



## **WHO WE ARE 2020-2021**

**SHALOM CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND RECONCILIATION**

**P.O Box 827-00606, Nairobi, Kenya**

**E-mail: [info@shalomconflictcenter.org](mailto:info@shalomconflictcenter.org)**

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## WHO WE ARE 2020-2021; SYNOPSIS

### 2020; Shalom-SCCRR Interventions

Currently, Shalom works in **28 conflict environments** suffering persistent killing's, maiming's, displacements, and the marginalization and deprivations associated with structural violence.

**27 Conflict Transformation peace-building workshops addressing issues of** inter-ethnic conflict, religious ideological extremism, conflict resolution methodologies, negotiation mediation dynamics, and reconciliation processes in the aftermath of electoral violence, and development initiatives.

**2,268** Key Peace Stakeholders (**women and men**) in conflict zones trained and empowered by Shalom-SCCRR with **Conflict Transformation/Peacebuilding Analytical Skills and Techniques**

**28 Shalom-SCCRR supported Peace Groups** active in constant assessment of conflict dynamics and timely prevention of emerging **COVID-19 related conflicts**

**18** Operational **Shalom-SCCRR supported Peace and Conflict Monitoring mechanisms** facilitating local Conflict Management & Response Frameworks and **252** Assessments and Interventions

**24** Conflict **Negotiation** and **Mediation** forums implemented with grassroot communities

**33** School/Educational Development Projects Completed, benefiting **11,254** boys and girls.

**Shalom-SCCRR** offers a **UNIVERSITY ELECTIVE COURSE** (Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation) at Tangaza University College, (The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, CUEA) empowering Students of all, faiths from Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America. Members of Shalom staff offer training in other institutes also.

**27 Shalom-SCCRR supported Health Centers in Marginalized areas** provided with **Medical and Personal Protective Equipment (COVID-19 focused PPEs, etc.)** with a population reach of about **500,000**

**32** Health Care workers trained through Shalom funded workshops

**2** Children's Rescue Centers supported with food, education/learning materials and other essential necessities

**Funded** project interventions **preventing Human Trafficking** in Eastern Africa

**37** Shalom-SCCRR established and supported **SHALOM Peace Clubs** comprising of **13,000 pupils and students**, implementing conflict transformation activities in areas affected by interethnic conflicts/religious ideological extremism and marginalization.

Your solidarity and ongoing support to this work is having great results in terms of sustainable peace and development. We are all interconnected and interdependent in our concern for human life, dignity and rights. Shalom will professionally deliver for those in need, and for you. Of every \$1 donated, **94%** goes directly into peace and development projects — true lasting value to tens of thousands of less fortunate communities going forward. This funding is immeasurably appreciated by all concerned and affected.

**Please see information and contact details on; [www.shalomconflictcenter.org](http://www.shalomconflictcenter.org)**

**(Contact us also at; [olivernoonan@shalomconflictcenter.org](mailto:olivernoonan@shalomconflictcenter.org) / [pdevine@shalomconflictcenter.org](mailto:pdevine@shalomconflictcenter.org))**

### **OVERVIEW ABSTRACT:**

**Our principal mission is to transform the underlying root causes of manifest violent conflict and marginalization, as distinct from just dealing with the symptoms. The primary task of Shalom (SCRR) is the identification of the underlying causes of conflict and marginalization through the thorough application of empirical research and methodological rigor. This objective is significantly manifested not only in our methodology, findings and interventions, but in the quality of our board, management, staff and partner institutions-collaborators in Africa and around the world (*see below*). On this basis, we empower people in conflict environments to be the architects of their own interdependent future of reconciled coexistence. Significant aspects of this process also pertain to strategic interventions to counter and transform negative radicalization, particularly variables underpinning religious ideological extremism.**

**We work at the grassroots level, simultaneously partnering with people and organizations to accomplish persistent life-changing peace and sustainable development. We are a highly qualified international team of peace and development practitioners, men and women of different faiths, from within and outside Africa, with a life-long commitment to conflict transformation and development. Shalom-SCRR operates as a strictly non-sectarian and inter-religious organization, believing that successful peacebuilding and sustainable development requires the interdependent involvement of people from all backgrounds. We provide advocacy and conceptual support for the ‘**Great Green Wall Project in Africa**’, aimed at preventing the spread of the Sahara Desert and its conflict related dimensions. Shalom give specific attention to elucidating the role of environmental conditions on conflict and a marginalization in Africa and beyond.**

### **Our background:**

Shalom was created in 2009 in the wake of widespread violence and dislocation across Kenya in the aftermath of its disputed elections. The organization was founded by Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, a missionary and social entrepreneur with over 30 years of experience transforming conflict and poverty to peace and livelihood resilience in Africa. Since 2009, we have had quality evidential transformative impacts on sustainable peace and development initiatives in African inter-ethnic conflict environments. The organization has empowered to a

very high standard the transformation capacity of over **19,458** community leaders with analytical skills on the causes and persistence of conflict, and the best current peacebuilding techniques (**2,668 in 2020, of whom 38%**

**were Women**). **These leaders are** comprised of chiefs, village elders, women and religious leaders, government functionaries, youth and other political-economy influential opinion shapers.

