



Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship 2018

Relationship between people power and formal peace processes: *How nonviolent collective action and movements influence a peace process*

The Center for Applied Conflict Transformation (ACT) at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has an opening for a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow for six months to help advance and support our growing body of work on the role of nonviolent action and movements in improving the durability of peace processes. This would be a largely residential fellowship, based at USIP's headquarters in Washington, DC, although USIP offers some flexibility in terms of precise arrangements.

Background:

As part of USIP's efforts to strengthen its engagement in peace processes and nonviolent action, the Institute's Center for Applied Conflict Transformation (ACT) seeks to examine the role of nonviolent collective action and movements in improving the durability of peace processes. By exploring how activists, organizers, and peacebuilders can mobilize and sequence nonviolent tactics in the context of a peace process, USIP can contribute to understanding how to increase the legitimacy in parties to the accord, build buy-in from the public, and strengthen the sustainability of an agreement. This supports USIP's broader objectives of addressing state fragility, strengthening the resilience of societies to violence, and promoting inclusive politics.

With the development of Track II and Track III processes, policy-makers and peacebuilding practitioners are recognizing the value of 'peacebuilding from below' to complement traditionally prioritized top-down 'state-building' interventions and reforms to strengthen the capacity of the State. Research demonstrates that along with applying peacebuilding strategies, the use of grassroots nonviolent action during peace processes can help in shaping the agenda, trajectories, outcomes, and long-term sustainability of peace processes.

Examples of the Liberian Mass Action for Peace and the 2005 peace agreement ending the Liberian Civil War, grassroots activists in Nepal's peace process, and victims' engagement in the Colombian peace process present some of the strongest cases of the power of ordinary citizens organizing collective nonviolent action to pressure elites and armed actors toward resolution and lasting peace. By leveraging public opinion and support, nonviolent movements can build broad-based coalitions to balance power, change incentive structures and ultimately lend legitimacy and buy-in to a more just and equitable process or agreement—before, during and after an agreement is reached. In doing so, they can ensure that the resulting agreement is more sustainable.

Successful experiences with past cases where nonviolent movements accompanied peace processes warrant further exploration on the synergy of nonviolent action and peacebuilding and how both approaches can lead to sustainable peace agreements. What are the comparative advantages of bottom-up movements to durable peace processes? What are productive communication channels for ordinary citizens to feed into a peace process? Grassroots activists and movements, working outside the formal structures, can create productive communication channels for ordinary citizens to feed into a peace process. How can grassroots activists and movements support implementation? What are possible roles that outside actors can play in supporting the activists, peacebuilders, and organizers working to address grievances nonviolently to build sustainable peace?

Led by ACT's Inclusive Peace Processes and Nonviolent Action teams and drawing from work being carried out across the Institute, this effort encompasses supporting cutting-edge, data-driven research on the role of nonviolent action and movements in peace processes, as well as identifying effective, innovative approaches and tools.

Fellowship:

The Senior Fellow will play a critical role by providing advice to USIP staff working on expanding research on how to link local level organizing and movement-building to formal peace processes; strengthening partnerships and collaboration between the two fields of study; collaborating with existing USIP grantees working on nonviolent action and peace processes to translate research into practical application for policymakers; and developing partnerships with other leading organizations working on grassroots activism in peace processes.

To this end, the fellow will work on the following projects throughout his/her term:

- Lead and represent USIP on two USIP hosted events on people power and peace processes
- Complete two blogs (or op-eds, which depend on the events underway globally)
- Write a policy brief focusing on ways to engage and support civic campaigns and movements that feed into national dialogues and peace processes
- Provide guidance on Peace Processes Strategic Plan and vision to help develop USIP's engagement in Track 1.5, 2, 3 processes
- Support the development of an internal brief resource (2-3 pager) for USIP country teams (and USG policymakers as appropriate) on the engagement of grassroots organizers (particularly as it relates to synergizing nonviolent action and peacebuilding)
- Complete a special report providing an overview of the types of contributions grassroots nonviolent movements make to peace processes
- Participate in a Peace Podcast
- Establish and help strengthen relationships with and among the nonviolent action/mediation/peace processes communities while helping to infuse them with a better understanding of the two approaches
- Provide input on the development or revisions of training courses (e.g. on Inclusion in Peace Processes; Mediation/Negotiation courses; and the Synergizing Nonviolent Action and Peacebuilding (SNAP) hybrid course)
- Support additional requests from country and thematic teams, as needed

Requirements:

The ideal Senior Fellow is a reflective practitioner or academic working at the cross-sections of nonviolent action and formal peace processes. He/ she will have with deep knowledge on these two subject areas and research capabilities to strengthen the evidence on the role of collective citizen action in peace processes and norms, as well as extensive experience working in the conflict-affected societies. USIP would look for knowledge of developing effective policy recommendations and implementation strategies; ability to identify pertinent questions facing practitioners related to collective citizen action in peace processes; a strong writing/publication track record; demonstrated capacity to conceive and produce a writing project leading to publication; and potential to expand USIP's

relationships with practitioners, advisors and national, regional and international organizations engaged on inclusive peace processes.

The proposed fellowship will last for up to 6 months, beginning in Winter 2018/ 2019 and the fellow would receive a stipend of \$10,000 per month.

****Please know that USIP does not offer health benefits, housing or food allowances to Senior Fellows. One round-trip travel to and from Washington, D.C. will be covered by the Fellowship Program.***

Application process:

Please use this link to register for login credentials: <https://usip.fluxx.io> . Once you receive your login credentials, you may begin the application process. Please know that your completed application is due by 11:00pm on Friday, September 28, 2018. At that time the system will close and no longer accept applications.

The concept note should describe a viable research project that supports a framework on examining the role of citizens and collective action in improving the durability of peace processes, including a proposed methodology, a timeline for the research, additional small budget costs (e.g. convening), and proposed outcomes that are substantive and appropriate for the type of policy and practice impact sought in this announcement. Please be sure to address how your proposal will confront the challenges and opportunities in bridging practice and policy in this field and articulate the benefits that a residential affiliation with USIP will bring to this effort.