



E-mail: info@shalomconflictcenter.org

Website: www.shalomconflictcenter.org

WHO WE ARE; 2023-2024 - SYNOPSIS

*****Currently**, Shalom-SCCRR works in **36 CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTS** suffering persistent killing's, maiming's, displacements, and the marginalization and deprivations associated with structural violence.

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Map of Shalom-SCCRR Humanitarian- Peace-Development Context & Interventions



2023; Shalom-SCCRR Interventions and Outputs

Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Achievements

- **130 Conflict transformation and Peacebuilding training workshops** for **36** significant **Shalom-SCCRR Peace Groups** of influential opinion shapers in the urban **informal settlement** conflict hotspots, marginalized areas of northern Kenya and at the Kenya-Ethiopia-South Sudan-Uganda interface.
- **3,753 Members** of Shalom-SCCRR Peace groups empowered with conflict analytical skills for designing and implementation of locally driven and sustained conflict transformation and peacebuilding initiatives.
- **8 Training Workshops** on prevention of **Religious Ideological Extremism** in **4** project areas located in Nairobi and Mombasa informal settlements/slums in Kenya.
- **Shalom-SCCRR has an [MoU](#) with Tangaza University College in Kenya** (Constituent College of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa). Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine is the current vice-chairman of the university council. The [MoU](#) addresses Research and Course Development on educational factors of Conflict Transformation Skills and Peacebuilding Techniques, countering issues of violence such as **Inter-ethnic Conflict, Religious Ideological Extremism, Violence against Women and Children, Marginalization** among others. Shalom provided a course there for **13 yrs** and is exploring participation in a **new Degree on Peace**.

Shalom Empowerment Center (SEC) Addressing Violence Against Women and Children

- **2,239 Women** from informal urban settlements (slums) and remote and marginalized conflict environments in northern Kenya, **Empowered** with analytical skills and Peacebuilding techniques, for Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation.
- **1,873 Women** empowered through **56 Workshops** with Holistic Livelihood Resilience Capacity, Life skills, and other relevant courses and interventions, essential for resolving all forms of **manifest and structural violence**.
- **60% Women active involvement in Shalom-SCCRR local peacebuilding initiatives, a 17% increase** compared to 2022 statistics.

School/Educational Development & Peace Education Achievements

- **64 School/Educational Development Projects completed in 51 Institutions**, emerging from **Conflict Transformation interventions**.

- **15,844** Pupils and Students benefiting from Shalom-SCCRR funded projects: **Classrooms, Accommodation facilities, Solar lighting systems, Gender sanitary items, Books, Desks, School Water systems, Science Laboratory Equipment** etc.
- **18,113** Pupils and Students benefiting from Shalom-SCCRR **Peace Education Syllabus** implemented in primary and secondary Schools located in violent conflict zones.

Click on the following link to find:

[Harvard Kennedy School Presentation by Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, Oct, 2023](#)

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 people in 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

[Click here to find Shalom-SCCRR Chairman's Report on Progress and Achievements in 2023.](#)

(Contact us also at; olivernoonan@shalomconflictcenter.org / pdevine@shalomconflictcenter.org)

OVERVIEW ABSTRACT:

Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR), founded in 2009 by Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine, in the aftermath of the 2007-08 Kenyan post-electoral violence and his experience of widespread interethnic conflict in Africa. Shalom-SCCRR remains one of the rare non-state organizations' that has a highly qualified team (minimum of MA in Peace Studies), investing consistently in reconciliation oriented programmes at the grassroots. Its methodology is a now acknowledged and acclaimed worldwide. More precisely, Shalom aims at assisting with conflict resolution and reconciliation processes in eastern Africa. Our principal mission is to transform the underlying root causes of manifest violent conflict and marginalization, as distinct from just dealing with the symptoms. Practically, Shalom provides training on conflict transformation skills and peacebuilding techniques with the aim of transforming inter-ethnic 4 conflict, religious ideological extremism, violence against women and children, human and organ trafficking and structural violence.

