

## Newsletter

### Creating Safer Space

January 2023



Dear All,

Creating Safer Space is an international research network, which aims to understand and support unarmed civilian protection and self-protection amidst violent conflict.

We invite you to participate in our monthly events – this month there is a meeting of the newly formed working group on Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Unarmed Civilian Protection – all welcome!

Recordings of last month's French Language session 'Top Tips for Writing a Successful Grant' are now available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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### Welcome to a new N+ team member: Rachel Rea Luxton

The Creating Safer Space team has been joined by a new Creative Events Manager, Rachel Rea Luxton.

Rachel is a curator and artist based in Aberystwyth, Wales. She is excited about raising awareness of the practice and opportunities of UCP through the Arts.

Rachel will be organising and facilitating creative events across the Network to disseminate research findings through the arts. Of course, we will keep you updated about them in our Newsletter.



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### Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in UCP

On 1 December, *Creating Safer Space* held a first event on 'Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Unarmed Civilian Protection', chaired by *Creating Safer Space* advisory board member Dr Ellen Furnari. Participants discussed what is useful to evaluate in UCP monitoring, as well as the possibilities of participatory evaluations.

Participants agreed to form a working group to continue to devise and implement innovative methods of monitoring and evaluation. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for **24 January, 14:00 – 16:00 UTC**. Please use a [time zone converter](#) to check your local time.

Register for this Zoom event here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodemprjwsHNLU3497M62BefDHaGmE3Ocz>

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## Welcome Meeting: Part Two

Following on from October's successful 'Welcome Meeting', which brought together researchers and their partners from across the Network to share their work, February will see a Part Two event. This meeting will follow the same format, where research teams will share short videos about their projects, with plenty of time for discussion.

We will be in touch soon with more information, but for now please save the date: **Thursday 16 February, 12:30-2pm UTC**. Please use a [time zone converter](#) to check your local time.

Register for this Zoom event here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuc-CqrzIsGdXOhFw1bojC7h7biK-1j0zW>

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## News From *Creating Safer Space* Projects

In October – November 2022, Marwan Darweish, Mahmoud Soliman and Andrew Rigby spent ten days doing field research in the South Hebron Hills, in the south of the occupied West Bank. During their fieldwork, they interviewed local community leaders and activists as well as members of international groups engaged in different forms of accompaniment. Read more about their fieldwork and findings here: <https://creating-safer-space.com/beginning-of-fieldwork-in-the-south-hebron-hills/>.



If you would like an update on your *Creating Safer Space* research published on our website, please send some information and photographs, if possible, to [creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk](mailto:creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk)

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## Other Events

### Call for Conference Papers – EISA PEC16, Potsdam, 5-9 September 2023

*Creating Safer Space* network PI Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and project PI Sukanya Podder will be chairing a **section on 'Civilian agency in war and violent conflict: Exploring the power of self-protection'** at the **16<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference (PEC) of the European International Studies Association (EISA)**. The conference will take place in Potsdam, Germany from 5-9 September 2023. The deadline for submitting a paper or roundtable abstract to the section is 15 March 2023. See the EISA PEC 2023 website for more information: <http://pec2023.eisa-net.org/section-list/>. We look forward to receiving submissions from the *Creating Safer Space* community.

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## Latest Publications

The 82nd [Humanitarian Exchange](#) magazine, titled '**Community engagement with armed actors: strengthening protection, prevention and response**', published by the

Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) features short articles by the CSS project team “Art That Protects” in Medellin, Colombia led by Beatriz Arias López, CSS project PI Sukanya Podder who writes about a locally led initiative in Jos, Nigeria, and Aberystwyth team members Louise Ridden and Berit Bliesemann de Guevara who look at UCP through the nonviolent strategy of monitoring. The issue also features many other insightful contributions – have a look and enjoy reading!

Please let us know if you have any recent publications you would like to feature in next month’s newsletter!

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