Through our school projects, we have been involved in building, upgrading and expanding more than **493 interethnic and interreligious schools projects (263 institutions supported)**; provided **up-to-date learning materials** to more than **155, 790 Pupils/Students**; produced a **peace syllabus** peer reviewed by our qualified academics which is used for educational purposes; and succeeded in the development of inter-ethnic and interreligious education, which are all vital to the process of creating good relationships and human security between former rival communities.



*Shalom-SCRR's Judith Akedi, MA presenting textbooks to Kariobangi North Primary School pupils*



***Shalom-SCCRR is continuously making a difference in marginalized inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflict environs in Eastern Africa. Through education, peace and development can be achieved. Marodhile primary school in North Eastern Kenya has received educational and development assistance from Shalom-SCCRR***

We have been particularly active in the Kenya border areas near Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, and Uganda. These locations experience manifest inter-tribal conflict and marginalization violence, recurrently heightened by nomadic pastoralist lifestyle's that necessitates movement over official borders and unofficial boundaries for survival. **It is in these areas that Shalom's investment is key, working with 16 ethnic groups, conducting workshops and implementing development projects aimed at helping to end the cycles of violence.**



***Shalom-SCCRR's staff member Ms. Asha Awed MA, engaging pupils in an interethnic/interreligious school in Northern Kenya.***

We are also making significant contributions within Nairobi's impoverished urban settlements. **Kibera is considered the largest urban slum in the world** and its inhabitants are frequently subject to high levels of violence and sectarian strife. Our team is persistently active with key community groups including elders, chiefs, women, youth and religious institutions, increasing their capacities to settle and resolve conflict in a constructive enduring approach, ensuring progressive peaceful coexistence between all the communities.

#### **OUR APPROACH AT COMMUNITY LEVELS:**

The primary task of Shalom (SCCRR) is the identification of the underlying causes of conflict and marginalization through the application of empirical research utilizing methodological rigor to its optimum. This is the guiding foundation for core conflict transformation interventions. Shalom gives optimal significance to building authentic relationships with and between community leaders, elders and key influential opinion shapers in the conflict zones. This community insertion responds to their felt needs for sustainable peace and to strengthen the opportunities for development, particularly inter-religious and inter-ethnic education. **The Shalom team spends quality time hearing the perceptions and concerns of these key opinion shapers on both**

**sides in conflict or war environments, before implementing training workshops.** We train these key members of the community who have further tangible influence in conflict resolution and reconciliation skills, professionally empowering them to apply these principles to their living context. This allows us to carefully

evaluate our progress in each context and to adapt our peace and development programmes specifically to each situation.



***Shalom-SCRR's Program Manager Urban Settlements Mrs. Joyce Wamae, MA and Mr. Francis Mwangi, MA Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning Officer facilitating a joint trust-building meeting between Samburu and Turkana women in Tuum, Samburu County.***



*Community forum for conflict pre-assessment at Koro, Ethiopia; facilitating the session are: Shalom-SCRR's Mr. Paulson Erot, MA, Mr. Davis Wafula (SAPCONE) and Mr. Peter Korobe representing Peace and Development Center, Ethiopia.*

### **INTERVENTIONS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES**

We play a key role through the introduction and teaching of **Peace Studies in Tertiary Education facilities** in Nairobi. For at Tangaza University we have provided a course for the past 10 years on *'Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation'*, attended by students of Theology and Islamic Studies in Africa. Many of our staff and associates have been involved in teaching the core principles of conflict transformation, diplomacy, social research, statistics, and peacebuilding at some of the most esteemed academic institutions in East Africa. This contribution to teaching at the **higher-education level** has an enormous long-term life changing impact across policy formulation, families, generations and nations. The Shalom-SCRR developed **Peace syllabus continues to be piloted and introduced into primary and secondary education**; we are working closely with government officials for the advancement of this invaluable strategy. **Almost 400 units of solar lighting have been provided** to these schools; it provides immense support to the all-round development of children living in disadvantaged areas which have no electricity.



*Fr. Oliver Noonan, MA, Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwaina, Dean of Theology and Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, with the Tangaza University College students on completion of the 'Conflict resolution and reconciliation' course.*

### **EMPOWERMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PEACE PRACTITIONERS AND ORGANISATIONS**

Shalom works in cooperation with other significant actors at local, regional and international levels. This is based on the understanding that partnerships are vital in furthering our interventions and the ripple on effect

for peace and development in other parts of the world. We have partner relationships with numerous community and faith-based organizations of various traditions and beliefs. Shalom has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) comprised of eight countries

in Eastern/Horn of Africa; with AMECEA (Associated Membership of Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa); with the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queens University, Belfast, N. Ireland, and with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at the National University of Ireland in Maynooth.

