different basis: from the community. The proposal strives to establish a new vision and framework for addressing peace and contributing to the process of measuring successes and achievements at a global scale, while identifying weaknesses and obstacles to the maintenance of peace in order to make improvements with a more transparent approach.

The objective is to create a mapping system for women and men, partners for peace to raise a true awareness of the construction and maintenance of peace in the world. This means using maps as a tool to make visible the process of successful initiatives as well as spot situations that still garner attention at each stage of the scale between peace and war (e.g. alert with terrorists, growing violence with minorities, and insecurity due to unresolved problems, such as with internal refugees).

The methodology used will compile two methods who have been time proven as very efficient in the world today:

- a. Epidemiology
- b. Military strategy

- a. *Epidemiology of war-peace*: considering the metaphor that "health = peace" and "disease, epidemics = war", many similarities emerge between the concept of health-disease and peace-war. The methods to tackle disease and epidemics have proven very efficient in the world, but also have shown that the maintenance of health-peace needs constant surveillance, reviewing and assessment of efficiency-efficacy of interventions. Health, as peace, is not a static 'frozen' state of being. The continuous study of health determinants,

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risks of morbidity and mortality is needed in order to understand the multiple causes affecting health.

In the same way, a different approach to peace determinants, risks of peace degradation is needed to understand the multiple causes jeopardizing peace and implementing adapted strategies to restore a situation depending on the conditions, the environment, the culture, etc.. In order to create health, as peace, you need not only a healthy environment, but a systemic approach to promote and maintain the best living conditions possible for human beings which will prevent violence and control potential risks of disrupting a sustainable living. This concerns the individual, the family, the community and finally the nation and its governance..

- b. *Military strategy*: one of the most important tools of military strategists is maps and a very structured and organized plan to achieve their aim. The idea here is to reverse point by point war strategy into peace strategy. Instead of a ministry of defense, you create a ministry of peace; instead of military intervention, you put in place 'peace interventions' a new kind, instead of silencing everyone with security, you start looking at healing the wounds of violence, etc.

Those two methods reinforce themselves and both use maps. World maps are often seen in the epidemiology of diverse diseases but also in the achievements of health. Maps are powerful tools, they represent a common view, a common ground, and are visual. Everyone understand maps, everyone can or should be on maps.

After a first stage of researching, validating actions and interventions on the ground, after categorizing and analyzing what the community reports, mapping what the community reports will not only empower women and men, but also show the world that peace is a reality, that people mostly want peace and have the right to peace. Different layers of maps will be created to analyze and mark the « State of Peace of the World ». By flagging places in the world where there are different categories of peace achievements: stable peace, unstable peace, alarming situations, etc., one will be able to better grasp the potential forces to strengthen, as well as the weaknesses to address. The 'degradation of peace' could be flagged with different colors and description of problem areas, and subsequently it will be not only geographically visible but the regional environment will also be clearer. Maps are tools for analyzing better, discussing on what actions to be taken depending on the stage of deterioration of peace factors or on imminent conflicts/wars as well as marking the achievement and strategies taken along each step of a peace process.

The agents of the change of paradigm is the community: giving a voice to the voiceless through maps and common actions, interventions and networking will help all the peace promoters to be recognized as agents of peace whatever age, group, level of education, everyone can contribute to peace.

Women and mothers, grand-mothers are a special target group. Throughout the world, women are often the first victims of conflicts and violence and have an underestimated function in healing, reconstructing and restoring peace in children and the community after major wars, genocides and destruction of lives. Several women's non-governmental organizations at the United Nations are truly committed to make a change. Women today are ready to harness peace and are asking to be equal partners in peace negotiations at all levels in the stabilization of peace, as well

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as in the prevention of conflicts. They claim as mothers and family carers to have an expertise in matters of peace. The resolution 1523 even requires that the Security Council recognizes the role of women in Peace building today.

The question is how will we know the achievements of women and men if we do not quantify the major contribution of the community and civil society? Therefore, another important utilization of these « Peace Maps » consists for example in recognizing women's organizations or minority groups that have been active in peace processes throughout the world, noting their strategies of success. Those maps could be distributed worldwide and posted on a website, serving as models of best practices. They would serve as concrete, simple, and inexpensive instruments, allowing groups to network worldwide. A Peace Map would also demonstrate, promote, and encourage women and men to work in their own region but also to join together with a common vision of Peace in the world.

The idea of « Peace Mapping » was born in the Working Group on Peace in 2004. A Task Force was assigned to take the leadership of the project and further develop and designing it. After reviewing existing peace maps, the Task Force concluded that although some maps exist, they do not have the same purpose as proposed here and are not including women on the contingency linked to peace – such as for the UN peace-keeping forces, refugees and displaced people in post-conflict situations, accounts of material, aid and food, etc. This project was presented for the 1st time at the Conference « Women Defending Peace », in November 2004 at ILO in Geneva, and was adopted in its plan of action that mentions.

*“A huge number of excellent ideas, proposals and experiences emerged during our conference discussions. They run from establishing a World Bank for Peace Initiatives, run by women, to preparing a Map of Peace that identifies the locations of ongoing activities involving Women Defending Peace; from establishing an early-warning network that tracks trouble spots and dangerous situations, to engaging in a dialogue with those who have political, economic or media power; from ensuring no less than 40% participation of women at the negotiating table [...] This program will involve the media and use other effective means to bring to the world's attention violence against women and girls including trafficking, in order to end impunity and enforce the rule of law. We will expand initiatives like the **Map of Peace** to track all endeavors and resources directed to this area.”* Excerpt from the plan of action:
<http://www.dcaf.ch/wdp/>

“Mapping Peace” Task Force Steering Group

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This project is currently being endorsed by different civil society organizations and groups such as the Club of Rome, LEADS working group, the University of Geneva