

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 are very happy to be able to share more information about our exciting new research projects. You can now view short 3-minute videos that introduce the aims, planned activities and anticipated outputs of many of our research projects on our YouTube channel. More will come soon!

We also invite you to participate in our monthly Research Café – this month we will be learning more about UCP in Thailand – and an online meeting to discuss Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in UCP.

Finally, we are very pleased to invite applications to participate in a 10-week comprehensive online Training Course on UCP.

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## Videos from our new Research Projects

The *Creating Safer Space* network has funded 21 research projects around the world, and we have set aside funding for a few more projects. These will undertake research in 10 different countries in the Global South.

We held a Welcome Event for the new research projects in October. This event brought together the *Creating Safer Space* coordinating team and over 50 investigators, research assistants and project partners from different research projects. Ahead of the session, 14 research teams had recorded short 3-minute videos to introduce the aims of their projects, their planned activities, and their anticipated outcomes. These videos are now available on the [Creating Safer Space YouTube Channel](#).

You can also find a summary of each project by clicking on the pins on our [Project Map](#). Each project also has a bespoke website on our [Projects Page](#), where they provide more detailed information about their plans and activities.



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## Training Course on UCP

The *Creating Safer Space* research network invites Expressions of Interest to participate in a 10-week training course on “Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians”.

This course is an introduction to the objectives, principles, sources of guidance, and methods of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP). The course is led by Dr Ellen Furnari and Dr Thor Wagstrom, and is based on course content developed by our partner organisation [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#). There are no course fees, and course material will be provided for free. More information about the course is available on our [website](#).

### Course Structure

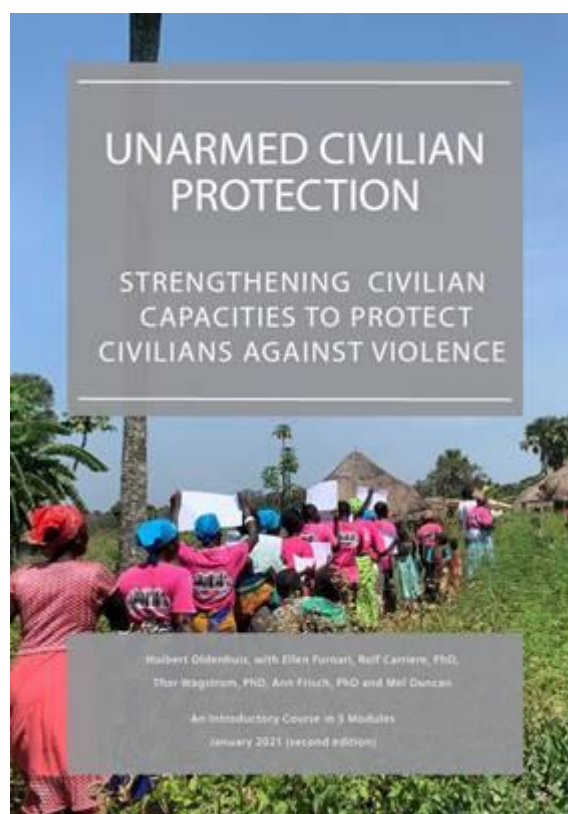
The course dates are **7 January – 17 March 2023**. The course will require about 8-10 hours per week to read, participate and complete assignments. Participants complete all activities online through modules that are accessed through the course website. There are no required meetings for this course. However, participants are invited to meet the course facilitators and each other during an informal kick-off Zoom meeting on **Sunday 8 January**. Up to three additional meetings will be arranged during the course for opportunities to meet and question experienced UCP practitioners and to practice UCP methods through role-play exercises. Attendance for these meetings will not be required but is encouraged.

### Eligibility

Researchers, Masters/PhD students and relevant practitioners are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to participate in this course. Anyone is welcome to apply, but places are limited. Priority will be given to those candidates who are most likely to benefit from the course, with priority to candidates from the UK and from the Global South. We especially encourage Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, Project Partners and Research Assistants on *Creating Safer Space* research projects to participate in the course.

### How to apply

Please submit an Expression of Interest of no more than 100 words to [creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk](mailto:creating-safer-space@aber.ac.uk) by **22 November 2022**, with an explanation of your interest in the course and how it would benefit you in your work or studies. Please specify if you are involved in a *Creating Safer Space* research project, including your role in the project.



We would like to invite you as representative of a UCP organizations and/or interested researcher to join us for an online meeting on “Innovation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Unarmed Civilian Protection/ Accompaniment (UCP/A)”, which we hope will lead to the formation of a Working Group.

Many forms of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and wider research, are top-down and conducted by outsiders, sometimes for good reasons. In recent years, however, there have been moves towards more participative forms of M&E in which the “beneficiaries” of funding are involved in the monitoring and evaluation. We feel that such a participatory approach could be particularly beneficial to UCP/A organisations given the nature of their work.

- Can we think of forms of participatory monitoring and evaluation that could be applied to unarmed civilian protection initiatives?
- Rather than having outsiders identify indicators of success or failure, can we think of how insiders – those at the sharp end – can do this?

The session will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?from=addon>

**Berit Bliesemann de Guevara** (Research Network “Creating Safer Space”, Aberystwyth University)

The aim of the *Creating Safer Space* Café is to enable people in different parts of the world to exchange knowledge and to help build a community of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) researchers and practitioners.

Please use a [timezone converter](#) to check your local time.

The session will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

All welcome; please register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrdu6vrzwqGNAh3SRpvoWosvRm2c4sBn9L>

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