### **INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

Shalom personnel have been invited to deliver numerous presentations and lectures on its pioneering methodology in places such as, **University of San Diego (2019)**, *'Conflict Methodologies and Processes'*, **DePaul University, Chicago (2018)** *'On the Ground in Eastern Africa: Creating Peace Amid Conflict and Religious Ideological Extremism'*, **United Nations Conference Center Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2018)** for AMECEA on *'Religious Ideological Extremism' and the 'Environment and Conflict'*, **Queens University, Belfast (2018)** in Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Security, the **'Lieutenant General Dermot Earley Memorial Lecture 2018'**, at **Maynooth University Ireland**, titled, *"Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa"* upon a combined invitation from the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention and the Irish Defense Forces, the **University of Texas , Austin and the University of Houston, Texas (2017)**, **Harvard Law School's Negotiation and Mediations Clinical Program (2016)** on Innovative *'Approaches to Interethnic Conflict Management in Eastern Africa'* , **Edward Kennedy Institute Maynooth University (2015)**, in the **Clinton Peace School** in Northern Ireland (2013), as well as a presentation in Washington D.C, 2016 on *'Radicalization and Extremism'*, **Recently, the article 'Radicalization and Extremism in Easter Africa; Dynamics and Drivers', by Patrick Devine, was published in the distinguished 'Journal of Mediation and Applied Conflict Analysis'.**



**Chicago's DePaul University's President, Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban and his wife Josephine, with Shalom- SCCRR's Executive Chairman, Fr. Patrick Devine PhD who was invited to give a presentation there, titled, 'On the**



***Ground in Eastern Africa: Creating Peace Amid Conflict & Religious Extremism' (Nov, 2018), Included also are Prof. Stan Ilo, Mrs. Donna. O'Rourke (2nd left), who travelled from San Diego for the lecture, and Prof. Patrick Chibuko, Nigeria.***

### **SCCRR PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS:**

IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development, - HQ in Djibouti , comprised of 8 Countries in Horn of Africa) MoU; SCOA USA (501c3); SCCRR, Republic of Ireland, (Registered); N. Ireland/UK, (Registered); Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University Belfast, (N. Ireland) MoU; Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention, NUI Maynooth, (Republic of Ireland) MoU; AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa) MoU; Society of African Missions (SMA); Tangaza University College/Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya; Trocaire; Shalom Network for Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation, (Cote D'Ivoire – West Africa); SCCRR Committees; Britain, Australia; Harvard Law School, (USA), March 2016; Project Common Bond ( USA ) , Jan, 2017; College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas, Austin, TX, Oct, 2017, DePaul University Chicago, Nov 2018. We are truly grateful to you,

Yours sincerely,

### **SHALOM-SCCRR TEAM-EAST AFRICA**

#### **Board of Directors (Kenya)**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, PhD, MA, BD, Dip Mission Studies, Chairman

Prof. Robert Mudida, PhD, MSC, MA, BD, Board Member (Kenya)

Dr. Michael Comerford, PhD, MA, BD, BA, Board Member, (South Sudan)

Rev. Oliver Noonan MA, BD, Dip Mission Studies, Board Member, (Eastern Africa)

Ms. Rosaline Serem, MBA, BA, Board Member, (Kenya)

Mr. Sean White, MSC, BA, Board Member (Kenya)

Rev. Janus Machota, BD, BA Board Member, (Tanzania)

Rev. Oliver Noonan MA, BD, Dip Mission Studies, Executive Director

#### **Management**

Prof. Wanakayi K Omoka PhD, MA, BA, Director of Research

Mr. Godfrey Okoth MA, BA, Director of Programs

Mrs. Joyce Wamae MA, BA, Program Manager

Mr. Paulson Erot, MA, BA, Program Manager

Mr. Francis Mwangi MA, BA, M&E&R&L Coordinator

Mrs. Judith Akedi-Linus MA, BA, Program Officer, Team Leader

Mr. Austin Ngacha, MA, BA, Program Officer, (Educational School Projects), Team Leader

Mr. Arthur Magero, MA, BA, Program Officer, Team Leader

Ms. Esther Kibe, MA, BA, Program Officer, Team Leader

Mr. Kennedy Odhiambo, MA, BA, Program Officer

Ms. Asha Said Awed, MA, BA, Program Assistant

Mr. Ken Otieno, Transport /Logistics Coordinator, Further Studies

Mr. Kipkoech Kipruto. ACCA, Accountant, Further Studies

Mr. Remmy Ndiema, B.BM, CPA, Accountant (Intern), Further Studies

***International Volunteer Consultants***

**Background experience**

Mr. Patrick Geysen, MA

(Former Deputy Head of EU Delegation, Djibouti)

Ms. Sheena McMullen, MA, BA,

(Peace and Reconciliation Studies, N. Ireland/UK)

Ms. Matilda Brodin, LL.M.

