

Newsletter

Creating Safer Space

June 2022



Welcome

Creating Safer Space is an international research network, which aims to understand and support unarmed civilian protection and self-protection amidst violent conflict.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are delighted to announce the outcome of our recent funding competition. We look forward to supporting 13 research projects that will further our understanding of unarmed civilian protection and self-protection amidst violent conflicts around the world. We received a large number of applications for funding, and we regret that we were not able to fund all high quality projects.

Drawing upon insights from the funding panel meetings, the *Creating Safer Space* network invites you to an event where we will share top tips on how to write a successful grant application. This will be relevant for anyone who is planning to write a research grant application in the future, for any funder, regardless of whether you applied for our grant schemes or not.

Outcome of Funding Competition

The *Creating Safer Space* network has recently held a funding competition, and we have awarded funding to 13 research projects that will further our understanding of unarmed civilian protection and self-protection amidst violent conflict.

Projects will focus on the core countries of the *Creating Safer Space* network – Colombia, South Sudan, Myanmar and the Philippines – and we are also pleased to support projects in Cameroon, Palestine and Nigeria.

Four of the successful projects are led by organisations in the Global South. The remaining are led by UK universities, but all include co-investigators and/or project partners from the Global South.

The *Creating Safer Space* funding panel was impressed with the high quality of the applications. We received 59 applications in total, of which 50 projects met the basic eligibility criteria. We sincerely regret that we are not able to fund all high quality projects.

Successful Large Grants

We received 29 eligible applications for our Large Grant scheme, and were able to fund 6 projects. We are pleased to announce the successful projects:

‘Ritualising’ protection in conflict: a collaborative visual ethnography of the cultural and spiritual protection practices of the Nasa people in Colombia

Piergiuseppe Parisi (University of York), Ana Deida Secue Rivera (Resguardo Indígena de Huellas Caloto)

Community strategies for Unarmed Civilian Protection in South-West Colombia: local experiences and lessons learned

Juan Mario Díaz (University of Sheffield), Simon Rushton (University of Sheffield), Arlene B. Tickner (Universidad del Rosario), Jesús Alfonso Flórez López (Universidad Autónoma de Occidente), Natalia Campo (Universidad Autónoma de Occidente), Adrián Alzate (Universidad Autónoma de Occidente), Corporación Memoria y Paz, Central Cooperativa Indígena del Cauca, Escuela Agroambiental El Arraigo - Comunidad del Lerma, Pastoral Social Popayán

Understanding Community-level Spontaneous Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP): A Comparative Study of Initiatives in South Sudan, Myanmar and Colombia

Mark Owen (University of Winchester), Luke Abbs (University of Winchester), Andrei Gomez-Suarez (University of Winchester), Karen Arteaga Garzon (Rodeemos el Diálogo - Embrace Dialogue), Sapai Khaing (Religions for Peace Myanmar), Flora Francis Bringi (Organization for Nonviolence and Development)

Gender-just landscapes: Gender based violence and community protection in land, natural resource and climate conflicts

Lora Forsythe (University of Greenwich), Javier Lautaro Medina Bernal (Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular), Aliyu Barau (Bayero University Kano), Timothy F. Salomon (Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), Uche Okpara (University of Greenwich), Tilman Brück (University of Greenwich)

Strategies for Safety and Solidarity: understanding protection through creativity in South Sudan and Colombia

Kara Blackmore (London School of Economics and Political Science), José Fernando Serrano-Amaya (University of Los Andes), Rebecca Lorins (University of Juba), Likikiri Collective, Manuela Lara (Independent Artist)

Exploring Community Perceptions and Coping Strategies on Violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar

Abellia Anggi Wardani (Center for Social Integrity, Myanmar)

Successful Small Grants

We received 21 eligible applications for our Small Grant scheme, and were able to fund 7 projects. We are pleased to announce the successful projects:

Exploring unarmed civilian self-protection in Cameroon's Anglophone conflict

Gordon Crawford (Coventry University), James Kiven Kewir (African Leadership Centre Nairobi), Nancy Annan (Coventry University), Bernard Sakah (Big Steps Outreach Network), Atim Evenye Niger-Thomas (Authentic Memorial Empowerment Foundation), Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh (Women for a Change), Cameroon Anglophone Crisis Database of Atrocities

Mapping and Responding to Vulnerability through Nonviolent Collective Actions in Buenaventura, Colombia

Manuel Müller (FOR Peace Presence), Kati Hinman (FOR Peace Presence / Drexel University), Roberto Rodríguez (Colectivo ANSUR / Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

The Social Process of Guarantees of Antioquia, Colombia, an experience of unarmed civil protection with indigenous and peasant communities of Bajo Cauca

Astrid Torres Ramírez (Corporación Jurídica Libertad), Winston Gallego Pamplona (Corporación Jurídica Libertad), Fundación Sumapaz, Antioquia Node of the Coordination Colombia Europe United States

Unarmed civilian protection through collective impact: Learning from the Jos Stakeholders Centre for Peace (JSCP) for enhanced civilian protection in Maiduguri, north-eastern Nigeria

Sukanya Podder (King's College London), Pwakim Jacob Choji (Youth Initiative Against Violence and Human Rights Abuse)

Safety and dignity: Enhancing unarmed civilian protection amongst Palestinian communities in the South Hebron Hills

Marwan Darweish (Coventry University), Andrew Rigby (Coventry University), Mahmoud Soliman (Al-Shmoh Cultural Centre)

Visualising early warning and preparedness in civilian protection: Investigating local vernaculars of community adaptations to insecurity

Chas Morrison (Coventry University), Haji Elias Hillary (Lomore Development Organization), Diria Vicky Thomas (Community Aid for Relief and Development)

Development of civil protection capacities in women displaced by the armed conflict through popular communication and Community Legal Empowerment

Luisa Maria Colonia (Masterpeace Cali), Gustavo Suárez (Universidad del Valle), Fundación Carvajal, Unicatólica, Humanos: Foro Iberoamericano de Periodistas en DDHH

Workshop on how to write a grant application

Drawing upon insights from the funding panel meetings, the *Creating Safer Space* network invites you to an event where we will share top tips on how to write a successful grant application.

Prof. Berit Bliesemann de Guevara (Aberystwyth University, UK), Prof. Beatriz Arias (University of Antioquia, Colombia) and Prof. Rachel Julian (Leeds Beckett University, UK) will summarize some key insights from the *Creating Safer Space* funding panel. This will be relevant for anyone who is planning to write a research grant application in the future (for any research funder), regardless of whether you applied for our grant schemes or not. Unsuccessful applicants for our grant schemes, who participate in the workshops, will also be welcome to request more specific feedback on their own proposals.

English language workshop:

9.00 – 10.00 am UTC on Thursday 23 March

[Register here](#)

Spanish language workshop:

2.00 – 3.00 pm UTC on Thursday 23 March (9.00 – 10.00 am in Colombia)

[Register here](#)

All welcome. Once you have registered for the workshop, you will receive an email with Zoom joining details.

External News and Events

The **Arts and Humanities Research Council** invites research grant applications, for projects involving equitable collaboration between indigenous and non-indigenous researchers and communities. Projects must be led by UK organisations that are eligible for UKRI funding, and awards can be up to GBP £350,000. The deadline is 9 August 2021. More information is available here: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/research-partnerships-with-indigenous-researchers/>

Creating Safer Space
Department of International Politics
Aberystwyth University
Penglais Aberystwyth
SY23 3FE, Wales, UK

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