



... creating pathways toward dialogue & reconciliation through research & education on conflict transformation & peacebuilding

Founded in 1999, Peacemakers Trust is a Registered Charitable Organization in Canada, number 87205 7823 RR0001.

## 2016 Highlights: Peace work in a "post-truth" world

### Media in a "post-truth" world



Peacemakers Trust's work monitoring news from around the world has taken on new importance in 2016 as attention has been riveted on dramatically polarized discourse about Syria's conflict and refugees, the Brexit vote and the US election. Peacemakers Trust directors Ernie Fraser and Catherine Morris continue to search out "conflict sensitive" news that examines sources of conflicts and peace initiatives. Peacemakers Trust has developed some [criteria](#) for evaluating the quality of news reporting on conflict.



### Teaching our kids about peace:

#### New list of books for children



Veteran educator Patricia Morris worked with Peacemakers Trust in 2016 to create a new bibliography of [books on peace for young children](#). Launched in December, this is the latest page in the Peacemakers Trust bibliography. The [resource website](#) continues to be popular worldwide and received more than 160,000 visits in 2016.

### Southeast Asia research



On 8 November 2016, Peacemakers Trust director Catherine Morris spoke about her human rights research in Thailand at the University of Victoria's Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives. In September 2016, her chapter, "Justice Inverted: Law and Human Rights in Cambodia" was published in Katherine Brickell and Simon Springer's edited book, [The Handbook of Contemporary Cambodia](#) published by Routledge.

### Indigenous peoples in Canada

Peacemakers Trust work in response to the Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) included facilitation of an educational event on 4 October 2016 hosted by Emmanuel Church, Victoria. The event responded to the TRC call to churches to repudiate a 15th century church and legal doctrine called the "Doctrine of Discovery" which was used historically to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples around the world. The event featured the screening of a film that explains and denounces the Doctrine of Discovery from a contemporary Christian perspective. Following the film, **Robert Morales**, a lawyer and Chief Treaty Negotiator



for the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group explained how the Doctrine of Discovery was involved in giving legal cover to a massive corporate land grab on Vancouver Island over a century ago.

### Conflict Resolution Experts'

#### Open Letter to US officials

After the US election there were hundreds of reports of race-based discrimination, vandalism, beatings and threats, with significant spillover into Canada. The post-election violence prompted Peacemakers Trust to convene 60 experts in conflict resolution in the US, Canada to sign an [open letter](#) to all US government officials urging them to them to make public statements to build respect and to prevent violence based on gender, religion, race, ethnicity or political views. The letter also provided educational information on the US Constitution and asked for concrete steps to prevent acts of hatred and foster mutual understanding, respect and civility within the USA.

### Our purpose . . .

is to advance people's knowledge and capacity to understand, prevent and address conflict fairly, effectively and peacefully.

### Our methods . . .

include research and education for practitioners, officials, civil society leaders and the public on:

- nonviolent methods for conflict transformation and peacebuilding;
- conflict analysis and mapping;
- fair and effective dispute resolution;
- effective planning, leadership, decision-making and problem-solving;
- fair, effective and accountable governance structures.

### What we do . . .

Our work includes:

- **www.peacemakers.ca:** our acclaimed resource and bibliographic website used around the world by academics, students, practitioners and the public.
- **Education and training** on conflict resolution, international human rights & reconciliation.
- **Public dialogue** on matters of contention including cultural or religious issues.
- **Reporting on conflict:** media monitoring on conflict transformation and peacebuilding.
- **Academic research and writing.**

### Our capabilities...

Peacemakers Trust directors and associates have proven track records in participatory education, research and policy development on conflict transformation & reconciliation in several countries including Canada, Cambodia, Thailand, Rwanda, Bolivia & Northern Ireland.

### Contact us...

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- To update our free, online resources for students, academics, practitioners and the public;
- To help our volunteers with travel expenses to conduct education or research including planned case studies on business, human rights and conflict and planned training in negotiation for human rights defenders in Asia;
- To respond to invitations to conduct education on dispute resolution, conflict transformation and reconciliation.
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