

# Peace only works if everyone wants it

Peace is more than laying down arms; it cannot simply be prescribed like a medicine. It can only be achieved through common endeavour between all parties to a conflict and the affected populations. This often requires all those involved to overcome deep divisions.

As our local partner organisations are firmly embedded in their respective societies and cultures, CPS experts always work with these bodies. Our experts offer the added benefit of providing fresh perspectives from outside and giving effective impetus and support to peacebuilding processes.



In crisis regions, the Civil Peace Service contributes towards:

- preventing violent conflicts from erupting,
- resolving conflicts peacefully,
- building structures and institutions which help secure a long-term peace.

The CPS is therefore an important element of German development and peacebuilding policy, and is to be further expanded over the coming years.

# Diversity is our strength

The CPS is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and its work is carried out by 8 German peace and development organisations, of which only one is a government agency. Their diversity is one of the strengths of the CPS, as they possess an extensive network of access to a number of civil society organisations within our partner countries. Furthermore, they facilitate our work through the wide spectrum of experience, expertise and approaches that they offer.



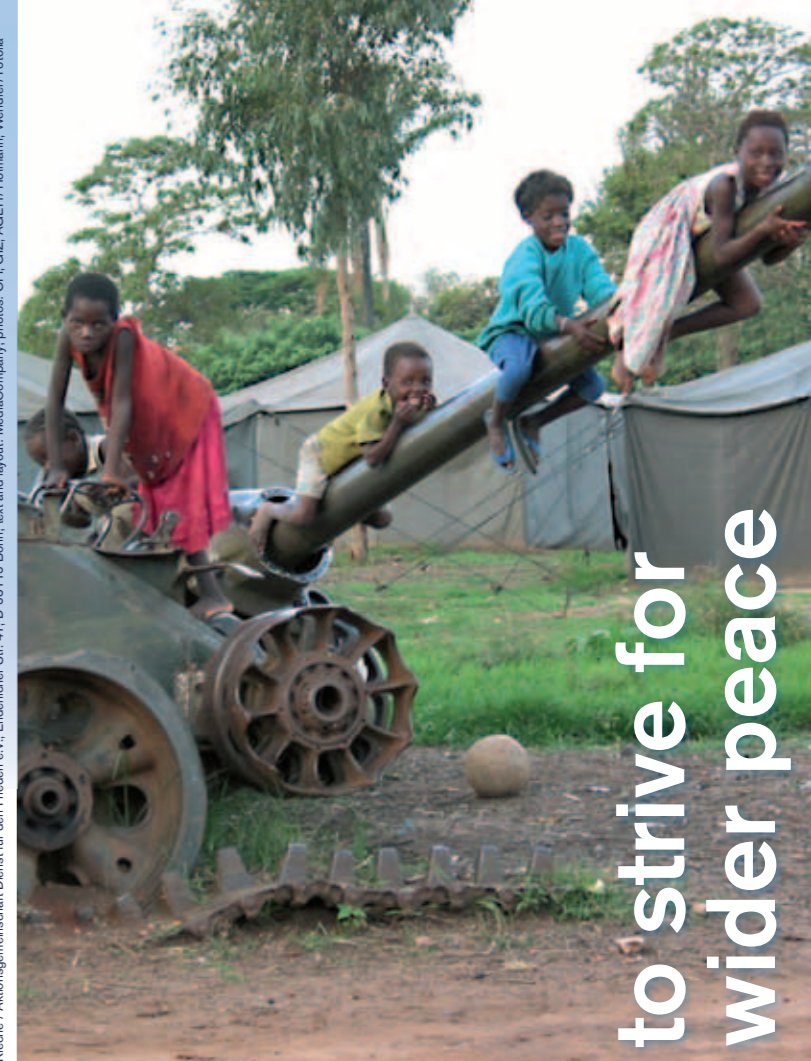
To find out more about the CPS, the work we do and expert recruitment opportunities, visit us at:

[www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org](http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org)



**Ziviler Friedensdienst  
Civil Peace Service**

**We don't turn our backs on conflict.**



# Daring to strive for wider peace

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way to go



CPS experts work in a complex environment. Their varied areas of work demand not just dedication and life experience, but also a well-grounded range of skills – from conflict analysis to mediation in peace processes and providing advice to traumatised survivors of violence. The Civil Peace Service's operating agencies therefore ensure that experts are selected carefully and are thoroughly prepared for their assignments overseas, which last several years.



The civil way is the

It is not only wars between states that threaten peace; violence can also escalate within states. Civil wars and conflicts over water, pasture or raw materials inflict deep physical and psychological wounds – and can often spark subsequent confrontations.

The aim of the Civil Peace Service (CPS) is to contain the outbreak of violence without resorting to arms, in doing so reinforcing civil structures for peaceful conflict resolution. Since 1999, hundreds of specially-trained CPS experts have been sent to crisis regions, to help overcome climates of fear and mistrust.

Working jointly with local organisations, they mediate in conflicts, train local experts in conflict management, bring the concerns of disadvantaged groups to the attention of the public, and ease the reintegration of former combatants into civilian life. They work with traumatised victims of violence, or help refugees to return and to be reintegrated into their home societies. The experts encourage their local partners both to use tried and tested methods of peaceful conflict resolution, and to strengthen traditional means of conflict resolution.

Worldwide military expenditure outstrips the financial resources available to civil processes for violence prevention and conflict resolution. However, armed conflict cannot bring sustainable, long-term resolutions.

Civil conflict resolution cannot ensure that every crisis will die down. It can, however, open up peaceful ways of reconciling groups with different interests so that they can coexist without violence, thereby laying the foundations for a lasting peace.

Rather than attempting to pick up the pieces afterwards, it makes greater sense to prevent the outbreak of violence in the first place.



The approaches to civil conflict transformation are many and varied. CPS experts will support their local partners in a variety of areas, including their efforts to

- put across methods and concepts of civil conflict resolution
- dismantle enemy stereotypes, for example by introducing new syllabuses in schools
- strengthen legal security at local level
- provide psychological and social counselling to victims of violence
- reintegrate former combatants into society
- create opportunities for dialogue among parties to a conflict
- help vulnerable groups to achieve recognition for their concerns
- help returning refugees to reintegrate into civilian life
- train journalists to defuse rather than fuel tensions by conflict sensitive reporting
- campaign for human rights

facets

Work that has many