



## KOFF Roundtable on

# Culture of non-violence & peace: a path forward in peacebuilding?

Thursday, 4 June 2020, 2 – 3.30 pm, Zoom

With the participation of

- **Ursula Schmid** Country Coordinator [Swiss Red Cross](#), Delegation to Ethiopia
- **Andrea Zellhuber** Thematic Advisor Violence Prevention, [terre des hommes Switzerland](#)
- **Florence Foster** Representative for Peace and Disarmament, [Quaker United Nations Office](#)

In 1998 and 1999, the UN adopted the [UN resolution on the culture of peace](#) and a [Programme of Action](#), defining a culture of peace as “[...] *an integral approach to preventing violence and violent conflicts, and an alternative to the culture of war and violence based on education for peace, the promotion of sustainable economic and social development, respect for human rights, equality between women and men, democratic participation, tolerance, the free flow of information and disarmament.*” **Despite these early developments towards a global movement for a culture of peace, a quarter of a century later we are still grappling with the concept, which many dismiss as utopian. Yet, it has not lost any of its significance.** In fact, against the background of the current crisis related to COVID19, and increasingly protracted conflicts and cycles of violence, a realization of the limitations of conventional peacebuilding tools and methods has led to a desire for alternatives. A culture of peace and the notion of non-violence might lend a hand in this regard.

This KOFF roundtable will provide the virtual **space to discuss and reflect on the meaning, challenges and opportunities of such a concept for your work and explore potential synergies and avenues for collaboration on this topic in the KOFF Platform.** After brief inputs by three representatives of KOFF member organizations currently engaging with the concept, there will be space for discussion of the following questions: How do you conceptualize "culture of non-violence & peace" in your organization, and which understanding of "peace" underpins such a concept? What practical realities – experiences from your work – drive the need for a culture of peace, and which challenges do you encounter on the way? What are practical activities and elements of a culture of non-violence and peace? What implications does a shift towards a culture of peace have for you, on a professional and personal level?

**If you would like to participate, kindly send a confirmation e-mail to [Andrea Grossenbacher](#) by 29 May 2020.** We look forward to discussing and exchanging with you.

Best wishes, Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding KOFF

Anna Leissing  
Head of KOFF

Andrea Grossenbacher  
Coordinator KOFF Roundtables