

Newsletter

Creating Safer Space

March 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 ongoing events – this month we are seeking your insights on participatory approaches to monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Regional Workshops Begin

This month will see the commencement of our regional workshops. These workshops will bring together researchers from projects across our networks to share experiences, support each other, and discuss topics of regional interest. The first event, the Africa Regional Workshop will take place Tuesday 7 March. On 11 March, we have the second workshop for projects in Colombia themed “La paz total en Colombia” [The total peace in Colombia]. We look forward to learning from our partners and will report further on these events soon!

Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in UCP

On 20 February, *Creating Safer Space* held a third meeting on ‘Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning and Unarmed Civilian Protection’, chaired by *Creating Safer Space* co-investigator Prof Roger Mac Ginty (Durham University). In the session, Sara Ianovitz (Operazione Colomba) shared insights into her organisation’s experiences of monitoring, evaluation, and learning in UCP practice.

Participants agreed to take further steps to devise and implement a pilot of an innovative method of monitoring and evaluation. The next meeting of the group is scheduled **3 April, 2-3pm UTC**. Please use a [time zone converter](#) to check your local time, taking into account Daylight Saving Time.

Register for this Zoom event here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodeippzggGtSZWdfT_3fFsebNImHxEXGU

Before the next meeting, **we are collecting experiences and insights of participatory approaches to monitoring, evaluation and learning**. To get involved, **please fill out this form** before 13 March: <https://forms.gle/nag3A2DfJomcSXXv6> or contact creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk to schedule an online chat with the Creating Safer Space Team.

News From Projects in the Network



On 10-11 February 2023, the Antioquia Social Process of Guarantees held an experience exchange meeting with indigenous and peasant organizations of Bajo Cauca, Colombia. The meeting served to share organizational experiences and balances related to self-protection and protection in contexts of violence which have been escalating in the Bajo Cauca region for several years. Read more about this meeting [on our website](#).

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 16th 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.

Publications

Curran, David, Walt Kilroy, Roger Mac Ginty, and Sukanya Podder (2023) “Towards Hybridity in the Protection of Civilians: Combined Workshop Report”, <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/globalassets/media/global/08-new-research-section/ctpsr/towards-hybridity-in-the-protection-of-civilians.pdf>.

This report summarises discussions at an ESRC/IRC-funded workshop series on hybridity in the protection of civilians, focusing on armed and some unarmed forms of protection. The network was co-led by N+ members Roger Mac Ginty and Sukanya Podder, and N+ members Louise Ridden and Berit Bliesemann de Guevara participated in some of the discussions.

Creating Safer Space
Department of International Politics
Aberystwyth University
Penglais Aberystwyth
SY23 3FE, Wales, UK

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