

Civil society and Public Institutions representatives trained in Second Phase of Conflict Resolution Capacity Building Program

In June 2011 the Peacebuilders Pakistan Network expanded as the civil society activists



and government representatives from Sindh province attended first Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop of the conflict resolution capacity building program in Karachi. The workshop was the first activity of the second phase of capacity building initiative in peaceful conflict resolution and mediation skills for the civil society and public sector representatives in Pakistan. The purpose of this program is to develop a cadre of mediators and conflict resolution experts who have the knowledge and skill to mediate potentially violent conflicts within their communities and train others in the field. The training participants come from a range of diverse professional backgrounds. These included individuals from media, academia, and grassroots development organizations, civil society organizations, Citizen Police Liaison Committee, lawyers and judges from civil courts and religious scholars, one third of the total participants being women. Three mediators from KP and FATA represented the first batch of trainees and had the opportunity to train with the trainers from USIP. The network was developed by SPADO in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in 2009 with the training of civil society activists and government representatives from conflict areas of KP and FATA.

Peacebuilders Pakistan

Issue IV

Conflict Mediation by Peacebuilders Pakistan Members

A core objective of the conflict resolution capacity building initiative is to develop skills in mediating and resolving conflicts peacefully. This is really encouraging to witness that ever these trainings have helped the mediators actually resolve conflicts around themselves. Here are a few experiences that our mediators shared with us regarding their experiences of disputes and conflict resolution:

Conflict Mediation in Community

Ajam Khan, Mediator

After attending the workshop when I came back to home, I came across a conflict between the residents of a community who normally offer their regular prayers in the local Mosque. As the month of Ramadan was approaching some of the residents suggested offering Ramadan prayers in the open space of the mosque but there were no arrangement of Fans. The people who had given this proposal even decided to install fans in open space with the help of pipe structure. Shortly speaking the people of the community divided into two groups in favor and opposition of the suggestion. I was very much surprised and upset seeing the situation which could lead to a major conflict so I decided to solve this conflict peacefully. I communicate with both the groups and brought them together to discuss and resolve the issue. I convinced the opposing party to take time and reflect on the suggestion calmly because the other group was ready to bear all the expenditure and no money would be spent from the mosque's fund, I assured them that the sole intention of the proposing party was just to provide some relief to the residents of the locality in the hot summer weather. The opposing group after a lot of hesitation and discussion finally understood their position of the other group and agreed with proposal and the fans were installed in the open space and peoples are offering prayers there.

Family Dispute Mediation

Mian Khan Malik

I acted as a mediator in a family matter. It was a dispute between two brothers over land which had been purchased with the money remitted by the younger of the brothers from Japan. The elder brother had purchased some land from the said remittances. On return from Japan the younger brother objected on a part of the land that was infertile but howsoever the price of which was escalated and the elder brother wanted to purchase this piece land on the original price. The younger brother however insisted on giving the land on present value. This developed differences between the two and I was called in from Karachi to settle the dispute between them. I took out the average price of the lands. I asked the elder brother either to pay 50% enhance price plus original price and get the lands or to exchange his adjacent lands with the ancestral land of the younger brother which he refused to do. However in the end I convinced my elder brother that relations count more than money. On my request ultimately he agreed to pay Rs1.5 million and get half of the lands. From my experience of mediation I learnt that mediation is a cheap yet less time consuming way of resolving conflicts. I am an advocate but it is not necessary to take the matter to the court and things can well be settled down through negotiation and problem solving. To resolve the dispute at the grass root level it is a flexible process that can be conducted confidentially. It is a process of facilitation and negotiation.

Conflict Resolution between two parties

Hakim Ali Otho

Totti is a small village in Nawabshah. The estimated population of the village is 2500 approximately. The villagers here are mostly dependent on agriculture and local trade. I am sharing my experience of resolving a dispute in the same village. It was a dispute over honor where the family of a young married girl and her husband had alleged her of having illegitimate relationship with a young boy of sixteen years. The woman refused the allegation as baseless yet her family members refused to accept her statement. They tortured her and threatened to kill her. The family and

the husband of the woman also tried to kill the young boy who managed to save his life by running away from the village however the family of the boy came into confrontation with the woman's family. Both the parties equipped themselves with weapons and the village ran into the risk of violence and bloodshed. The father of the accused boy requested the Sindh Graduate Association (SGA) for playing role to resolve the problem. I being the representative of SGA met with both parties and tried to resolve conflict.

