



Dear All,

In today's newsletter, we are delighted to announce that the *Creating Safer Space* network will be participating in this year's WOW Film Festival. We will show 9 short films from our research projects in Palestine, Nigeria and Colombia both in person in Wales and online.

We are also very happy to share news from the second of our three major international *Creating Safer Space* events. The final event for South-East Asia was hosted by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 – 22 February. The event brought together representatives from all of our *Creating Safer Space* projects in South-East Asia along with stakeholders from across the region.

The *Creating Safer Space* exhibition, with contributions from our research projects around the world, has recently travelled to Nairobi and Bangkok, and will be on display in Aberystwyth Arts Centre in Wales in March.

Finally, we are very happy to share news from our research projects. Find out about various project events, have a look at the multimedia outputs developed by our Colombian projects, or read an opinion piece in the Jakarta Post about a new approach to violent conflict in Papua.

Creating Safer Space at the WOW Film Festival

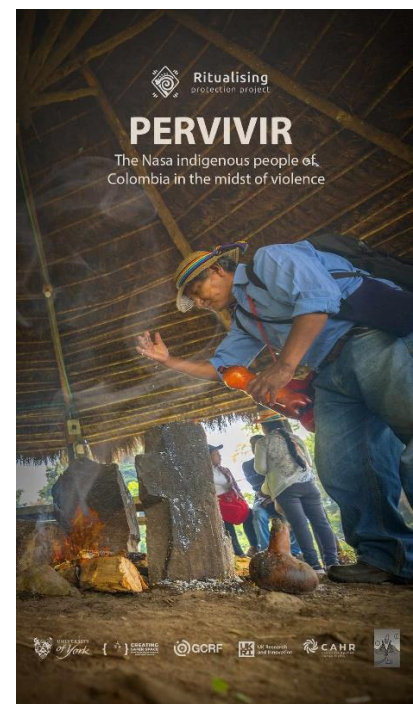
The *Creating Safer Space* network will be showing a series of films as part of the [WOW Wales One World Film Festival](#).

The WOW Film Festival is the only UK festival dedicated principally to films from Africa, Asia & Latin America, and this is its 23rd year of bringing international films to cinemas across Wales.

This year the WOW Film Festival will include 9 short films that have been produced as part of *Creating Safer Space* research projects in Colombia, Nigeria and Palestine.

The films will be shown in Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales, between 20 – 24 March. One of the sessions will include a discussion with the Principal Investigators of the projects that created two of the films, *Civil protection to stay on our land* (Palestine) and *Survive among violence. Stories of the Nasa people in Colombia*. The films will also be shown online between 22 – 31 March.

Free Admission! For more information and to book, please see the [WOW Film Festival](#) website and the [Creating Safer Space](#) website.



Creating Safer Space Asian Regional Research Forum

The *Creating Safer Space* network held a three-day final regional research forum in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 – 22 February 2024. The event was hosted by the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University.

The research forum was organized to bring researchers and other stakeholders together to share research findings, unique research methodologies, and implications of the research findings for violence prevention and peacebuilding initiatives.

Each of the 8 *Creating Safer Space* projects in South-East Asia sent at least two representatives to the event, and the event brought together about 50 participants in total. The participants exchanged research findings and enthusiastically discussed ideas about how to create safer spaces for people living in areas of violent conflict.

Participants were also able to visit the *Creating Safer Space* exhibition. The exhibition brings together objects, images, and voices to show how civilians around the world harness the power of nonviolence to create safer spaces for a dignified life.

More information about the event will be available on the [Creating Safer Space website](#) in due course.

This is the second of our three final events. The final event for Africa and the Middle East took place in Kenya in January and we are now very pleased to share more information about this event on our [website](#), along with recordings from the event. The final event for Latin America will take place in Colombia in June.



Creating Safer Space Exhibition in Aberystwyth, Wales

The *Creating Safer Space* Exhibition will be on display in Aberystwyth Arts Centre from 11 – 28 March.

