



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ September 12, 2016

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FROM CPN AFFILIATES AND REGIONS

Colombian bishops applaud historic peace accord

The Episcopal Conference of Colombia applauded the recent signing of a peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) after four years of negotiations. This agreement, which will be put to a plebiscite on October 2, would end more than five decades of violent conflict. The Catholic Church in Colombia has played an important role in supporting the peace process and will play an equally important role in contributing to the implementation of the accord. To view the bishops' statement (in Spanish) on the accord, [click here](#).

[In an interview on September 2](#), Archbishop Luis Augusto Castro Quiroga, president of the Episcopal Conference of Colombia, elaborated on the role of the Church in the peace process, including Pope Francis' decision to decline a formal role in implementing the peace agreement.

For other items related to the Church's role in this historic accord, see the Episcopal Conference of Colombia's [webpage](#).

Reflections on the Church's role in the peace process

Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao, director of the National Social Pastoral Secretariat and Caritas Colombia, reflected on the Church's role in the peace process for a Catholic Peacebuilding Network Convening on Strengthening Catholic Engagement in Peace Processes, August 3-5, at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. The text of his remarks can be found [here](#).

Colombia week of peace and reconciliation

In recognition of Peace Week (September 4-11), Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao released [this video](#), inviting the Catholic Church of Colombia to embrace the week as an opportunity "to unite around prayer and action for peace." In his video message, Msgr. Henao emphasizes the need "to commit ourselves in the image of Jesus and the good Samaritan," to go forth in the spirit of forgiveness and heal wounds, as well as to overcome hatred and division.

Notre Dame's Kroc Institute to monitor implementation of the Colombian peace accord

The Colombia peace accord gives the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies primary responsibility for technical verification and monitoring of implementation of the accord through the Peace Accords Matrix(PAM) Barometer Initiative. This is the first time a university-based research center has played such a direct role in supporting the implementation of a peace agreement. More information on the Kroc Institute's role in the implementation of the accord can be found [here](#).

While the agreement is incredibly complex and the question of whether implementation will go as expected remains unanswered, John Paul Lederach, Professor of International Peacebuilding at the Kroc Institute and Senior Fellow with Humanity United, believes PAM's barometer approach will facilitate continual improvement of implementation capacities. For more information on how the barometer approach and Kroc/PAM technical support will allow for "the robust implementation of the Colombian accord" read Lederach's [most recent blog post](#).

South Sudan: South Sudan Council of Churches sends Message to UN Security Council

On September 3, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) sent a message to the United Nations Security Council Delegation to South Sudan advocating "for a collectively focused strategy with the involvement of all peace partners ranging from [the] National, Regional and International scene." The SCC calls upon the UN Security Council to support the presidency of South Sudan in non-violent dialogue, redouble its efforts to engage all stakeholders, help create a platform for economic stability, and to reiterate and sustain the call for peace, reconciliation, recovery, and rehabilitation. The full text of SCC's message to the UN Security Council can be found [here](#).

CPN Convening on Strengthening Catholic Engagement in Peace Processes

From August 3-5, the Catholic Peacebuilding Network sponsored a Convening on Strengthening Catholic Engagement in Peace Processes. Held at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC., this convening was co-sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame; Caritas Internationalis; Catholic Relief Services; the Office of International Justice and Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; the Berkley Center for

Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University; and the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, The Catholic University of America. Some 30 peacebuilders from 10 countries attended. The meeting will contribute to the development of resources to assist Catholic institutions in strategic planning for engagement in peace processes, transitional justice and reconciliation, and efforts to address conflicts associated with extractives.

Bishops and Scholars from Europe and the USA Renew Efforts on Nuclear Disarmament

On May 24-25, 40 bishops, Catholic scholars, and policy specialists from 9 countries gathered in London to strengthen Catholic efforts to highlight the theological and moral dimensions of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. The video of the public event can be found by clicking [here](#).

This Colloquium on Catholic Approaches to Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament was **sponsored by the Catholic Peacebuilding Network; the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and London Global Gateway; the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; Deutsche Bischofskonferenz; Justice et Paix, Conférence des évêques de France; the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace; Institut für Theologie und Frieden; Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.** More information about the event can be found on the [Kroc Institute's website](#).

This event was part of a wider initiative, sponsored by Notre Dame's Kroc Institute, the USCCB's Office of International Justice and Peace, Georgetown's Berkley Center, and Boston College, that has included [a major Colloquium at Stanford](#) hosted by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry (April 2014); a symposium at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops headquarters (September 2014), and [public events at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs](#) (May 2015)) and [in Washington tied to the visit of Pope Francis](#) (September 2015).

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

On-line Courses: CRS-CPN on-line Course on Catholic Approaches to Peacebuilding

This academic year, CRS Faculty Learning Commons in partnership with CPN, will offer four academic modules under the theme of Peacebuilding: [What is Peacebuilding and what is Catholic about it?](#); [Civil Society, the Church & Peace Process](#); [After the Peace Accord: Transitional Justice and Reconciliation](#); and [Inter-religious Dialogue and Action](#).

“The purpose of this course,” says Gerard Powers, professor of the practice of Catholic peacebuilding at the Kroc Institute at the University of Notre Dame and Chair of the Catholic **Peacebuilding Network**, “is to bring the untold – mostly untold – story of Catholic peacebuilding to a much wider community and to put it in the context of rich tradition of Catholic reflection on the ethics of war and peace. And our focus will particularly relate that rich tradition of reflection **and ethics of war and peace to the ethics of peacebuilding.**”

In each module, you can find a variety of resources – all of which are intended for bachelor- or masters-level courses. To access and use the material, however, CRS asks that you register (so that they can keep track of the value of this program).

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to cpn@nd.edu. To unsubscribe to this listserv, respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading. If you have received this email as a forward, you may subscribe to the listserv by emailing cpn@nd.edu. Connect with us on Twitter [@Catholic_Peace](https://twitter.com/Catholic_Peace).

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze "best practices," expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.

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