The primary task of Shalom (SCCRR) is the identification of the underlying causes of conflict 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. We work at the grassroots level, 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-SCCRR operates on the belief 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 gives specific attention to elucidating the role of environmental conditions on the escalation of conflict and poverty in Africa and beyond.**

Our background:

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 **28,397** influential community opinion shapers with analytical skills on the causes and persistence of conflict, and the best current peacebuilding techniques (**in 2023 there were 3,551 empowered, of whom 60% are Women**). **These leaders are** comprised of chiefs, village elders, women and religious leaders, government functionaries, youth and other political-economy influential opinion shapers. They are now applying their conflict transformation skills and development proficiencies to countering conflict and poverty in the quest for sustainable livelihood resilience in Africa.

Through our school projects to-date, we have been involved in building, upgrading and expanding **671 interethnic and interreligious schools projects (more than 370 institutions supported); provided up-to-date learning materials** to more than **207,000 Pupils/Students**; produced a **Peace Syllabus**, peer reviewed by our qualified academics, used in over **54 schools** which benefited more than **18,113 pupils and students** in primary and secondary schools in violent conflict zones - the development of inter-ethnic and interreligious education is vital to the process of creating good relationships and human security between former rival communities.



Shalom-SCCRR'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 (Slums) located around Nairobi:(Riruta; Waithaka; Dagoretti; Kibera; Mathare; Kariobangi; Korogocho; Kangemi; Kawangware; and Huruma), address Violence against Women and Children Religious ideological extremism as well as interethnic tensions in these slums as well as in marginalized conflict regions in the semi-arid terrains where Kenya interfaces with Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. The inhabitants of these slums 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. Recently we established Shalom-SCCRR Empowerment Center (SEC) and Mary and Joseph Life Center (MJLC) <https://maryandjosephlifecenter.org/>

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 community influential opinion shapers 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-SCCRR'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-SCCRR's Mr. Paulson Erot, MA, Mr. Davis Wafula (SAPCONE) and Mr. Peter Korobe representing Peace and Development Center, Ethiopia.

INTERVENTIONS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES IN EASTERN AFRICA

We play a key role through the introduction and teaching of **Peace Studies in Tertiary Education facilities** in Nairobi. At **Tangaza University College** we have provided a course for the past 13 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-SCCRR 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 415 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. Shalom-SCCRR accredited by the United Nations <https://shalomconflictcenter.org/3901-2/>, 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, MODULES AND PRESENTATIONS

Shalom International Chairman **Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine**. Continues to deliver numerous lectures, modules and presentations on a variety of issues concerning human rights, the theory and methodology to transform inter-ethnic conflict and religious ideological extremism, the environment and conflict, peace-security and sustainable development in eastern Africa, structural violence underpinning manifest conflict, and Shalom-SCCRR approach to empowering women influential opinion shapers to address violence against women and children, among others:

- [Stellenbosch University, South Africa invited Rev. Patrick Devine PhD, from the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation \(SCCRR\) to present an academic module to its Masters of Divinity Students \(2022\).](#)
- [Shalom-SCCRR's International Chairman, Rev. Dr. Patrick Devine addresses the Harvard Kennedy School, USA \(2022\)](#)
- **Harvard Kennedy School, Center of Public Leadership** (March, 2020 – *postponed following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic*),
- ‘The Shalom-SCCRR Approach: Settling and Resolving Inter-ethnic Conflict, East Africa context’, **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
- ‘*Religious Ideological Extremism*’ and the ‘*Environment and Conflict*’, **Queens University, Belfast** (2018)
- 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),
- **Clinton Peace School** in Northern Ireland (2013),

- Washington D.C, 2016 on ‘Radicalization and Extremism’, recently, the article ‘*Radicalization and Extremism in Eastern 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, Chairman
 Prof. Peter Wanyande, PhD, Board Member (Eastern Africa - Research)
 Dr. Michael Comerford, Board Member, (South Sudan)
 Rev. Oliver Noonan MA (PhD Candidate), Executive Director

Ms. Rosaline Serem, MBA, Board Member, (Kenya)
Mr. Sean White, MSC, Board Member (Kenya)
Rev. Janus Machota, BD, BA, Board Member, (Tanzania)

