2016 Highlights: Peace work in a “post-truth” world

Media in a “post-truth” world

Peacemakers Trust’s work monitoring news from around the world has taken on new importance in 2016 as attention has been riveted on dramatically polarized discourse about Syria’s conflict and refugees, the Brexit vote and the US election. Peacemakers Trust directors Ernie Fraser and Catherine Morris continue to search out “conflict sensitive” news that examines sources of conflicts and peace initiatives. Peacemakers Trust has developed some criteria for evaluating the quality of news reporting on conflict.

Teaching our kids about peace: New list of books for children

Veteran educator Patricia Morris worked with Peacemakers Trust in 2016 to create a new bibliography of books on peace for young children. Launched in December, this is the latest page in the Peacemakers Trust bibliography. The resource website continues to be popular worldwide and received more than 160,000 visits in 2016.

Southeast Asia research


Indigenous peoples in Canada

Peacemakers Trust work in response to the Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) included facilitation of an educational event on 4 October 2016 hosted by Emmanuel Church, Victoria. The event responded to the TRC call to churches to repudiate a 15th century church and legal doctrine called the “Doctrine of Discovery” which was used historically to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples around the world. The event featured the screening of a film that explains and denounces the Doctrine of Discovery from a contemporary Christian perspective. Following the film, Tldh'thul, Robert Morales, a lawyer and Chief Treaty Negotiator for the Hul'qum'num' Treaty Group explained how the Doctrine of Discovery was involved in giving legal cover to a massive corporate land grab on Vancouver Island over a century ago.

Conflict Resolution Experts’ Open Letter to US officials

After the US election there were hundreds of reports of race-based discrimination, vandalism, beatings and threats, with significant spillover into Canada. The post-election violence prompted Peacemakers Trust to convene 60 experts in conflict resolution in the US, Canada to sign an open letter to all US government officials urging them to them to make public statements to build respect and to prevent violence based on gender, religion, race, ethnicity or political views. The letter also provided educational information on the US Constitution and asked for concrete steps to prevent acts of hatred and foster mutual understanding, respect and civility within the USA.

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- To update our free, online resources for students, academics, practitioners and the public;
- To help our volunteers with travel expenses to conduct education or research including planned case studies on business, human rights and conflict and planned training in negotiation for human rights defenders in Asia;
- To respond to invitations to conduct education on dispute resolution, conflict transformation and reconciliation.
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