

Peace Studies Network



The Peace Studies Network is an independent network of academics, lecturers and students with commitment to peace. It has been launched in the summer of 2009. The network members are involved in peace research and peace education projects at the Universities of Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Nengarhar and Bamiyan.

The overall goal of this initiative is to cultivate a growing network of people who are supporting peace processes by

- Strengthening academic values and creating an atmosphere of trust within Afghan Universities
- Developing teaching material and implementing peace education in teachings and curricula
- Conducting interdisciplinary research on peace related topics
- Organizing joint activities to create a culture of peace and understanding (e.g. Celebration of International Peace Day)
- Spreading peace initiatives from universities to society by projects and outreach
- Connecting academics and students from Afghanistan and abroad to share experiences, knowledge and visions in order to create a peaceful Afghanistan

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Department of Peace Studies



NCPR | DEPARTMENT OF PEACE STUDIES

In summer 2008 the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) established the Department of Peace Studies in addition to its Departments of Law and Politics, Economy and Social Sciences at Kabul University.

Since the commitment to peace starts in the heart of every single person and finds its expression in private surroundings as well as in the academic and professional life, Peace and Conflict Studies cover a wide range of topics and activities at university.

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary subject at university. It provides an academic framework to discuss the political and social situation in Afghanistan by focusing on questions such as:

- What are the causes of conflict and war?
- What is the impact of war on individuals and social cohesion?
- What are obstacles or the supporting elements for peace processes?
- How to strengthen and connect civil society activities for an active participation in peace processes?

OUR VISION

To create an atmosphere of trust and tolerance at university and society wherein it is possible to discuss and accept different views and values.

To develop ideas and concepts for strengthening social cohesion and solidarity in order to form a society without discrimination, injustice and violence.

OUR MISSION

Establishing a culture of discourse and understanding at universities and bridging the gap between theory and practice by:

Developing interdisciplinary seminars and certification courses on peace education, conflict resolution, dealing with the past, human development, etc.

Coordinating a Peace Studies Network to support peace processes within and outside universities through education, research and dialogue.



ACTIVITIES

We are conducting seminars on peace education, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, dealing with the past and Human Rights at the Universities of Kabul, Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat and Nengarhar.

Our seminars are guided by the questions:

- How to create an open space for discussions and change at university and in society?
- How to support and deal with pluralism of opinion, values and interests?
- What is the social-political responsibility of universities, academics and students to support peace processes in Afghanistan?

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

We are facilitating interdisciplinary research projects on following topics:

- Islam and Peace: How to bring peace into practice according to Islam
- The role of religious leaders and tribal elders in supporting peace processes
- The influence of past grievances on the society
- Elements of comprehensive peace processes

We publish the *Peace Journal* and a series on peace and social development. The first issue is on *Human Rights*. Other topics covered include *Peace Education, Dealing with the Past and Values and Visions*.