Management

Mr. Godfrey Okoth MA(PhD Candidate), MA, Senior Project Officer
Mrs. Judith Akedi-Otsieno MA, Project Officer, Team Leader
Mr. Francis Mwangi MA, M.E.R.L Officer
Mr. Austin Ngacha, MA, Project Officer, Team Leader
Mr. Arthur Magero, MA, Project Officer, Team Leader
Ms. Esther Kibe, MA, Project Officer, Team Leader
Mr. Kennedy Odhiambo, MA, Project Officer
Mr. Moses Osiro, MA, Project Assistant
Ms. Ilhan Ali Salah, BA(MA Candidate,) Shalom-SCCRR In-Training Capacity Program
Mr. Kipkoech Kipruto, B.Com., ACCA, Accountant, Further Studies
Mr. Remmy Ndiema, B.BM, CPA, Accountant, Further Studies
Ms. Vivian Adhiambo Omondi, BA, Shalom-SCCRR In-Training Capacity Program
Mr. Ken Otieno Dipl. PPM, Transport /Logistics Coordinator

International Volunteer Consultants

- Mr. Patrick Geysen, MA, (Former Deputy Head of EU Delegation, Djibouti)
- Mrs. Nancy Mirera, MA, (Counselor-Psychology, Mental Health Worker, Mediator in A.D.R)
- Ms. Sheena McMullen, MA, (Peace and Reconciliation Studies, N. Ireland/UK)
- Ms. Paula Soumaya Domit, (Harvard Kennedy School, Masters of Public Policy Program)
- Ms. Matilda Brolin, LL.M. (Harvard Law School, Embassy of Sweden to the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Ms. Fabiana Pardi Otamendi, LLM, (Harvard Law School, UN Human Rights, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, France)
- Mr. Andrés Oviedo, MA (International Relations, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Postgraduate Studies in Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Culture of Peace. Liaison Officer at the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC).
- Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tembo, (DRC Congo and Great Lakes Region)
- Dr. Conrad Bosire, (Constitutionalism and Devolution, Kenya, East Africa)

<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)

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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 5th, 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.

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.

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. 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.

(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. 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 5th: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40609>

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

IGAD

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
ON DEVELOPMENT**

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**AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT**

Avenue Georges Clemenceau
P.O.Box 2653, Djibouti
Republic of Djibouti

NGO Branch, United Nations,
S-2540, New York, NY 10017.

Dear Mr.Mrs.Mis.Dr: To whom it may concern,

SHALOM CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND RECONCILIATION (SCCRR)

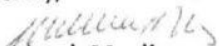
I am writing this letter to strongly recommend Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) to be associated with the UN in the department UN-DPI. SCCRR has a MoU with Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) since 2012 and we rank it among the organizations whose contribution to peaceful coexistence and sustainable development in the horn of Africa is evidential. In fact their ongoing endeavors to implement the SDG's is highly commendable.

SCCRR distinguishes itself by its unique way of working; incorporating theory through research and practice through training on skills of conflict resolution and transformation. The organization has a growing reputation for its peace work, professionalism, high research ability, conflict sensitivity, and well constructed training modules on analytical skills and knowledge of peace building is a major contributor to our work.

Since signing of the MoU between IGAD and SCCRR, the organization has demonstrated high regards to partnership, work ethics and devotion to its mission. SCCRR has time and again put in extra workshops, development projects, particularly the construction and rehabilitation of education institutes, as necessary in order to mitigate conflict and save lives in the region.

SCCRR 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. SCCRR is unquestionably an exceptional organization to partner with. SCCRR's experience in the region suggests that the UN and SCCRR would greatly benefit from the association. We again, restate our recommendation for SCCRR to be associated with UN in the department UN-DPI.

Yours Sincerely,


H.E Eng. Mahboub Maalim



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Our Ref: UNIC/NGO

Date: 28 March, 2018

RE: Reference for the Center for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation (Shalom)

Center for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation (Shalom) is well known to the United Nations Information Center (UNIC). The Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation works to end the cycle of violence in the tribal lands of Eastern Africa.

Its vision is to have a society where Peace, Social Justice and Reconciliation prevails throughout Africa, and their mission is to work for a society free of physical violence and unjust social structures in Africa, while building peaceful and reconciled communities.

Shalom promotes:

- Non-violent societal transformation
- Peace, Truth, Justice, and Mercy
- Integral human development and security
- Environmental Integrity
- Respect for local culture and traditions

The Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation focuses on the root cause of violence in the tribal lands of eastern Africa. It was created in 2009 in the wake of persistent widespread violence and dislocation across northern Kenya, and in the aftermath of the disputed Kenyan elections. Shalom has made a major impact on peace initiatives in this vital strategic of Africa.

