

Gay Rosenblum-Kumar

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Summary profile

Twenty-five years of experience in the development, management, and evaluation of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, and PVE projects. Strong organizational and process skills; well-versed in conflict-sensitive development, facilitation, mediation, and experiential training. Demonstrated experience in working with communities and facilitating intra- and inter-group processes for research, evaluation, community-building, and conducting capacity-building workshops on conflict transformation and peacebuilding themes.

Key Skills and Core Focus

- **Formulation and implementation of development, conflict prevention/ transformation and peacebuilding programmes**
Conducting conflict analysis and formulating strategic responses through participatory peacebuilding, social cohesion and reconciliation programmes crafted to address needs and aspirations of local communities.
- **Facilitation and participation**
Using a wide range of methodologies to enhance the involvement of key stakeholders, e.g. participatory methodologies for involving programme “beneficiaries”; facilitative approaches for workshops, dialogues, consultations, trainings, etc.
- **Training and capacity-building**
Creating avenues for knowledge sharing for UN staff and local counterparts, ranging from designing and delivering workshops to the management of interactive online platforms.

Relevant Assignments

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), UN Representative 2014 - present
Conduct advocacy, outreach and constituency-building to advance the concept of unarmed civilian peacekeeping and raise awareness of NP’s current peace teams comprised of civilians trained in nonviolent techniques working in the Philippines, South Sudan and other conflict-affected areas.

Peace Direct (PD), UN Representative 2014 - present
Disseminate Peace Direct’s mission and methodology supporting its local level peacebuilding partners through liaison with UN departments and entities, Member States, and NGOs in the peacebuilding arena.

UN Assignments

UNDESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government – developed online learning modules on conflict transformation skills for public servants January – February 2019

UNDP/Sierra Leone – conducted mid-term evaluation of PBF-funded project on Conflict Prevention and Mitigation during the Electoral Cycle June-July 2018

Peace and Development Advisor – Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago – advised CARICOM member states to formulate and strengthen national and regional policy and practice on crime prevention, citizen security, justice improvement, counter-terrorism, and preventing violent extremism. Sept 2017 – April 2018

Capacity-building training - co-facilitated induction programme for newly deployed UN peace and development advisers (PDAs) February 2017

UNDP/Philippines – project review and re-design of UN/WB-funded FASTRAC support to the Mindanao peace process March – May 2016

UNDP/BPPS/HQ - facilitated an interagency workshop and learning process on the nexus between humanitarian action and peacebuilding for World Humanitarian Summit Sept 2015

UNDP/Bangladesh - authored two handbooks/guidance material for local staff on ‘Reconciliation’ and ‘Strengthening Peace Networks’, CHT, Bangladesh May - July 2015

UNDP/Bangladesh - part of team conducting a conflict analysis and re-design of confidence-building/peacebuilding programmes in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Jan - June 2015

UN Secretariat/DPA-UNHQ - designed research project to map and analyze reconciliation activities in seven Western Balkans countries June – Dec 2014

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Consultant, Senior Adviser - Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), *Task Force on Dealing with the Past and Prevention of Atrocities* 2014-2017
Advised on the start-up of GAAMAC, a state-led network on atrocity prevention, and guided the development of its online presence and knowledge network on atrocity prevention and 'Dealing with the Past' (DwP), a holistic approach to transitional justice, truth, reparations, and institutional reforms to build peace and prevent recurrence of violence in conflict-affected societies.

Adjunct Professor at New York University's Center for Global Affairs, New York, NY
2014 UN Essentials course
2015, 2016 Peacebuilding and Development graduate course

Work Experience

Independent consultant specializing in conflict transformation & peacebuilding 2014 - present

Executive Secretary, UN Interagency Framework for Preventive Action (FT), Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), United Nations Development Programme 2009 - 2014

Played a major role in introducing a new conceptual and operational approach to conflict transformation policy and practice in the UN system. Formulated cutting-edge projects and programmes within the UN system that led to unique inter-disciplinary conflict prevention programming and embedded conflict transformation practice in UN field offices.

Co-led the development of the UN's first cadre of peace and development/conflict transformation advisors and developed a multi-layered support system for them including induction programmes, global retreats, online support, thematic knowledge products, learning events, and information-sharing vehicles.

