

About InterChange

Our vision:

Community-based peacebuilders around the world sharing knowledge and supporting one another to nurture and develop dynamic, durable peace.

Our mission:

To foster and make visible community-based peacebuilding around the world.

InterChange combines elements of activism, training, capacity building, and research to fill the gaps in theory and practice for practitioners, educators, researchers, policy-makers, funders, donors, and evaluators.

It does so by providing a space to:

- Share information
- Create functional networks
- Foster ongoing dialogues on the interaction between theory and practice
- Develop resources and tools for education, training and evaluation
- Generate research projects based on participatory action research
- Develop additional projects of interest

For more information or to become involved in this peacebuilding initiative:

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InterChange is hosted by the Transformative Learning Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto, Canada.



InterChange

International Institute for Community-Based Peacebuilding



InterChange is a growing, united diverse group of community-based peacebuilders (individuals and groups) around the world who share knowledge, carry out mutual and external education, carry out research, and who support one another with the aim of nurturing and developing dynamic, durable and positive peace.

InterChange was established in 2004 in response to the need for a global information network and training resource accessible to practitioners, policy-makers, and theorists who are involved in community-based peacebuilding. Current and planned activities include:

Global web-based networking functions • Biennial symposium in various regions around the world
An accessible online database to post and view training materials, publications, resources and other documents and tools
Online discussion groups and conferencing • Collaborative international research coordination
Training functions including summer courses, on-line education models, and an internship program • Program development

Governance

InterChange is currently based in Toronto, Canada. We are now developing **regionally-based research and network sites** to enable diverse expertise sharing and the validation of a wide range of experience.

A network has been established between members in Canada, East Africa and the Former Yugoslavia as a result of the inaugural symposium and subsequent meetings.

The Institute envisages a **de-centralized global infrastructure** that will facilitate the sharing of information, resources, and leadership responsibilities among the regional hubs.

Achievements to Date

InterChange's inaugural symposium, held June 9-12, 2005, in Toronto, brought together more than 40 participants representing over 13 countries. Participants focused on case studies, training issues, and challenges of working in and rebuilding communities in conflict.

Partnered with PHARP Rwanda to host the **2007 Symposium in Kigali** to discuss the development and application of peacebuilding theory and practice.

An interactive website, to enable online networking and resource sharing, is being developed.

Future Undertakings

Collaborative international research projects: "Diaspora Dialogues" – to explore perspectives and experiences, including ways diaspora groups are affected by and can contribute to, conflicts and peacebuilding; and "Cultural Approaches to Peacebuilding" – to focus on the theory and practice of approaches to peacebuilding inherent in a diversity of cultures, faith traditions and worldviews.

Training and peace education

Theory and model-building in development, conflict transformation and peacebuilding: assessing the field of practice and theory, gathering literature, and developing theories and models of peacebuilding that are community-based.