The exhibition explores the unexpected power of nonviolence in the protection of civilians living in the midst of violence. The objects, images, and voices originate from a selection of 26 research projects funded by the *Creating Safer Space* network, which have been conducted in collaboration between academics, self-protecting communities and nonviolent civilian accompaniers. The exhibition draws on experiences from Cameroon, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Thailand, where civilians are harnessing the power of nonviolence to create safer spaces and work towards alternative presents and futures.

A special exhibition event will be held on Friday 22 March, with wine, food, music and opening remarks by the Aberystwyth University Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation, the Head of Department of International Politics, as well as Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, the Principal Investigator of the *Creating Safer Space* network. More information is available [here](#).

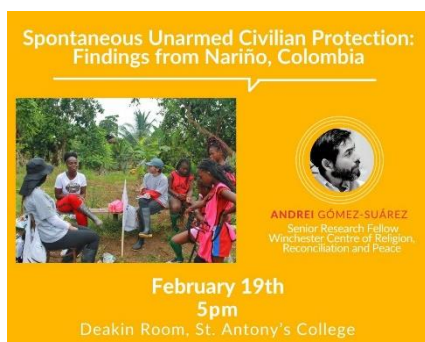


News from *Creating Safer Space* Projects



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[The Social Process of Guarantees of Antioquia, Colombia, an experience of unarmed civil protection with indigenous and peasant communities of Bajo Cauca](#)' is pleased to share a multimedia tool that contains the results of the project, available [here](#). An event was held to present the results to relevant organisations and to national and regional authorities responsible for the protection and guarantee for social leaders and human rights

defenders and indigenous authorities. More information is available [here](#).



Andrei Gomez-Suarez, the Co-Investigator of the *Creating Safer Space* project '[Understanding Community-level Spontaneous Unarmed Civilian Protection \(UCP\): A Comparative Study of Initiatives in South Sudan, Myanmar and Colombia](#)', presented the findings of the research project at St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, on 19 February.



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Civilian \(Self-\) Protection from Violent Conflict in Papua: Exploring Local Infrastructures and Initiatives](#)' has published an opinion piece in the Jakarta Post, entitled '[A new approach to violent conflict in Papua](#)'. The article argues that recognizing and allowing a nonpartisan third party to focus solely on protecting civilians from violent conflict could be a stepping stone to conflict management in Papua.



The *Creating Safer Space* project '[Development of civil protection capacities in women displaced by the armed conflict through popular communication and Community Legal Empowerment](#)' is holding an event at the La Casona Public Library in Cali, Colombia, on Thursday 14 March to disseminate the transmedia booklet developed as part of the research project. The event will be specifically aimed at women who actively participated in the research, and will include a panel discussion where the participating women will have the opportunity to share their experiences in civil protection. More information and a copy of the transmedia booklet is available [here](#).



Marwan Darweish, the Principal Investigator of the *Creating Safer Space* project '[Safety and dignity: Enhancing unarmed civilian protection amongst Palestinian communities in the South Hebron Hills \(Masafer Yatta\)](#)', will present the research findings and show the film 'Civil Protection in Masafer Yatta: Palestine' on Thursday 7 March at Queen's University Belfast. The event will be co-hosted by the Mitchell Institute and the School of Law. It will attract students, academics and external organisations. The film will also be shown (online and in person) as part of the [WOW Film Festival](#).

External News and Events

The **Journal of Pacifism & Nonviolence** is looking to grow and diversify output types. They are now open to research notes, book reviews, review articles, interviews, symposiums, disciplinary debates, forums and special issues/sections. Full details via the [Submit Article tab](#).

Mobility Norhed2 is a mobility scheme between the following universities: Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), African School of Economics (Benin), Birzeit University (Palestine), Makerere University (Uganda) and Mekelle University (Ethiopia). Contact [Jose Fernando Serrano Amaya](#) if you are an academic or PhD student at one of these universities and would like to visit Universidad de los Andes. The deadline for applications is 15 March.

The **Campaign on Social Defence (Wehrhaft ohne Waffen)** has issued a Call for Papers for a scientific symposium on [Advancing Social Defence – Current Issues and Practical Challenges](#) (submission deadline 31 March 2024).

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