In the process I had a meeting with their community elder and ex-Nazim of the village and requested him to help in resolution of the conflict. He agreed and after a prolonged effort and consecutive meetings with the woman's family was able to bring them onto the table on this matter. A meeting was called at Nazim's House and both parties attended it. After a long discussion and research it was concluded that there were no concrete evidences as to the allegation. But for the satisfaction of the woman's side party, the boy's father undertook an oath on the Holy Quran denying his son's involvement the case. This helped ease the tension on part of the plaintiff group and both the parties announced to end the animosity.

Cascading TOT Skills

by Zafar Ali

Mr. Ali Zafar was the part of the group who attended the TOT workshop in Sindh. He is associated with Sindh Education Foundation in the Monitoring and Evaluation field. After receiving the training on Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills he organized a one day session at Sindh Education Foundation SEF Regional office in Hyderabad. The training was attended by twenty-six participants out of which three represented two other civil society organizations of Sindh. The participants were given an orientation of the general program objectives and the purpose of the session. Pre and post assessment of knowledge of the participants was conducted. Mr. Zafar shared that the workshop went through selected content and segments from the materials that were given to the mediators on the completion of the Training of Trainers workshop. He said that the participants' interest and involvement during the session was encouraging. At the completion of the session the group identified a few conflict case studies for home assignment. These conflicts will be put to the frameworks of conflict analysis, problem solving and conflict resolution, mediation and a solution would be sought as to a non-violent resolution of these.



Building Alliance to Resolve Tribal Conflict

by Khadim Hiussain Mirani

Mr. Mirani is associated with the Bhattai Social Welfare Association as Chairman in district Khairpur and a member of Peacebuilders Pakistan network Sindh chapter. In July 2011 Mr. Mirani organized a meeting of the representatives of several villages of his district to devise an organized strategy and building a coordinated alliance for the resolution of tribal conflicts. The stakeholders, forty-eight in number from different villages were brought together by his organization. The meeting was sensitized on techniques of communicating and maintaining coordination with notables, land lords, spiritual leaders and other stake holders to identify and enlist local conflicts with complete background in a stipulated period and then to liaise and network with notables and land lords of the villages and involve them in initiative of resolving these peacefully.



Peace and Tolerance is the call of the day

Nabiha Gul - Peacebuilders Pakistan Mediator

Peace and tolerance are the socio-political phenomena which have greatly contributed to the development and progress of states and societies. Even a cursory glance at the socio-political structures in developed societies reveals a fact that over the course of history these societies have transcended their differences and now have evolved as peaceful and tolerant societies with marked levels of economic development and progress.

On the other hand, a number of socio-political problems mar developing societies which have culminated into intolerance and violence which in turn are giving rise to polarization of societies in many ways. As intolerance and violence become the stark features of developing world, the need of conflict resolution and peacemaking in developing societies is more than ever now. Among a number of conflict-prone states, Pakistan also suffers the same fate and problems which are now the hallmarks of the developing societies. However, the country is among a very few post-colonial societies that are faced with structural problems as well as they have inherited the colonial legacy.

Pakistan today, is faced with a high degree of political chaos where we find terrorist incidents on rise and political incompatibilities among major political parties causing political tensions and violence. What we also witness in some parts are the cases of lawlessness. This reminds us of a very relatable saying of a peace-maker Mother Teresa who said *"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other"*. This quote is a reminder of human values and the significance of humanity. These few words also are a message that tolerance leads to togetherness, which further establishes peace. Peace which cannot be defined or explained from one single perspective or dimension for it is a multidimensional and multifaceted phenomenon. Ideologically, peace and tolerance are the fundamentals of 'Democracy'. Economically, peace can be defined in terms of economic progress and prosperity. Socially, unity, harmony and acceptance of diversity and sense of security translate into peace; and politically, political stability, no conflict or war and states giving priority to people's well-being is considered as peace. In total, if people are provided with their basic human rights, basic economic facilities, freedom of expression and above all, they have sense of security then the society would be called as a peaceful society. To achieve or establish this state of 'peace' a state is required to adopt democratic values. Advocacy of democratic values as antidote to intolerance and violence, especially in Pakistani society may sound an argument far from reality or next to impossible but then one need not focus on the only political dimension or application of democracy. Democratic values as a social norm are required to be propagated. Until or unless our society learns to accept the diversity, puts in efforts to bring harmony and gets united with existing diversities, lasting peace will remain a dream. The worst consequence of the military regimes in Pakistan has been the undemocratic or authoritarian approach that is ingrained in our society which in turn has led our society to extreme level of intolerance. The need of the hour is not only to employ democracy as a system of governance but it is more needed as a social behavior and social practice. Each individual is required to learn to behave in a democratic manner. Although some civil society and non-profitable organizations have undertaken the task of providing trainings and teachings of conflict resolution and peaceful settlement of disputes and to resolve differences among people at all levels formally, the scope of these opportunities however needs to be enlarged so that we transcend through our differences and take the path of progress and prosperity towards everlasting peace.