Shalom was founded in 2009 by Fr. Patrick Devine, SMA, a social entrepreneur and missionary priest with 25 years of experience helping to mitigate conflict and poverty in Africa. Its work is strictly non-sectarian and closely aligned with civil society organisations. Fr. Devine serves as the organization's International Chairman, leading an international team of conflict resolution experts from various religious backgrounds and disciplines who are based in Kenya and neighboring countries.

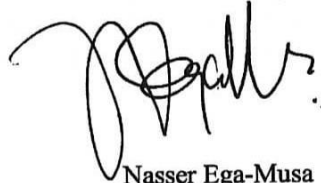
Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation is supported by partner organizations and a network of visionary donors, primarily from the United States, United Kingdom and Ireland. With a budget of less than \$1M US per year and low overhead costs, Shalom leverages the donations of its supporters to maximize its work on the ground in tribal areas, particularly in the semi-arid terrains, and in the largest slum settlements in urban centres of Eastern Africa. Your donations are welcome, needed, and deeply appreciated.

Shalom benefits from the cooperation of the governments of eastern Africa that comprise the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and its work is endorsed by the IGAD executive secretary. Shalom also partners with international and regional colleges and universities on peace-building courses, as well as religious association and councils in Africa.

Shalom makes its findings available to partners, relevant governments, ethnic representatives and United Nation and regional organizations. These partners include: IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development), (HQ Djibouti, comprised of 8 countries) MoU; SCCRR US (501c3); SCCRR, Republic of Ireland, (Registered); N. Ireland, (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); Tanga College, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya; Trocaire (International Development Organization); Shalom Network for Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation, (Cote D'Ivoire – West Africa); SCCRR Committees; Britain, Australia; and lecturing associations, through Fr. Patrick Devine Ph.d, with Harvard Law School, The Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program USA, March 2016; Project Common Bond (USA), Jan, 2017; College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas, Austin, TX, Oct, 2017.

We therefore, have no hesitation in recommending them for the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) accreditation, with the confidence that they will be a great asset and add value to the United Nations work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nasser Ega-Musa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nasser Ega-Musa
Director
UNIC, Nairobi

Chief
NGO Relations Advocacy & Special Events
DPI Outreach Initiative
United Nations
New York, NY10017
USA

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



Joe McHugh, Irish Government Minister for Overseas Development

“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.

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.”

**EU Development Council –
“We can’t have sustainable development without peace.”**

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, and 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 EurekAlert 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.



**Prof. Wanakayi K. Omoka, PhD; Understanding the Philosophy and Work of
Shalom-SCCRR**



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 Organisation 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-SCRR works; Shalom-SCRR's team members, Mrs. Judy Akendi, 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-SCRR 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

neighboring 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 comprises 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 localised inter-ethnic/inter-communal conflict occurrences.
3. Augmenting the conflict transformation role capacities of religious organisations, 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 harboring or tending to perceive hostile intentions in the behavior of ethnic other, thereby fostering inter-ethnic/inter-communal peaceful co-existence.

Specific humanitarian-peace-development outputs – January through December 2023 - were as given below.



Prof. Wanakayi K. Omoka Director of Research and Fr. Patrick Devine PhD, working on one of Shalom-SCCRR position paper concerning Human rights.

At the heart of the Shalom-SCCRR specialized *modus operandi* are collaboration, empowering of local communities in conflict to be analyzers, 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.



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

Prof Omoka who was an academican, peace practitioner and devoted his career to social transformation and integral human development in Africa, observed that;

“Shalom-SCCRR is unique in its modus operandi.”

According to him, Shalom-SCCRR distinctive approach has attracted the attention of some of the highest academic institutions worldwide as well as the interest of authentic qualified social transformation practitioners working in conflict, underdeveloped and marginalised environments in Africa and beyond. Shalom-SCCRR remarkable achievements of its mission implementation according to him, are directly related to its management and international corporate stewardship. Prof. Omoka further observed that the vision, field experience, resilience and progressive leadership of Shalom-SCCRR’S international chairman, Rev. Dr Patrick Devine, are 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.



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.