

Newsletter

Creating Safer Space

March 2025



Dear All,

We are very happy to share our new Creating Safer Space brochure – find out about our research findings, our projects, and our achievements over the last five years!

The Creating Safer Space exhibition visited Brussels in February, and it is now back in the UK. It will be on show in Cardiff next week, with a reception tomorrow night – all welcome.

Finally, we are very happy to share two new publications from our projects – learn about community-led civilian protection in Myanmar/Thailand and Cameroon.

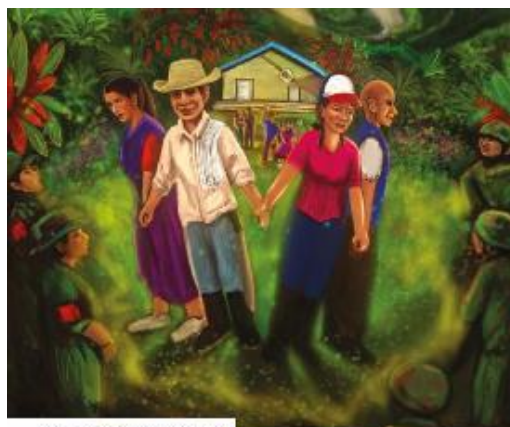
New Brochure on *Creating Safer Space* Research

The Creating Safer Space network has published a [new brochure](#).

The brochure provides information about our activities and achievements over the last five years. It also features a summary of our key research findings, and an outline of the *Creating Safer Space* model of carrying out research with and for (not “on”) self-protecting communities and UCP practitioners.

The brochure also dedicates two pages to each of our 26 commissioned projects, highlighting the diversity of research approaches and research findings within our network.

A Spanish version of the brochure will be available soon.



Research Network

Creating Safer Space

Insights into civilian capacities for nonviolent (self-) protection in conflict-affected areas.



Arts and Humanities Research Council



Global Challenges Research Fund



Invitation to *Creating Safer Space* Exhibition in Cardiff



The [Creating Safer Space Exhibition](#) will be on show in Cardiff (UK) from 24–28 March. An opening event will be held at 7pm on Saturday 22 March (**tomorrow** - [register here](#)).

The exhibition explores the unexpected power of nonviolence in the protection of civilians living in the midst of violence. It draws on unarmed civilian protection experiences from Cameroon, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Thailand.

The exhibition in Cardiff is co-organised with Academi Heddwch Cymru and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

A new [policy brief](#) has been published for the occasion, focused on the relevance of Creating Safer Space research in the Welsh context.

Creating Safer Space Exhibition Visited Brussels

The Creating Safer Space Exhibition was on show at Quaker House Brussels from 4-7 February 2025.

On the first day, we held a policy event on “Civilians and Nonviolence in Crisis Preparedness and Management”, with guest speakers from Nonviolent Peaceforce, the European Commission and the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



During the week, we also held two brown bag lunches. The first focused on protective accompaniment and community-led Unarmed Civilian Protection in Colombia, with a speaker from Peace Brigades International. The second focused on protecting human rights defenders, with speakers from the South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network and Nonviolent Peaceforce.



The Role of Arts in Facilitating Learning

Prof. Berit Bliesemann de Guevara (*Creating Safer Space* Principal Investigator) and Prof Nerve Macaspac (*Creating Safer Space* Co-Investigator) will discuss the role of arts in facilitating learning on Wednesday 26 March ([register here](#)).

This seminar is part of the [Connected and Creative Learning Webinar Series](#), organised by the Decolonising Peace Education in Africa network, which is open to all and taking place between 24 – 28 March ([register here](#)).

News from *Creating Safer Space* Projects



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Scholars at Risk: Understanding vulnerability and violence faced by Myanmar refugee scholars in northern Thailand](#)' has published a report, [Understanding Practices of Protection and Resilience: Co-producing knowledge among Myanmar scholars-in-exile](#). The report is edited by Aung Kyaw Thein and Elliot Lodge. It investigates the protection mechanisms and resilience strategies of Myanmar scholars and communities displaced to Thailand following the military coup in 2021. Key findings highlight the importance of proactive agency, networks of trust, mutual aid, collective action, and rebuilding communal spaces in fostering resilience.



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Exploring unarmed civilian self-protection in Cameroon's Anglophone conflict](#)' has published a factsheet for policy-makers, [Unarmed Civilian Self-Protection in Cameroon's Anglophone Conflict](#). It is written by Gordon Crawford, Nancy Annan, James Kiven Kewir, Atim Evenye Niger-Thomas, Bernard Nsaidzedze Sakah, Zonziwoh Mbongulo-Wondieh. It was disseminated at a workshop for policy-makers in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The factsheet is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

External News

The Journal of Pacifism and Nonviolence has published an article by Louise Ridden, [Protection through Vulnerability: A Gendered Analysis of Unarmed Civilian Protection](#) (open access).

The Institute of International Studies at Universitas Gadjah Mada has published a book, edited by Diah Kusumaningrum, with [Reflections on Nonviolent Resistance in Indonesia and the World](#) (open access) – in Bahasa Indonesian only, with English version to follow.

The Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation has published a working paper by Christine Schweitzer, [Unarmed Civilian Protection: Lessons for Planning for Social Defence](#) (open access, in English and German).

The UCP/A Community of Practice is holding a seminar with Tech4Peace on [Countering Misinformation and Disinformation in Conflict-Affected Contexts](#) on Thursday 27 March at 15.00 UTC. Join [here](#) for the Zoom meeting (Meeting ID: 897 8251 0967; Passcode: 196426).

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