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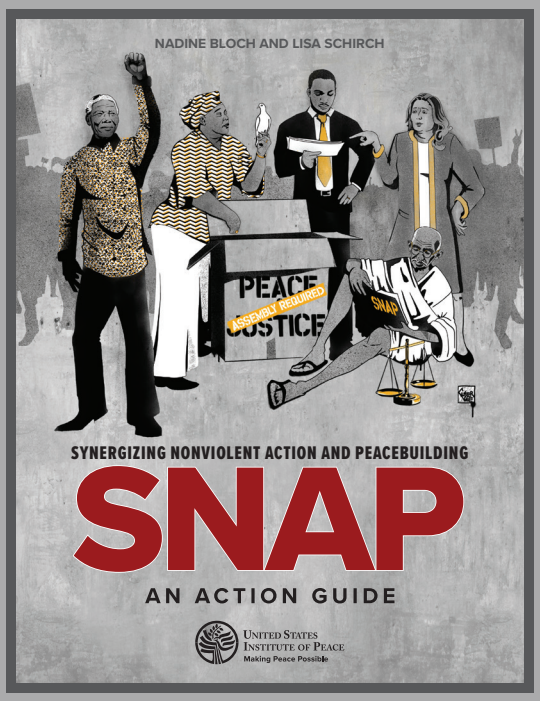

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SNAP: Synergizing Nonviolent Action and Peacebuilding

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Glossary

Conflict management consists of all efforts to prevent, mitigate, and resolve conflict.

Conflict prevention refers to efforts to prevent violent conflict. Conflict prevention efforts such as diplomacy and negotiation attempt to stop violence from breaking out, since it is more difficult to stop violence once it has started.

Conflict resolution is an approach that resolves or settles the underlying issues that cause conflict.

Conflict transformation is an umbrella term for the processes that change or transform violent conflict into nonviolent conflict, where individuals use various institutional and extra-institutional channels and methods to address root causes. Conflict transformation often includes nonviolent action, dialogue, negotiation, and mediation that aim to address societal problems and improve relationships between conflict stakeholders.

Dialogue is a structured process that encourages active listening and honest but respectful speaking, usually facilitated by a third party. The goal of dialogue is to improve understanding and relationships between people or groups that are in conflict. Dialogue is less formal and less structured than negotiation or mediation.

Negotiation is a process where two or more people or groups with competing interests on a particular issue communicate with one another to find a mutually acceptable result. There are many different types of negotiation. "Principled" negotiation helps people identify underlying needs and interests to develop creative solutions that meet the basic needs of all groups.

Nonviolent action is a method of advancing social change that goes beyond institutionalized conflict procedures like law courts and voting. Nonviolent action includes tactics of protest and persuasion, noncooperation, and intervention that typically increase awareness of conflict between social groups. These methods are nonviolent in that they do not include the threat or use of injurious force to others. Nonviolent action is also referred to as "people power," "civil resistance," "nonviolent resistance," and "direct action."

Nonviolent campaign is the intentional planning and sequencing of nonviolent actions to achieve stated goal(s).

Nonviolent movements are sustained, organized collective efforts that focus on some aspect of social justice.

Organizing is a form of leadership that enables people to turn the resources they have into the power they need to make the change they seek.

A **peace agreement** is a negotiated cease-fire between parties to a violent conflict that ends or transforms hostilities and usually lays out a road map for participatory governance in a divided country. The UN describes five types of peace agreements: cease-fire, pre-

negotiation, interim or preliminary, comprehensive or framework, and implementation.

Peacebuilding is an umbrella term used to describe all efforts to transform conflict into nonviolent forms of political negotiation and dialogue that can address the root causes. Peacebuilding is a long-term effort, meant to prevent the resurgence of violent conflict; as such, it includes a wide range of efforts by diverse actors in government and civil society at the community, national, and international levels to address the immediate impacts and root causes of conflict.

Peace negotiations or "peace talks" refer to discussions aimed at reaching both reconciliation and a peace agreement.

A **peace process** is a multilevel, multiphased effort involving armed and unarmed stakeholders in a conflict to both bring an end to armed fighting and lay out (and implement) a sustainable political, economic, security, and territorial agreement. It involves top-level negotiation between the armed groups, plus diverse forums for public dialogue and engagement to foster a broad consensus on the future direction of the country.

Power is the ability to influence others to get a particular outcome. Governments and international institutions often support peacebuilding processes to address root causes and either prevent or respond to violent conflict. However, power imbalances can make negotiation and other peace processes ineffective. Nonviolent action mobilizes people to work together through tactics that shift power and empower communities. Once power is more balanced, peace processes are more likely to find sustainable outcomes.

Social change is a process that changes how groups in society relate to each other. It usually refers to positive social change toward increased perception of social justice.

Social justice is a term used by many nonviolent movements to identify a fair and equitable distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.

Sustainable peace is reached when the root causes of a conflict have been addressed and plans that promote sustainable development, the equitable distribution of wealth and opportunity, and human rights protections are implemented.

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