(Harvard Law School, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden  
D.R.Congo)

Ms. Fabiana Pardi Otamendi, LLM

(Harvard Law School, UN Human Rights, Freshfields  
Bruckhaus Deringer, France)

Rev. Dr. Michael McCabe, BA, BD

(SMA, Ireland; Inter-Faith Dialogue)

Rev. Michel Savadogo, MA, BA, BD

(Shalom Branch, Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa)

Dr. Conrad Bosire, PhD, MA, BA,

(Constitutionalism and Devolution, Kenya, East Africa)

Mrs. Nancy Mirara, MA

Counselor-Psychology, Ebul-bul Education & Counselling Center  
(EECC), Mediator in A.D.R

<https://shalomconflictcenter.org/>

## ***Support Shalom-SCCRR'S work for Sustainable Peace and Development***



The Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation focuses on the root cause of violence and poverty in the tribal lands of eastern Africa. It was created in 2009 to address the persistent widespread violence and dislocation across northern Kenya, and in the wake of the disputed 2007 national elections. Shalom continues to make acknowledged life-changing enduring impacts on peace and development initiatives in strategically needful regions, particularly in Eastern Africa.

Our mission implementation depends also on the vision, kindness and assistance of perceptive donors and supporters – people like yourself who believe that peace is the answer and that human beings can live together not just in the absence of war but in progressive mutual coexistence. Interethnic and interreligious dialogue and praxis (Dia-Praxis), especially education, are vital components in this process. Our interventions in conflict environments are wholly oriented towards peace, development and reconciliation between communities at the grass-roots. We can do something great and noble together.

The Shalom (SCCRR) Team in Africa, our leadership, our volunteers and the communities we collaborate with, remain extremely grateful for your solidarity. Your sustenance and contributions brings peace, security and hope to thousands of men, women and children. Our overall mission is to work for a society free of physical violence and unjust social structures in Africa, transforming violence and marginalization, generating peaceful and progressive communities achieving a secure future in their own environments.

Thank you for your solidarity, your prayers, and your generosity.

Sincerely,

Fr. Patrick Devine, PhD

**Shalom-SCCRR International Chairman, (Africa, USA, R.o.Ireland, N. Ireland-UK)**

**Tel;** Africa +254 733 612503; Europe; +44 7741 260 743; USA +1 917 922 6649;  
[pdevine@shalomconflictcenter.org](mailto:pdevine@shalomconflictcenter.org)

## Eastern Africa: Shalom-SCCRR receives United Nations (UN) Accreditation



The United Nations Department of Global Communications has approved Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) to be associated with the Department which works with diverse civil society organisations ranging from small groups to subsidiaries of large networks and academic institutions around the world. The organizations associated with the Department gain access to UN Headquarters in New York to attend meetings, events and informational sessions, and to network with other organisations and UN entities.

This recognition of Shalom by the UN is an opportunity for it to work with the 1,500 associated NGOs in furthering the goals and objectives of creating a better and more peaceful world together. These NGOs also play an important role using their own communications platforms with their members and beneficiaries to highlight commitments made by governments and world leaders, such as the agreement by world leaders to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Our application for accreditation was strongly supported by the United Nations Centre for Information (UNIC) in Kenya, Uganda and the Seychelles, by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in eight countries with a population of around 300 million people in Eastern Africa, and by Tangaza University College in Nairobi. Our board, management and staff are delighted with this global recognition of our peace-building strategy and methodologies.

*See published Articles by **Matt Moran** published below in ICN Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (See also UCA Article, attached below on Oct 11th)*

## **Matt Moran**

The United Nations Department of Global Communications has approved East African-based NGO - the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) - to be associated with the Department. Shalom - SCCRR was founded in Kenya in 2009 by Irish missionary, Fr Patrick Devine SMA, who continues as its International Chairman. Its Country Director in Kenya is another Irish missionary, Fr Oliver Noonan SMA.

The UN Department of Global Communications works with diverse civil society organisations ranging from small groups to subsidiaries of large networks and academic institutions around the world. The organisations associated with the Department gain access to UN Headquarters in New York to attend meetings, events and informational sessions, and to network with other organisations and UN entities.

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Shalom's application for accreditation was strongly supported by the United Nations Centre for Information (UNIC) in Kenya, Uganda and the Seychelles. In its letter of recommendation, the Director of UNIC, Mr. Nasser Ega-Musa, stated: "Shalom benefits from the cooperation of the governments of Eastern Africa that comprise the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. Shalom also partners with international and regional colleges and universities on peace-building courses, as well as religious associations and councils in Africa. We, therefore, have no hesitation in recommending them for the United Nations Department of Public Information accreditation with the confidence that they will be a great asset and will add value to the work of the United Nations".

