6.
An Overview of Peacebuilding Processes

Peacebuilding requires a range of approaches. The approaches included in the peacebuilding nexus can be grouped into four categories that focus on specific tasks.

Waging Conflict Nonviolently

Advocates and activists seek to gain support for change by increasing a group's power to address issues and ripen the conditions needed to transform relationships.

Reducing Direct Violence

Efforts to reduce direct violence aim to restrain perpetrators of violence, prevent and relieve the immediate suffering of victims of violence, and create a safe space for peacebuilding activities. Once this happens other processes can address the root causes of the violence.

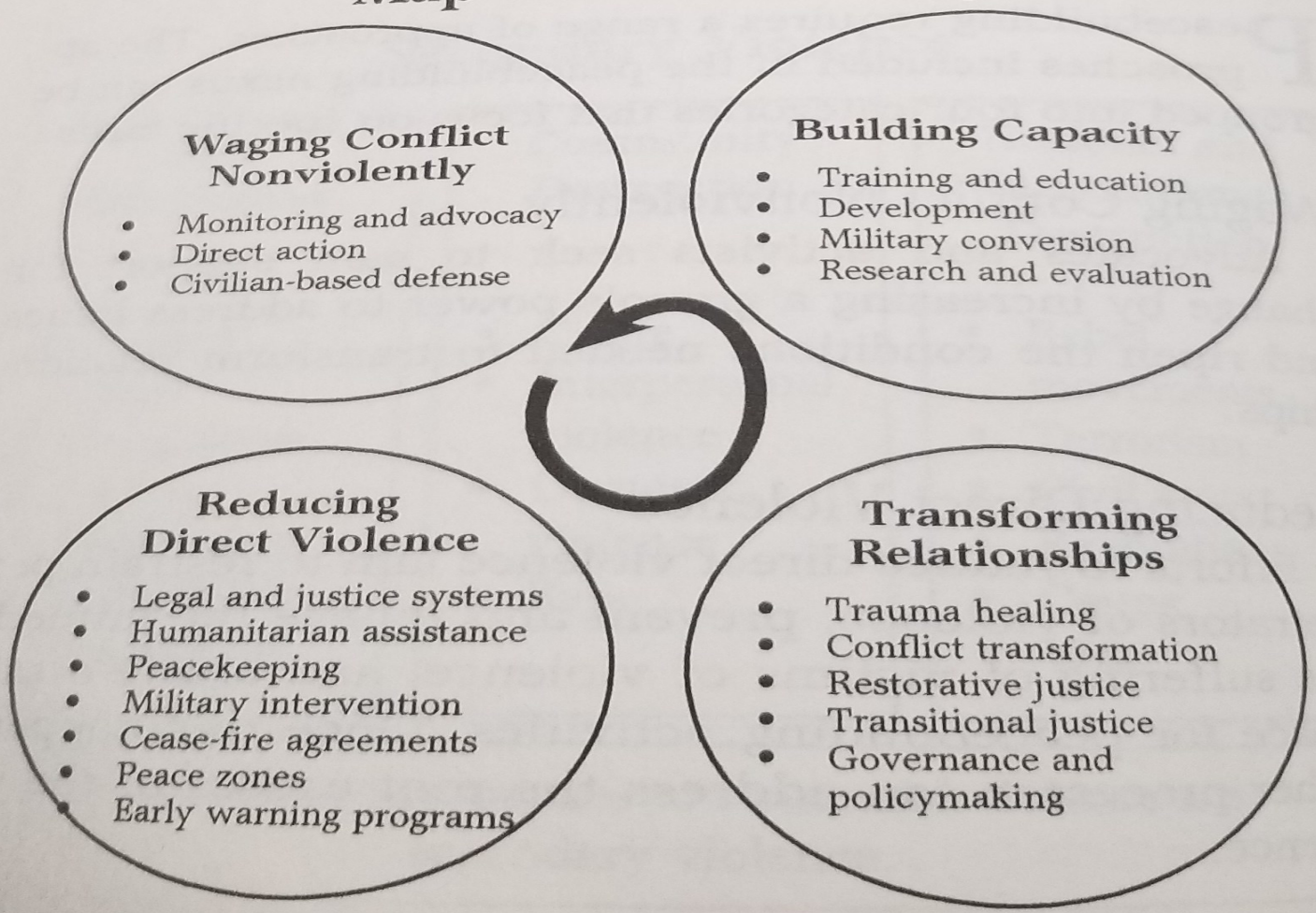
Transforming Relationships

For peace to replace violence, relationships must be re-created by using an array of processes that address trauma, transform conflict, and do justice. These processes give people opportunities to create long-term, sustainable solutions to address their needs.

