

Richard Smith is currently employed as the Peacebuilding Manager at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is also a member of the global steering committee of ACTION for Conflict Transformation and sits on the continental board of the Coalition for Peace in Africa. His work involves close collaboration with partner organisations and grass-roots communities across the continent on capacity building and advocacy initiatives in the areas of violence prevention, psycho-social intervention, democracy and governance, human rights and development, institutional transformation, networking and solidarity action. His initial experience in this field was gained in South Africa as an anti-apartheid activist and later through involvement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other transitional processes. With an academic background in development economics, psychology and adult education he has worked extensively as a process facilitator, trainer and mentor in Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Burundi and the Horn of Africa and across the Southern African region. An interwoven thread throughout his work is about understanding the interrelationship between conflict, rights and development, and focusing on ways of using a value-based and principled conflict transformation approach to influence development policy and practice.