Conflict is an issue which we cannot seem to escape, whether it be a personal disagreement or turning on the news to hear about wars that are taking place in the world. Peace and stability are central to sustainable development. While some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

Violence and insecurity affect economic growth and often result in long standing grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk (UNDP: 2016). This resource contains activities to tackle issues around conflict and peace with young people, and information about how Concern is working with communities who are suffering from the effects of conflict.

**CONFLICT BY NUMBERS:**
- In conflict affected countries 28.5 million primary school aged children no longer attend school (UNDP: 2016).
- The Global Peace Index 2016 states that 81 countries became more peaceful in the past year while the situation deteriorated in 79. Only 10 countries in the world are completely free from armed conflict. (Global Peace Index: 2016).
- When women are included in peace processes, there is a 20% increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least two years and a 35% increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years (UN Women: 2012).
- Civilian fatalities in wartime, have climbed from 5% 100 years ago, to more than 90% in the wars of today (UNICEF).
- There are approximately 65.6 million refugees worldwide (UNHCR: 2016).

**DEFINITIONS:**

**What is Conflict?**
Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument. We often hear the term in relation to war and other violent clashes, but it is any situation where two or more parties seriously disagree.

**What is Peace?**
Peace is a time of harmony where there is no conflict. Some people believe a lack of violence equates to peace. Others would disagree, arguing that real peace means justice and equality for all people in society, not just a lack of violence.

**Discussion point**
Why do you think there are disagreements about the meaning of the word peace? What does it mean to you and why?

**TEACHER/ FACILITATOR ACTIVITY 1**

**History of conflict** (15 minutes)

**NEED:**
- Conflict cards photocopied and cut out (p.5)
- Students in groups of around 4

**INSTRUCTIONS**
- Divide students into groups of four and give each of them a pack of the cards.
- For each conflict, the young people need to find the right ‘actors’ and facts about them and match them up.
- Go over the correct answers. Find out what students know about the conflicts discussed, and if they can name others.

**EXTRA EXTRA!**
Research the reasons behind the conflicts listed here. Are there any common themes?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFLICT</th>
<th>ACTORS</th>
<th>KEY FACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World war II</td>
<td>Allied Powers: Britain (and Commonwealth Countries), France, Russia, China and the United States Axis Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan</td>
<td>Between two groups of major powers: Axis and Allies Around 64 million people in total died during this conflict. The Holocaust, was a genocide in which some six million European Jews were killed by Adolf Hitler’s Nazi Germany, and its World War II collaborators. World War 2 saw the first use of an atomic bomb dropped on Japan’s major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th (Hiroshima) and August 9th (Nagasaki), 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean war</td>
<td>USA South Korea Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea Soviet Union</td>
<td>Began at the end of WWII when Soviet forces advanced into Korea, and resulted in the country being split in two (as it is today – North Korea and South Korea) Both sides see themselves as the government of the whole of Korea Conflict continues to this day – there is currently an armistice rather than an end of the war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India – Pakistan</td>
<td>India Pakistan</td>
<td>A territorial conflict which started as the result of the partition of India in 1947 over the region of Kashmir Has been on and off violence since 1947, but no official end of conflict has occurred The area Kashmir is disputed as to which state it belongs to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwandan conflict</td>
<td>Hutus Tutsis</td>
<td>This conflict is classified as a genocide 800,000 people were slaughtered by extremist ethnic Hutus in just 100 days. This conflict was the accumulation of a decades-long conflict between the two groups and their power struggles Neighbors killed neighbors, and there was also murder between family members from different groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian war</td>
<td>Bashar Al-Assad and the Syrian government The rebel fighters (made up of various groups who oppose the government) Daesh France, UK, Saudi Arabia, Russia, USA (and others). This conflict is complex involving many nations</td>
<td>This conflict began in 2011 after protests calling for freedom and democracy. These were peaceful to begin with however the government responded violently and this quickly escalated Unrest quickly spread across the country There are currently more than 5 million refugees as a result of the crisis, as well as many internally displaced people within Syria still</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT?

Conflict has many serious consequences for the lives of people and the environment in the long term and short term.

It devastates people’s lives, can lead to heavy damage to the environment, and forces people to leave their homes and everything behind — pushing people into poverty.

Poverty can be seen as both a cause and effect of conflict. Poverty can lead to weak governance within nations, increasing the chances of civil wars.

Poverty causes the loss of people’s property and possessions, as well as increasing the prices of basic necessities such as food.

Hunger is a direct consequence of conflict. Conflict separates families from their livelihoods, their land, and access to markets.

Conflict sends economic growth into reverse, forcing people out of their jobs and normal lives, and into exile, poverty, and hunger.

Conflict can have a huge impact on education. In some places in the world, teachers and educators themselves can be subject to attacks because of their position.

Also, around 24 million children and young people are out of school for conflict related reasons. Lack of educational opportunities is a driver in poverty.

Conflict can lead to direct physical damage to the environment due to bombs and other attacks which can damage ecosystems for years to come.

Conflicts over land and resources can also cause violence in some areas.

Discussion points

• What do you think the long term ‘costs’ of conflict are?
• Who are the ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ when conflict occurs?
• Are there any other impacts that you can think of other than the ones above?
WHERE WE WORK: CONCERN AND CONFLICT

Concern works with communities across 11 countries who are suffering the consequences of conflict. These countries include Syria, Burundi, North Korea, and South Sudan. The consequences of conflict include displacement, food insecurity, reduced access to education, and malnutrition.