The application was also supported by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in eight countries with a population of around 300 million people in Eastern Africa, and by Tangaza University College in Nairobi. IGAD pointed out that: "Shalom distinguishes itself by its unique way of working, incorporating theory through research and practice through training on skills in conflict resolution and transformation. The organisation has a growing reputation for its

peace-building work, professionalism, high research ability, and conflict sensitivity. Its well-structured training modules on analytical skills and knowledge of peace-building is a major contributor to our work."

IGAD's endorsement went on: "Shalom respects local cultures and works closely with the adversarial communities at the grassroots to mitigate conflict, turning negative peace to positive peace, hence, building sustainable peace. Beneficiaries of its research and training are highly proficient in applying the skills in resolving conflict in the Horn of Africa. Shalom is unquestionably an exceptional organisation to partner with. Shalom's experience in the region suggests that the UN and it would greatly benefit from this association."

Last month at a strategic planning meeting held in Nairobi for conflict transformation and peace-building practitioners in Eastern Africa, the International Chairman of Shalom, Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, stated that "Conflict has a memory that is robust, resilient and anchored in culture. While peace depends on truth and the realisation of social justice, there can be no reconciliation without the application of mercy also. Reconciliation requires truth, social justice, and mercy being applied inseparably. The distinction between negative peace and positive peace is of critical importance. Specifically, positive peace is epitomised by reconciliation, whereas negative peace is merely the absence of manifest violence without reconciliation being realised".

The peace-building work of Shalom provides valuable experience and learning for the UN which launched its Sustainable Peace Initiative (SPI) in 2018. That Initiative places preventive action and post-conflict peace-building on a par with peace-making and peace-keeping. The report by the Secretary General to the High Level Meeting on Sustaining Peace in April 2018 laid the groundwork for an important policy-breakthrough, empowering civilians with new tools, better management practices, and hopefully new financial resources to contribute to a more integrated and coherent framework for global conflict management that delivers positive peace.

Important features of the Initiative are:

- It elevates the role of civil society and regional organisations in sustaining peace.
- It stresses that the UN development system and development practitioners in general are central to conflict prevention and sustaining peace, and
- It buttresses the case for "more predictable and sustained financing" for civilian-led peace-building through a proposed Funding Compact with Member States, against the backdrop of declining development assistance to conflict-affected countries as a share of global aid.

There is growing recognition that development actors need to provide more support to national and regional prevention agendas through targeted, flexible, and sustained engagement. Prevention agendas, in turn, should be integrated into development policies and efforts, because prevention is cost-effective, saves lives, and safeguards development gains. A joint study in 2018 by the UN and the World Bank - *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* - originated from the conviction on the part of both institutions that the attention of the international community needs to be urgently refocused on the prevention of conflict.

That is precisely the work that Shalom has been doing since its foundation in 2009. It was also the basis of its detailed submission to the public consultation on Ireland's overseas aid policy in August 2018 (<https://shalomconflictcenter.org/submission-to-public-consultation-on-the-irish-aid-white-paper/>). Shalom advanced the view that Ireland's aid policy should prioritise conflict transformation and peace-building that involves the participation of civil society organisations with the appropriate competence and capacity, and that this should be reflected in a meaningful manner in its new strategy. Unfortunately, Ireland's foreign policy, which its development aid programme underpins, remains more focused on "peace-keeping" which is a military approach.

However, Irish Minister of State for International Development, Joe McHugh TD, in an interview after an EU Development Council Meeting held in Brussels on 19 May 2017 to address the humanitarian situation in Africa, Yemen and Syria, and the future of EU-ACP relations and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development quoted Shalom as a good example in peace-building.

The Minister stated: "I pointed to the great work that is being done in Northern Kenya by a group called Shalom - interethnic conflict reconciliation - where for the first time in a particular region, even with drought and massive challenges, peace is holding. So we have to look at the solutions. My message today from Ireland to Europe was: if there are examples that are working we should look at them, and we should support them."

Referring to the important peace and development nexus, Minister McHugh said: "We are focused at how we can look at and examine the root causes of conflict ... looking at peace and reconciliation ... to looking at how we can bring peace which will obviously lead to sustainable development. We can't have sustainable development without peace."

Shalom recognizes that conflict is the single largest driver of humanitarian crises today. According to the UN, over 85% of humanitarian funding is directed to addressing needs in conflict-affected situations, whilst the World Bank estimates that by 2030 more than 60% of the extreme poor will be living in fragile and conflict-affected states. Conflict transformation, peace-building and integral

human development - the thrust of Shalom's work - are a means of bringing about justice to the marginalized who are the victims of human rights abuse intrinsic to the operation of structural violence.

