

## Newsletter

### Creating Safer Space

July 2023



Dear All,

In today's Newsletter, we **announce** the award of **two new research projects**, and the first publication from our new *Creating Safer Space* **Working Paper Series**.

We also share with you **updates** from *Creating Safer Space* projects and the Network's last **Africa Regional Workshop**.

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

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## Working Paper Series Launch



We are pleased to announce the launch of our Working Paper Series this month with the publication of our first paper. In "Civilian Ceasefire Monitoring in Mindanao", Rachel Julian, Delsy Ronnie, and Rexall Kaalim explore the workings and successes of civilian ceasefire monitoring in Mindanao, Philippines, and the importance of community-based training for civilian monitors. You can find the full paper, including their recommendations, [here](#).

The Working Paper Series is an ongoing space for practitioners and academics to publish work relating to their own experiences and research of UCP. If you would like to publish a working paper, or to receive further information on how to do so, please contact [creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk](mailto:creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk).

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## New Projects Awarded

This month we are pleased to announce the award of two new *Creating Safer Space* research projects.

Jointly implemented by the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiangmai University and Nonviolent Peaceforce Myanmar, the project "[Scholars at Risk: Understanding vulnerability and violence faced by Myanmar refugee scholars in northern Thailand](#)" aims at exploring the vulnerabilities and resiliency of Myanmar refugee scholars and the effectiveness of civilian protection mechanisms for them in northern Thailand. Its findings will contribute to knowledge development, public awareness raising, and policy.

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The project “[Using multimedia approaches to increase visibility of and preference for Unarmed Civilian Protection approaches](#)”, implemented by African Woman and Child Feature Service (AWCFS) in collaboration with two ongoing N+ research projects in Kenya, seeks to increase the understanding, visibility, preference for, and advocacy on the application of various research findings and good practices around UCP in the management of conflict by state and non-state

actors. It will do so through the use of strategic media platforms and engagement with practitioners, media houses, and CSOs in advancing the importance of UCP.

## Africa Regional Research Café

In last month’s Africa Regional Research Café, stakeholders of the *Creating Safer Space* Network met to discuss the possibilities of UCP amidst the escalation of violence in Sudan and the heightened risks faced by civilians. The workshop was attended by over 19 representatives working in the African Region. Dr Felicity Gray presented Nonviolent Peaceforce’s recent report [Snapshot: Civilian Protection Needs and Responses in Sudan](#), highlighting the urgent need for investment in community-based protection mechanisms. You can read more about the Workshop on our [website](#).

## News from Projects in our Network



Phase 1 of the “**Art That Protects**” project has come to an end, receiving much media coverage including on TV News. Beatriz Arias López, principal investigator of the project, summed up their work so far, saying: “This project has allowed us to identify how community ideas take away space from death in places where confrontations have been very strong.” As part of their work, the collective of researchers and artists have produced murals and a salsa song to communicate the protective power of artistic collaboration. You can read more about the project [here](#).



The research team of the project “**The Social Process of Guarantees of Antioquia, Colombia, an experience of unarmed civil protection with indigenous and peasant communities of Bajo Cauca**” spent time in El Bagre with the Indigenous community of the Senú and Almendros 2 people. They accompanied the tour of their territory and the installation of white flags as a self-protection mechanism. You can read more about their fieldwork [here](#).



Between 15 and 17 June 2023, community researchers from the **“Water conflicts, violations and forms of self-protection” project** participated in the Caribbean-Latin American Meeting for Climate Justice.

The event was attended by some twenty-five civil society organisations dedicated to strategic litigation, national and international advocacy, popular education, and environmental and climate change activism from Colombia and

Puerto Rico, as well as several study groups and academic groups from Colombia. You can read more about the event in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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