Building Capacity

Longer-term peacebuilding efforts capitalize on existing capacities to meet needs and rights. Efforts include preventing violence through education and training, development, military conversion and transformation, and research and evaluation. These activities aim to build just structures that support a sustainable culture of peace.

Map of Peacebuilding



An Overview of Peacebuilding Processes

While many actors engage in multiple categories of peacebuilding, this map highlights the unique goals of different peacebuilding approaches. These approaches are often simultaneous, ongoing, and interdependent. The next four chapters explore the purpose and functions of each of these circles to show how they provide complementary contributions to peacebuilding.

7.
Waging Conflict Nonviolently

In conflicts where power is unbalanced and there is little public awareness of the issues, it is often difficult to get conflicting parties to negotiate. Those who agree to dialogue under these conditions often find it unsatisfying, as groups with more power may not negotiate in good faith or make the necessary structural changes. In such cases, it may be important to wage conflict nonviolently through strategic nonviolence.

Nonviolent action aims to raise awareness and balance power.

Strategic nonviolence is a set of approaches that works for change by escalating the conflict without using violence. Far from being passive, strategic nonviolence is a direct and assertive form of addressing conflict. Nonviolent action aims to raise public awareness and sympathy, increase understanding of how groups in conflict are interdependent, and balance power by convincing or coercing others to accept the needs or desires of all involved.

People decide to use nonviolent action instead of violence for different reasons. Strategic arguments point to the ineffectiveness of violent actions throughout history.[4] Others see nonviolent action as effective because it is relatively less expensive than using violence. In Latin America, nonviolence is called the weapon of the poor. Planning a demonstration, vigil, strike, or boycott does not require expensive weapons. Still others, particularly those from religious bases, assert that nonviolence is a morally superior method of struggle. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. argued that peace cannot be achieved through violence; there must be harmony between the means used to attain an end.

Whatever the rationale, the strategy of nonviolence depends upon satisfying the needs of all people: defenders and offenders. This mutual satisfaction of needs can happen by creating nonviolent expressions of power to pressure for successful negotiation, and by limiting the power of others to obstruct needs and rights.

Creating Power

Militaries increase their power through the quantity and quality of their weapons and troops. Groups using nonviolence increase their power through tactics that demonstrate how others depend upon their cooperation.

A government's political power, for example, ultimately depends upon the consent and cooperation of its citizens and, at times, the world community. The world community applied economic and cultural sanctions on South Africa in the 1980s. These demonstrated South Africa's dependence on the world community and pressured the white government to change. Within South Africa, black communities boycotted white stores in a similar show of

white dependency on blacks. These strategies contributed to the end of apartheid in South Africa.

The *Aikido* Principle

The principles of Aikido, a nonviolent martial art, help to conceptualize how the opposition's power can be used to defeat it. In *Aikido* fighting, a defender pulls or pushes the attacker in the same direction he/she is moving, rather than resisting or blocking the attack. This throws the attacker off balance as he/she expects resistance. An attacker's own force leads to failure to dominate and control the *Aikido* practitioner.

Nonviolent action exposes the opponent's violence both to themselves and to the world community. When white policemen beat and used dogs against protesters, including children, during the Civil Rights movement, people in the United States and around the world immediately responded with outrage. The white policemen showed themselves and the world what a system of racial segregation required. Their own violent actions led to their downfall.

Gene Sharp lists almost 200 different nonviolent tactics to wage conflict nonviolently.[5] These tactics belong to one of four categories: monitoring and advocacy, protest and persuasion, non-cooperation, and intervention.

Nonviolent Tactics for Waging Conflict

Monitoring and Advocacy

Some groups escalate conflict nonviolently by monitoring issues and advocating for change. Human rights and environmental groups, for example, monitor the way states, corporations, and other groups protect human rights and the environment. These reports both raise pub-

lic awareness of abuses and create a record of rights abuses that may serve other peacebuilding processes, such as negotiations that require objective criteria for determining harms.

Amnesty International uses the phrase "the mobilization of shame" to capture the dynamic that occurs when organizations mobilize large numbers of people to denounce or shame a state, business, or group into changing its behavior. Mobilizing shame is a way to raise public awareness and increase an organization's power to bring about change.[6]

Shaming *behaviors* rather than *people* is important, as the goal of shaming is to change behavior and not simply to isolate groups that already reject a sense of interdependence with others. Isolation can backfire if as groups become even more entrenched in an ideology of us vs. them and escalate their use of violence against others.

Protest and Persuasion

This approach aims to raise awareness of injustice and bring shame to perpetrators of violence through public acts such as publications, speeches, marches, or symbolic mock funerals to call attention to people who have died. In Kenya's 2002 elections, for example, civil society organizations plastered walls with posters and announced on radio programs that everyone was responsible for creating peaceful elections. This contributed to a historic change in leadership and reduced the number of election-related deaths.

Non-Cooperation

This type of nonviolent action centers on acts of omission, where people stop doing their normal activities as a

way to resist another group. Sharp identifies three types of non-cooperation.[7] *Social non-cooperation* includes boycotts of sporting or social events, school strikes by students, or emigration from a city or state. *Economic non-cooperation* includes consumer boycotts, refusal to pay rent, withdrawal of bank deposits or investments, worker strikes or work slow-downs, and applying sanctions or embargoes on offending governments and businesses. *Political non-cooperation* includes boycotts of elections or government offices; civil disobedience of unjust laws, such as apartheid; and refusal to recognize government authority.

Civilian defense employs a strategy of non-cooperation to defend against military aggression. It uses unarmed civilians in conjunction with or instead of a military to defend against attack. Civilian defense works by refusing to cooperate with invaders.

During World War II, Denmark was the only country to successfully save a majority of their Jewish population while actively resisting Nazi occupation. When Nazis forced Jewish Danes to wear the yellow star, non-Jewish Danes wore the star in solidarity with Jews. The night before the Nazis were to begin taking Jewish people to the death camps, Danish civilians coordinated a massive strategy to hide Jewish people and move them out of the country on fishing boats.

The Danes also used work strikes, symbolic moments of silence, sabotage of their own railway systems, and other nonviolent means to make Nazi occupation of their country difficult and unrewarding. Meanwhile, the Danes protected their local culture and resisted their occupiers through singing Danish folk songs and staging supportive demonstrations of the Danish King

and government while Nazi soldiers marched in their streets.[8] This example from Denmark shows how civilian defense prevents invaders from benefiting from their occupation.

Intervention

This strategy aims to interrupt the status quo and draw attention to violence as a way to mobilize people for change. *Psychological intervention* uses fasts, exposure to the elements, or danger to pressure people's moral systems. *Physical intervention* involves sitting, standing, lying down, singing, or doing some action as a way to invade and occupy public space. *Social intervention* includes group meetings, Internet networking, phone trees, public drama and theater, or strategic interruptions of normal life, such as overloading public facilities like buses or phone lines. *Economic intervention* includes nonviolent seizure of assets and of land and creating alternative economic trading systems or markets. *Political intervention* includes seeking imprisonment, overloading government facilities, and setting up parallel governments.

Nonviolent action alone cannot build peace. It escalates conflict and can often temporarily increase antagonism and tension between people and groups. Governments and other groups in power may escalate the use of violent repression on groups waging conflict nonviolently in an effort to stop them. However, activities to wage conflict nonviolently ideally ripen the conditions for transforming relationships and structures. In many cases, this is essential as structures resist change, and people in power may ignore pleas for dialogue or negotiation. The next chapters look at other pieces of

the peacebuilding puzzle that, together, form a united vision for moving toward a justpeace.