Where justice prevails human rights are by and large not violated. They are adhered to or enforced or are part of the order of things. The realisation of human rights is the underlying and operational motivation, driver and end goal of Shalom's work. Transforming inter-ethnic conflict and religious ideological extremism have been major components of its interventions.

Shalom has signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Edward M Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at the University of Maynooth (<https://shalomconflictcenter.org/the-kennedy-institute-in-ireland-and-the-shalom-centre-collaborate/>) and with the Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queens University Belfast [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32118](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32118) . These memorandums allow for the sharing of research on theory and practice in the complex area of peace-building.

Shalom, staffed by professionally qualified staff, is a non-political, inter-religious, and inter-ethnic organisation registered under Kenyan law, and has support branches in the USA, Republic of Ireland, and N. Ireland / UK. In 2018, Misesan Cara which operates as an agency of Irish Aid in the distribution of funding for missionary development work in the global south, carried out an evaluation of Shalom's strategy and methodologies in conflict transformation and peace-building.

The independent consultant's report stated: "Shalom's contextually driven, rigorous but adaptable and forward-looking methodology represents a model approach towards peace-building in highly complex situations". It stated further: "The approach, with its emphasis on community leadership, stakeholder participation, high technical competency, logic models, results frameworks, stories of change and advocacy linkages also reflects current best practice within both the peace-building and development sectors."

That description demonstrates the rationale for the positive relationships which Shalom - SCCRR enjoys with a broad range of donors, partners and institutions across three continents, including the offices of the UN and the World Bank in Kenya, and now the UN Department of Global Communications in New York.

It is another example of the entrepreneurial spirit and the pioneering work of Irish missionaries in the global south where they have been outstanding ambassadors for Ireland. Fr. Patrick Devine's caring and peace-building work was recognized in 2013 when he received the International Caring Award from The Caring Institute in Washington and joined other recipients of the award who



include the Dalai Lama, former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, Mother Teresa and Senator George Mitchell [www.caring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/13-CARING-Nov.pdf](http://www.caring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/13-CARING-Nov.pdf).

*(Matt Moran is a writer based in Cork in the Republic of Ireland. He is the author of "The Legacy of Irish Missionaries Lives On" available from [www.onstream.ie](http://www.onstream.ie). His forthcoming book is "The Theology of Integral Human Development").*

**Tags:** [Kenya](#), [Shalom](#), [United Nations](#), [Fr Patrick Devine SMA](#), [Fr Oliver Noonan SMA](#), [SCCRR](#), [Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation](#)

Full ICN article on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40609>

### **RELATED ARTICLES OF INTEREST BELOW:**

UCA: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/shalom-ngo-in-kenya-receives-un-accreditation/89841>

[An Understanding of the Work of Shalom-SCCRR in 2019-2020: By Prof. Wanakayi K. Omoka, Ph.D.](#)

## An Understanding of the Work of Shalom SCCRR in 2019-2020

By Prof. Wanakayi K. Omoka, PhD



*Shalom-SCCRR team members, led by Dr. Peter Linus, Director of National Strategy, observing and monitoring Shalom trained community facilitators engaging with warriors on conflict transformation and negotiation road maps.*

Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) is a peacebuilding non-governmental organization that works in Africa. Specifically, the eastern Africa member countries of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Its vision is a society where peace, social justice and reconciliation prevail throughout Africa. Its mission is to work for a society free of physical violence and unjust social structures in Africa. Its main objective is to attain conflict resolution for all people in Africa through empowering local communities engaged in inter-ethnic conflict, and/or wherein religious ideological extremism is espoused, to be architects of their own interdependent future reconciled co-existence.



*Where Shalom-SCCRR works; Shalom-SCCRR's team members, Mrs. Judy Ouma, MA and Ms. Esther Kibe, MA, engaging women leaders from the Turkana community in Sarima, Marsabit County*



*An Ariel view of Kibera slums; one of Nairobi's informal settlements where Shalom-SCCRR works*

Shalom's staff not only have postgraduate qualifications that befit the theoretical and practical demands of peacebuilding but also possess practiced skills in building trust between antagonistic neighbouring communities and attenuating religious ideological extremism. Shalom's vision, mission, and objectives are legitimated by the sacredness and dignity of all human life, human rights, environmental security, and an appreciation for ethnic and religious diversity. Shalom-SCCRR's peacebuilding work in 2019 comprised a set of structured and functionally inter-related initiatives and activities within the purview of inter-ethnic conflict along with a need to attenuate/obviate religious extremism. The initiatives/activities were as follows:

1. Equipping purposively selective locals with analytical skills and peacebuilding techniques for use in conflict problem solving and reconciliation workshops.
2. Generation of sound knowledge of why/how there is inter-ethnic conflict through empirical research on which to base peacebuilding initiatives/activities, and which also lends itself to informing government/IGAD policy practices in the context of localized inter-ethnic/inter-communal conflict occurrences.
3. Augmenting the conflict transformation role capacities of religious organizations, civic organisations, and non-governmental organisations.
4. Training local government administration and security personnel in conflict analysis and procedural peacebuilding approaches to settle and resolve conflicts.
5. Constructing and equipping inter-ethnic and inter-religious schools and institutions with requisite facilities for the purpose of countering, among other things, distrust of ethnic other as well as harbouring or tending to perceive hostile intentions in the behaviour of ethnic other, thereby fostering inter-ethnic/inter-communal peaceful co-existence.