Mediators Profiles

Abbas Haider

Mr. Abbas Haider holds a degree in Business Administration. He is a Human Resource professional and Security Analyst. His areas of expertise are Human Resources Management, Project Management, Personnel Training, Specialized Protection & Security and Customer support services.



Ajam Khan

Mr. Ajam Khan is a mechanical engineer. He has remained associated with Pakistan Navy on academic side. Presently he is managing a housing society in Karachi as an elected member since 1997.



Anila Fateh

Ms. Anila Fateh is a social worker and works for communities in interior Sindh on education.

Ayaz Chandio

Mr. Ayaz Chandio is working with Indus Institute for Research and Education (IIRE). He is an active social and human rights activist, a writer and a trainer. He has also remained a part of the movement for the restoration of judiciary and democracy in Pakistan.



Ejaz Ahsan

Mr. Ejaz Ahsan has a multi-disciplinary academic background. He is working with Inter Board Committee Board Chairmen in Karachi. He has also served Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Sindh Chapter. He is a Member of several national and Social and development networks.



Fozia Fozia Hanif

Ms. Fozia Hanif is a development activist. She is based in district Khairpur. Her Competency areas are social mobilization, advocacy and trainings. She is working on issues of reproductive health and child protection in interior Sindh province.



Ghulam Ahmed Mustafa

Mr. Ghulam Ahmed Mustafa is a Staff Reporter with local English daily. He is based in Karachi. His area of expertise in journalism is investigative reporting. He writes features on crimes and covers political news and social events.



Gulrukh Razi

Ms. Gulrukh Razi holds a Masters degree in Business Administration. She is associated with a number of international organizations as a consultant, researcher and a trainer. She has represented Pakistan as a youth leader on a number of international forums.



Hafiz Ubaidullah

Mr. Hafiz Ubaidullah belongs to Shikar Pur city of Sindh province. He is a religious scholar and teaches in one of the religious schools in his area. He has also remained engaged as a social worker and community activist.



Hakim Ali Otho

Mr. Hakim Ali belongs to district Nawab Shah. He is serving as Education Supervisor in department of Education. Besides he is a member of Sindh Graduate Association and works on issues of relief and rehabilitation and disaster risk management.



Idrees Gigi

Mr. Idrees Gigi is a businessman and is based in Karachi. He is the Chairman of Law and Order sub Committee and member to several other forums. Currently he is associated with Citizen Police Liaison Committee as a member.



Israr Hussain Chang

Mr. Israr Hussain Chang is a practicing advocate and is a member of several law and human rights forums. He is working in districts Khairpur and Hyderabad on the advancement of rights of farmers, women and youth.



Javed Larik

Mr. Javed Larik is a human rights activist and a social worker. He has actively contributed to democratic movements on local and national level. Currently he is associated with a spiritual organization working for promoting peace in the society.

**Jiwraj Maheshwary**

Mr. Jiwraj Maheshwary is associated with Peace Education Welfare Organization (PEWO) as Joint Secretary. His areas of expertise are project management, advocacy and trainings.

**Khadim Hussain Mirani**

Mr. Khadim is associated with Bhattai Welfare Association. He is a member of Pak-India Peoples Forum for peace and Democracy. His areas of expertise are community mobilization, advocacy and conflict resolution.

**Khaleel Yousfani**

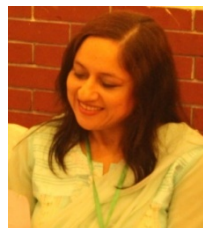
Mr. Yousfani is associated with the Pakistan Customs Department in Karachi. He is also a regular visiting/teaching faculty at Directorate of Training and research (Customs). He is a member of working group of Afghanistan & Pakistan Customs.

**Mia Mian Khan Malik**

Mr. Mian Khan is a senior advocate having more than thirty years of practice on criminal and constitutional justice. He has a vast experience on prosecution as well as defense side being a former Additional Advocate General, Deputy Attorney General and judge of Anti Terrorism Court.

**Momiza Bawany**

Ms. Momiza Bawany holds an LL.M. degree and is an Associate Professor in Hamdard School of Law, Hamdard University Karachi. As a social worker she is working on the promotion of human rights.