In the Central African Republic, ongoing conflict has severely affected the livelihoods and living conditions of over half of the population. 2.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Concern is working on food, hygiene, and livelihoods projects to assist communities that have been affected by conflict across the country.

TEACHER/ FACILITATOR ACTIVITY 2

The impact of conflict – Vacation getaway backpack? (20 minutes)

Displacement is one of the biggest consequences of conflict. For many people this means leaving everything behind apart from what they can carry. Use this activity to explore displacement in conflict.

NEED:
- Image of a backpack printed on both sides of A4 paper for each student
- Pens

INSTRUCTIONS
- Divide students into groups of three or four
- Tell students that they are going away on vacation tomorrow! Within their groups, ask them to discuss what they would take, where they might be going, and what they will do there. Discuss this as a larger group.
- Give students five minutes to draw the contents of their vacation bag on the template.
- Now tell the group that the situation has suddenly changed. They now have to quickly escape from their home and country. They don’t know when they will return. Ask students to discuss again what they would take, where they might be going, and what they will do there. How is this different than last time?
- Give students five minutes to draw what they would take in their backpack. They should draw this on the back of their first backpack. Remind them that they may be traveling without food and uncertain of where they are going to stay/sleep.

- Discuss the varying content of each bag. What would they leave behind? What would they miss? Ask them how they would prove who they are?
- What do they think the long-term consequences of this could be on their lives? On their education, futures, health, etc.
TEACHER/ FACILITATOR

ACTIVITY 3

Reconciliation and Conflict Resolution – Peace Cranes
(One hour)

WHAT YOU NEED:
- Squares of paper cut out to make origami
- Instructions for the paper cranes

INSTRUCTIONS
- Read the story of the peace cranes
- Using the instructions on the back of this resource, create your own peace cranes and use them to design a display or piece of artwork to tell others about conflict and the importance of working for peace

Sadako’s story:

Origami cranes are recognized all over the world as a symbol of peace. The connection between the two comes from the story of a young Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki who lived in Hiroshima, Japan. In 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on the city which destroyed the surrounding region, killed thousands, and had long-term implications for survivors.

Sadako and her family survived the bomb, but by the age of 12, she had developed leukaemia due to radiation exposure. When she was sick, her father told her an ancient Japanese legend that if you folded 1,000 paper cranes, you would be granted a wish by the gods. Sadako quickly began folding as many cranes as possible to ask for her illness to go away. After 1,000 birds had been folded, her illness had not subsided, but she didn’t give up and continued making origami birds. Sadly, she only managed to fold 644 more before she died in 1955 at the age of 13. Her determination and courage were inspirational to others and the crane is now seen as a global symbol of peace and hope.

DEBRIEF

- Sadako never gave up hope even in the darkest of times. How can we be a tower of strength for those going through challenging times due to conflict?
- Why not create a display of the peace cranes as a symbol of hope to those in your community? Or, make your own symbols of peace and hope to remind others why working toward SDG16 is so important.

‘Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways.’ Dalai Lama XIV
PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

PEACE CRANE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start with a square piece of paper, coloured side up. Fold in half and open. Then fold in half the other way.

2. Turn the paper over to the white side. Fold the paper in half, crease well and open, and then fold again in the other direction.

3. Using the creases you have made, bring the top 3 corners of the model down to the bottom corner. Flatten model.

4. Fold top triangular flaps into the centre and unfold.

5. Fold top of model downwards, crease well and unfold.

6. Open the uppermost flap of the model, bringing it upwards and pressing the sides of the model inwards at the same time. Flatten down, creasing well.

7. Turn model over and repeat Steps 4-6 on the other side.

8. Fold top flaps into the centre.

9. Repeat on other side.

10. Fold both ‘legs’ of model up, crease very well, then unfold.

11. Inside Reverse Fold the “legs” along the creases you just made.

12. Inside Reverse Fold one side to make a head, then fold down the wings.

Finished Crane
WAYS TO TAKE ACTION ON SDG16

SDG16 aims for peace, justice and strong institutions. All of these contribute to long term stability and a more peaceful world.

1. Make peace cranes to raise awareness of SDG16. You could incorporate this as part of an art display about peace and conflict.
2. Engage with local leaders about social issues affecting people in your community.
3. Start a campaign to tell people about the consequences of conflict. As part of this, you could organize an event to inform your local community about the importance of working for justice.
4. Be inspired by those who have worked for peace, and research leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.
5. Invite Concern to run an in-person workshop on conflict.
7. Study countries affected by conflict.
8. Run a fundraiser in your community to raise money for our work in conflict-affected areas.
10. Create a peace wall where people can share their ideas for how to work toward a more peaceful world.
11. Organize a sports day for peace. Sport is often used as a peacebuilding tool as it requires respect and inclusion.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Established in 1981, the International Day of Peace is observed all around the world each year on September 21. It is a shared day for all people to commit to peace above all differences, and to contribute to building a culture of peace.

GET IN TOUCH!

- Contact concern to take part in a workshop: schools.usa@concern.net
- Follow us on twitter @concern, and tweet us to tell us about any actions you have taken to work towards #SDG16
- Try to complete as many of the actions above and encourage those in your community to do the same
- Fundraise in your community for our projects that work with those suffering the consequences of conflict

The fisherman’s family from Six Years of War, Six Shattered lives - an illustration series to mark six years of war in Syria. Artist: Marc Corrigan (www.marccorrigan.com)