A Shalom - SCCRR's school construction project underway, resulting from peacebuilding interventions in Marsabit County. Shalom is totally committed to inter-ethnic and inter-religious school projects in Eastern Africa

Shalom - SCCRR funded school-classrooms built with the assistance of local people at Laresoro Primary in Samburu County



*Shalom-SCCRR personnel training government officials (security agents) on methodologies and processes to bring about a society free of physical violence, structural violence and the promotion of positive peace among communities.*



***Rev. Oliver Noonan, MA, Shalom-SCCRR's Executive Director with Prof. Wanakayi K. Omoka carrying out empirical research in the conflict-prone Ilemi Triangle.***

At the heart of the Shalom-SCCRR specialised *modus operandi* are collaboration, empowering of local communities in conflict to be analysers, owners and architects of their own inter-dependent future of peaceful co-existence. Shalom-SCCRR invariably uses bottom-up approach which contrasts with diagnostic solutions prescribed from top down. Shalom-SCCRR puts strong emphasis on efficiency, effectiveness, and delivery of value for money in all of its activities. Shalom-SCCRR is grateful indeed to all its donors, partners, and stakeholders who continue to support its peacebuilding effort in Africa.



***Shalom-SCCRR's Director of Programs, Godfrey Okoth, MA engaging Samburu women in Northern Kenya on peace and development strategies for them and their families***



Personally, as an academic and peace practitioner, having devoted my career to social transformation and integral human development in Africa, Shalom-SCCRR is unique in its modus operandi. It is no surprise to me that its distinctive approach has attracted the attention of the some of the highest academic institutions worldwide as well as the interest of authentic qualified social transformation practitioners working in conflict, underdeveloped and marginalized environments in Africa and beyond. The remarkable achievements of its mission implementation are directly related to its management and international corporate stewardship. The vision, field experience, resilience and progressive leadership of Shalom-SCCRR'S international chairman, Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, are truly inspirational, evidenced in peace and development results, productive team work, growing international interest from scholars and policy makers, among other positive life changing dynamics. Fergal Keane (left), the legendary BBC international affairs correspondent and Africa Editor, when internationally reporting on the conflict transformation and peacebuilding work of Shalom-SCCRR in eastern Africa, said, that

***“What they do here matters to all of Africa.”***

I couldn't agree more. It is indispensable that personnel and organizations involved in peace and development work (or planning to do so) are up to performing what the effort calls for as well as being authentic in their commitments. Their motivations and interventions should neither get short-changed by parasitic inclinations and/or abuse of the interventions to the disadvantages of African people. Shalom-SCCRR esteems itself on the pledge of its personnel to the letter of the organizational vision, mission and values. Shalom in 2020 continues to deliver while expanding its efforts to counter the spread of Covid-19, particularly in remote poverty stricken rural locations and urban slum settlements. The human and environmental security of Africa is an imperative for the peace and progress of human dignity throughout the whole world.



***A recent Shalom-SCCRR funded Covid-19 Training at Lodwar for Health Workers (Doctors, Nurses, and other essential personnel), in Turkana County, Northern Kenya. Shalom-SCCRR has been supplying essential equipment and training to medical centers, orphanages in impoverished communities***





**misean cara**  
Mission Support from Ireland

## **Conflict Transformation and Peace Building, Kenya**

Mr Mike Williams, an international development consultant appointed on behalf of Misean Cara recently concluded an effectiveness review of the programme on conflict transformation and peace-building conducted by the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa.

The programme was awarded the highest possible rating with Mr Williams stating that:

*“Shalom’s contextually driven, rigorous but adaptable and forward-looking methodology represents a model approach towards peace-building in highly complex situations, such as those that pertain in Northern Kenya. The approach, with its emphasis on community leadership, stakeholder participation, high technical competency, logic models, results frameworks, stories of change and advocacy linkages also reflects current best practice within both the peace-building and development sectors. ”*

We commend the integrity, leadership, and excellent work by Fr. Patrick Devine, Executive Chairman, Fr. Oliver Noonan, Country Director, and their team at Shalom. We confirm that Shalom is an organisation in good standing in relation to financial administration and corporate governance, and are pleased to have been associated as a donor with its pioneering work from 2011 to 2017.