Provided technical assistance to UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams to formulate and implement conflict prevention/transformation programmes to address national issues of contention such as religious, ethnic, resources, electoral, and governance conflicts.

Chair, Expert Reference Group of the Framework for Preventive Action and Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, UN Secretariat, New York 2008 - 2009

Directed activities of the UN's interagency Expert Reference Group (ERG) to implement preventive action including: coordinating HQ and field processes on conflict prevention programming; catalyzing and supporting country-specific working groups and thematic teams, leading outreach activities and briefing events, marshalling resources for special initiatives. Liaised with RCs, UNCTs, departments/agencies at HQ and in the field to create and strengthen synergies for field-based conflict prevention programming and strengthened UN conflict prevention practice through exchanges of experiences, information dissemination, induction and skill enhancement processes and the development of knowledge products on conflict sensitivity, natural resources/land conflicts, contested transitions.

Governance and Public Administration Officer, Governance and Public Administration Branch, DESA, UN Secretariat, United Nations, NY 1994 - 2008

Provided technical advice and advisory service to UN Country Teams, conducted needs assessment, training, project development and management services to support governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Formulated and managed capacity-building projects that developed conflict management skills and strengthened governance institutions in developing and transitional countries.

Peace and Election Observer, United Nations Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) 1992 - 1994

Responsible for peace observation, reporting, analyzing, and forecasting political events and developments in KwaZulu/Natal. Worked with South African National Peace Accord structures to negotiate sustainable local-level peace agreements between conflicting parties.

Programme Manager, UN Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations HQ, New York 1989 - 1991

Directed a educational development project for 1,200+ disadvantaged South Africans and Namibians. Developed and implemented programme guidelines and policies; initiated programme components with new partners in pre-independence South Africa; liaised with national governments, liberation movements and international donors; prepared and monitored \$6 million budget; drafted reports, documentation, and handbooks for field offices; provided support and guidance to field offices; and managed a staff of five responsible for the processing of inquiries, evaluation and selection of candidates, counselling of students, and monitoring of academic and financial programmes.

Program Officer, African-American Institute, New York

1982-1988

Managed a refugee education project for South African and Namibian refugees in sub-Saharan Africa and North America. Responsible for: program planning and development; proposal and report writing to government, foundation, and private funding sources; coordination with international development agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations; budget preparation and management; editing southern African student newsletter. Participated in field missions to West, East, and southern Africa to monitor project activities and coordinate with international and local development assistance agencies.

Program Assistant, African-American Institute, New York

1977-1982

Coordinated the recruitment, evaluation, selection, and placement of African refugee students; conducted cross-cultural orientation; provided personal, academic, employment, and repatriation counseling; developed Africa-specific academic and employment resources. Responsible for scholarship administration; managed refugee application procedures; coordinated student visa, financial, and logistical services; maintained and analyzed statistical data for program reporting.

Education

- **Masters of International Administration**, School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont, 1988. Graduate studies in: project design, M&E, financial management, development administration, organizational structure and behavior, cross-cultural counseling, and experiential training.
- **Bachelor of Arts**, SUNY at Stony Brook, Major - Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, 1977
- Fletcher Summer Institute for the Advanced Study of **Nonviolent Conflict**, Tufts University, June 2015
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **Dealing with the Past**, Advanced Course, July 2014

Publications

“An Analysis of Strategic Processes for Conflict-Sensitive Reconstruction of Governance and Public Administration,” in **Reconstructing Governance and Public Administration for Peaceful, Sustainable Development**, ST/ESA/PAD/SER.E/61, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2003.

“Deconstructing Prevention: A Systems Approach to Mitigating Violent Conflict,” co-authored with Tobi Dress in **From Reaction to Conflict Prevention: Opportunities for the UN System**, edited by Fen Hampson and David Malone, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002.

Memberships

Membership in inter-agency and multi-stakeholder working groups on conflict prevention, governance, democratization and post-conflict issues:

- New York Peace Institute, Board of Directors (2012 - present)
- Free Yezidi Foundation – Board of Directors (2014 - present)
- Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Network, Global Advisory Board (2005 - present)
- International Center for Assault Prevention, Board of Advisors (2018 - present)

Awards

Spirit of United Nations Award winner, presented by the UN NGO Committee on Spirituality Values and Global Concern, 2014.