**Mustafa Safvi**

Mr. Mustafa Safvi is a Senior Civil Judge in and is based in Karachi. He is doing his Ph.D in Alternative Dispute Resolution. He has written several articles on Mediation and ADR.

**Nabiha Gul**

Ms. Nabiha Gul holds an MA degree in International Relations. She is a Cooperative Lecturer at the University of Karachi. Research is her area of expertise and she has worked as a Senior Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs.

**Naeem Balouch**

Mr. Naeem Baloch is a development activist. He has held an office in the local government set-up. As a development activist he has a vast experience and knowledge of health related issues and has played a leading role in promoting awareness and lobbying on health issues.

**Nawab Zafar Ali**

Mr. Zafar Ali is a community activist, a trainer, an administrator. He is working with Sindh Education Foundation as Manager M&E. He has a vast experience of community development, trainings and research.

**Nisar Ahmad Soomro**

Mr. Soomro is a finance professional. He belongs to Kashmore district of Sindh. He is also a development and social activist. His areas of expertise are financial management, monitoring and evaluation and awareness raising.

**Parveen Malik**

Ms. Parveen Malik is an educationist and is serving as a vice principal in a Karachi based school. She is a trainer on behavior management and communication skills and is associated with Teheek e Minhajul Quran as a volunteer.

**Rao Kamran Mehmood**

Mr. Rao Kamran Mehmood is an educationist and a social worker. He

has been administering a school in Karachi for last fifteen years. As a social worker he is working on issues of health and is engaged working for the welfare of orphans.

Rubina Aman

Ms. Rubina Aman is an advocate and has worked as consultant in National Accountability Bureau, Sindh. Presently she is working with Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation, a well known NGO. Gender and advocacy are her areas of expertise.



Sabina Bawany

Ms. Sabina Bawany is a social worker and a business woman. She has had a pioneering and lead role in establishing and running welfare forums and business enterprises. Her areas of expertise are planning and management and fund raising. She is an Associate Member of the CPLC.



Salman Siddiqui

Mr. Salman Siddiqui is based in Karachi and is a journalist by profession. He is associated with one of the leading English newspaper. He has eight years experience in the field and his areas of journalistic interest are terrorism and social crime.



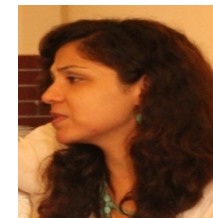
Sayed Amir Ali Shah

Mr. Ammir Ali Shah belongs to district Jamshoro. He has served as ex-Nazim and also represents a political party. He is a social worker and works on mediating conflicts within community.



Syeda Fizzah Ali

Ms. Syeda Fizzah Ali holds a Masters degree in International Relations. Presently she is teaching at the Department of IR, University of Karachi as Cooperative Lecturer. She has worked as a Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA).



Tanveer un Nisa

Ms. Ms. Tanveer holds a degree in B. A. in Statistics and Economics. She is a Finance and Accounting professional and is associated with Viquar Society for Socio-



Economic Development & Legal Aid as General Secretary.

Uris Otho

Mr. Uris Otho belongs to district Thatta. He is a teacher by profession. He is associated with a social welfare organization Sindh Graduate Association since last ten years. He is working on issues of education, health and conflict resolution in the community.



Zahid Farooq

Mr. Zahid Farooq is a development activist and a newspaper columnist. He is based in Karachi and is working for the advancement of the rights of minorities. He holds membership of several human rights organizations and has represented Pakistan on a number of international forums.



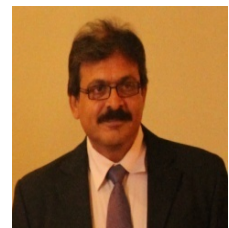
Zahida Detho

Ms. Zahida Detho holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from University of Sindh. She has fourteen years of experience in social and development sector. Her areas of expertise are mobilization, report writing, youth education, and advocacy and training areas.



Mohammad Zubair Chhaya

Mr. Zubair Chhaya is a peace activist and is associated with Citizen's Police Liaison Committee as Chief Zone East, 1st Class Executive Magistrate (Hon) and Justice of Peace. Besides he is associated with other institutional bodies and committees in public and private spheres as Chairman and member.



Zulfiqar Halepoto

Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto is a writer and a free lance columnist. He has authored twelve books including travelogues on India, Bangladesh and USA. He is associated with a non-profit rural development organization, TRDP as Senior Advisor Policy, Advocacy and Civil Society Interface.





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