

[Topics—unarmed civilian peacekeeping]

From: **Kelly O'Donnell** <mcaresources@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 29, 2013 at 6:08 PM

Subject: Global Integration---Fwd: Invitation: Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping' - Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 15h30-17h00 GVA time (9h30-11h00 NY time)

To: Member Care Associates <mcaresources@gmail.com>

Hi MH colleagues in integration,

I wanted to pass on this info-invitation to you about a special event to be held at the UN in Geneva and NY on Weds. 4 September. It will present opportunities/challenges of "unarmed civilian peacekeeping." I know it is unlikely that most can attend physically, but the good news is that it is available for free via the dial in option (see info about this towards the end).

These events often start at about 3am in the morning PST, but fortunately this one starts later, at 6:30 am PST. We work closely with one of the presenters and so have heard a fair amount about peacekeeping issues/options.

I think the topic is crucial and I think you will quickly see many possibilities for research, dissertations, practice etc. (MH and psychosocial support for peacekeepers) and involvement as Cxs in the *missio Dei*--a new opportunity for Cx mis and MH?

This topic also reflects a cutting edge area for the church and Cx MH community--for example, if there is more stability in areas of crisis/conflict (and perhaps if peacekeepers have more MH and psychosocial support), then perhaps Cx workers there could get their work done more effectively (and safely) since many of these areas needing "international protectors and providers" (Danieli 2002) are where the unreached are located. As stated by the editor of the special issue of *Refugees* magazine on the safety of staff: "Refugees are most in need of assistance at the very same moment when relief officials [international and national staff] are most exposed to personal danger." We only need to think of the current events in Syria...

Please feel free to forward/spread the word. One day every tear will be wiped away and there will be no more death as per Rev 21.

Warmly,

Kelly

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IASC Correspondence** <iasccorrespondence@un.org>

Date: Thu, Aug 29, 2013 at 11:57 AM

Subject: Invitation: IASC event, Geneva and New York: 'Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping' - what's next?, Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 15h30-17h00 GVA time (9h30-11h00 NY time)

MESSAGE FROM THE IASC SECRETARIAT

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to a special IASC event in Geneva and New York, which will take place on **Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 15h30-17h00 GVA time, (9h30-11h00 NY time)**

Please feel free to forward this invitation to interested colleagues.

In Geneva, the venue to join the meeting will be Room XXII in the Palais des Nations.

In New York, the venue to join the meeting will be Room S-2725BR in the UN Secretariat.

Agenda:

1. 'Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping' - what's next?

How can civilians in situations of violent conflict, such as in South Sudan, Philippines or Myanmar, be protected? How can 'unarmed civilian peacekeeping' contribute to increased protection? The organisation 'Nonviolent Peaceforce' (NP) promotes, develops and implements 'unarmed civilian peacekeeping' (UCP) to protect civilians in these situations. NP envisions that this method "using proven nonviolent strategies, is recognised as a viable alternative in preventing, addressing, and mitigating violent conflicts worldwide." (*NP website*) The UN Secretary General's Report on the Protection of Civilians (S/2012/376) states that non-governmental organisations also play a long-established and key role in the protection of civilians.

But what is UCP, how does it work in practice and how effective is it? How does it link to other notions of 'peacekeeping' and 'protection'? And what are some next steps?

The IASC Secretariat is pleased to host this event, providing a space to discuss and better understand this concept from those who have applied it in situations like South Sudan, Mindanao and Myanmar. We are pleased to welcome the following panellists from Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Panellists:

Rolfe Carriere, Senior Advisor (joins in GVA)

Atif Hameed, International Programme Director and former Country Director in the Philippines (joins in GVA)

Tiffany Easthom, Country Director South Sudan (joins in NY)

Mel Duncan, Founding Director (joins in NY)

The panellists will discuss the following:

- Introduction to Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP)
- The role of this work in cease-fire monitoring with examples from Mindanao and Myanmar
- Protecting civilians in Jonglei
- Next steps for UCP, including an e-learning course

Following the brief presentations of the panel members, there will be sufficient time for Q&A.

NP is working together with UNITAR to develop an e-learning course on UCP. At the end of this meeting, NP will invite interested organisations and colleagues to participate in a workshop on 4 November 2013 in Geneva to review the material that has been developed for this course.

Links: Nonviolent Peaceforce website: <http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/about/mission>

IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat

UN OCHA - Geneva

Palais des Nations

Web: <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc>