Geneva Peacebuilding Platform launch event

From Pacification to Peacebuilding. A Call to Global Transformation

Dr Diana Francis
Expert in conflict transformation and peace activist

CHAIR
Dr David Atwood
Director, Quaker UN Office
Executive Member of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Tuesday, 7 December 2010
12:30-14:00

Venue: Jura Classroom (3rd floor)
Geneva Centre for Security Policy
WMO building, 7 bis Avenue de la Paix

A sandwich lunch will be served in the room from 12h.

Does conflict transformation work? Diana Francis, who has been described as one of the most experienced practitioners of conflict resolution, will offer her original and radical analysis when she presents her new book, From Pacification to Peacebuilding. In it, she argues that the transformative impact of efforts to resolve conflict and build peace has been limited and subverted by donor agendas and geopolitical interests. She contends that the prevailing culture of power, resting on coercion and violence, must be displaced by the principles of interdependence, kindness and nonviolent solidarity. This is the only way that pacification – efforts to dominate and control – will be replaced by genuine peacebuilding. She calls upon peacemakers worldwide to embrace and develop the practice of nonviolent power, rejecting the culture and institutions of war and working with movements around the world for global demilitarisation and ‘positive peace’.

This book launch will offer the opportunity to discuss these thoughts with their author. We invite you to join us for this discussion and encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues who may be interested. To register, please simply reply to this email with your contact details (gpp@gcsp.ch) by Friday 3 December.

--- Copies of Diana Francis' books will be available for sale at the event ---
Biography of Dr Diana Francis

Diana Francis is a former President of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the current Chair of the Committee for Conflict Transformation Support (CCTS) and co-editor of its Review. She is also a member of the Quakers’ Naga Conciliation Group and an associate of Conciliation Resources and Responding to Conflict.

She has worked extensively in the post-communist world (especially the former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus), in the Middle East, in Asia and in Africa and Asia, as well as in Northern Ireland and in her own local area. She is an activist at home and a life-long campaigner for demilitarisation, economic justice, human rights and environmental protection. She has a particular interest in gender and its relationship to militarism and peace. Her doctorate was awarded for action research and she has become increasingly involved in supporting research that is directly related to peace practice.

Diana describes and discusses her work in her first book, ‘People, Peace and Power: Conflict Transformation in Action’, which was published by Pluto Press in 2002. Her second book, ‘Rethinking War and Peace’ was published in 2004, and she has written many papers, chapters and articles. Her third book, ‘From Pacification to Peacebuilding: A Call to Global Transformation’ was published in the spring this year.