***Published by Misean Cara, 2019.***

# SMA Provincial Leader commends the work of SHALOM

April 30, 2019



Fr. Padraig Devine and Fr. Ollie Noonan SMA

***“Shalom’s contextually driven, rigorous but adaptable and forward-looking methodology represents a model approach towards peace-building in highly complex situations, such as those that pertain in Northern Kenya. The approach, with its emphasis on community leadership, stakeholder participation, high technical competency, logic models, results frameworks, stories of change and advocacy linkages also reflects current best practice within both the peace-building and development sectors.”*** – Dr. Mike Williams

In 2009, Fr. Padraig Devine SMA, supported by Fr. Ollie Noonan SMA, founded the SHALOM Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) in Nairobi, Kenya. Since then, the organization has achieved remarkable results and has captured the attention of the international media and foreign institutions.

The success of SHALOM is based on its methodology and focus on an integrated and holistic approach to peacebuilding. SHALOM does not react to the symptoms of conflicts but rather attempts to understand and address the underlying causes. In a recent interview with the SMA Communications Department, reflecting on his term as the Provincial Leader of the Irish Province of the Society of African Missions, Fr. Michael McCabe SMA, spoke of his high regard for the work of SHALOM:

“A primary example of our missionaries working in the service of the Church’s mission of Peace and Justice is that of Fr. Padraig Devine and Fr. Oliver Noonan, in Kenya, through SHALOM. I was a board member of SHALOM before I left Kenya and witnessed the genesis of an idea that is growing from strength to strength and will, I believe, be recognized as one of the great contributions by Irish missionaries in helping to bring peace and reconciliation to Africa.”



“The success of Shalom,” Fr. McCabe continued, “is in its determination to remove the underlying causes of ethnic, religious and tribal disagreements that wreck the lives of ordinary people. Padraig realised that to achieve this he needed to recruit a highly skilled team of academics and conflict management practitioners to train teachers and tribal leaders in the art and skills of conflict resolution and reconciliation.

I personally believe that while there are many missionary and religious groups involved in the ministry of peace and justice, the approach of SHALOM is unique in addressing the underlying causes of conflict in the areas where it is working.”

To emphasize his point, Fr. McCabe quoted from a statement by Dr. Mike Williams, an international development consultant, who recently carried out an effectiveness review of the programmes on conflict transformation and peace-building conducted by SHALOM in Eastern Africa. Dr. Williams awarded SHALOM the highest possible rating while stating:

*“Shalom’s contextually driven, rigorous but adaptable and forward-looking methodology represents a model approach towards peace-building in highly complex situations, such as those that pertain in Northern Kenya. The approach, with its emphasis on community leadership, stakeholder participation, high technical competency, logic models and results framework, stories of change and advocacy linkages also reflects current best practice within both the peace-building and development sectors.”*

The SMA Communications Department has covered many stories related to the work of SHALOM on the SMA website, emphasizing the esteem with which we hold the work of the organization. In 2017 we highlighted an article on the organization by EurekaAlert that was picked up by

international media sources and which we encourage our readers to review again. The article summarizes the work of SHALOM and its many successful outcomes since its inception less than a decade ago, and can be accessed by clicking on this headline: [\*The peace builders of Northern Kenya; Successful research-led model spreads to other African nations\*](#)

In conclusion Fr. McCabe said he wished to commend Frs. Pdraig and Oliver in their leadership and administration of Shalom and hopes the organization continues to develop and expand its reach across Africa, especially supporting the work of the United Nations in helping the African Union to deliver the Great Green Wall.

EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development meet in Brussels on May 19, 2017 to address the humanitarian situation in Africa, Yemen and Syria. They are also discussing the future of EU-ACP relations and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.

## Minister Joe McHugh's interview at Council of the European Union



“This was an opportunity for us as a country to give our ongoing commitment to many of the crisis that there are, especially in the Horn of Africa. It was also an opportunity for me to acknowledge the host countries in the Horn of Africa who deal with large numbers of refugees. But on top of that we were focused on our sustainable development goals. We are very focused on – in line with António Guterres (UN Secretary General) as well – at how we can look at and examine the root causes; looking at peace and reconciliation; to looking at how we can bring peace which will obviously lead to sustainable development. We can't have sustainable development without peace.

*Joe McHugh, Irish Government Minister for Overseas Development* And I also pointed to the great work that is being done in Northern Kenya by a group called Shalom – interethnic conflict reconciliation – where for the first time in a particular region, even with drought and massive challenges, peace is holding. So we have to look at the solutions. My message today from Ireland to Europe was – if there are examples that are working we should look at them, we should support them, and we should also look at our own experience. We come from a country that went from conflict to peace. Ireland doesn't have all the answers but we certainly have a lot of experience.”

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### EU Development Council –

**“We can't have sustainable development without peace.”**

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