

Call to Action: Strengthening Community-Led Approaches to Unarmed Civilian Protection in Cameroon

The findings of this research highlight the resilience, creativity, and agency of local communities in protecting themselves amidst conflict. However, these efforts need reinforcement, recognition, and support to strengthen its sustainability and effectiveness.

We call on:

1. Local Communities & Civil Society Organizations

- Continue fostering collective protection strategies, including early warning systems and community-led security measures.
- Engage in dialogue and social cohesion activities to counter intimidation and rebuild trust.
- Continue sensitizing citizens of existing and emerging protection strategies and their related risks to enable their preparedness in mitigating threats and violence.

2. International Organizations, Diplomatic Missions & Donors

- Provide funding and technical support to strengthen local unarmed civilian protection initiatives.
- Prioritize bottom-up, community-led approaches rather than externally imposed solutions.
- Prioritize the safety, protection and dignity of civilians

3. Practitioners, Academics & Policy Makers

- Utilize the findings from this research to inform policies on civilian protection and peacebuilding.
- Collaborate with local actors to develop context-specific, nonviolent protection mechanisms.

4. The United Nations & Humanitarian Agencies

- Integrate locally led self-protection measures into broader protection frameworks.
- Ensure that the voices and strategies of local communities shape the UN's "Civilian-Centered Approaches" to protection.

5. The government of Cameroon to make their relevance felt in the conflict-affected regions, supporting and ensuring the protection of civilians

Join the Movement!

Let's work together to empower local communities, reduce harm, and create safer spaces through nonviolent civilian protection. Partner with us, advocate for local solutions, and help us drive meaningful change.

Visit Creating Safer Space (<https://creating-safer-space.com/>) for research insights and opportunities to collaborate.

#UnarmedCivilianProtection #CommunitySecurity #AnglophoneConflict #Peacebuilding