

Taylor O'Connor

20th May 1983 #
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A creative peacebuilding specialist seeking to enhance effectiveness & innovation in international peacebuilding efforts.

I'm a creative education and peacebuilding specialist experienced in establishing programs in conflict settings, conducting research, designing peacebuilding materials and facilitating participatory workshops.

During the past years I've supported both local and international agencies to develop creative strategies to transform conflict and build peace. With a background in peace studies and ample practice in the field I've developed keen abilities to conduct analysis of global conflicts, map innovative strategies for peacebuilding and design context appropriate peacebuilding curriculum.

I'm organized, professional and adapt easily to a range of professional settings. I seek a opportunities where I can conduct research on conflict, support capacity building of local peacebuilders or design materials that will contribute to innovation in the field of peacebuilding.

Skills:

- Design, monitoring and evaluation of rights, peacebuilding, cohesion & gender based programming
- Integration of participatory & experiential learning methodologies in program/curriculum design
- Quantitative/qualitative/participatory research, organizational management, strategic planning

Training/Facilitation Ability:

- Peacebuilding, human rights, conflict transformation, community development, social cohesion
- Organizational development, strategic planning; program design, monitoring & evaluation
- Personal/social development, gender issues, communication, participatory methods, sustainability

Education:

2008 - 2009	UN Mandated University for Peace Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica	Masters in Peace Education
2001 - 2005	San Diego State University San Diego, USA	Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Development
2005	UC Berkeley, ASUC Art Studio Berkeley, USA	Certificate in Documentary Photography & Portrait Photography

Publications:

- 2015 *Conflict Analysis for Reconciliation in Myanmar: Bridging Divides with Cultural Expression*. Search for Common Ground
- 2014 *Pathways to Peace in Rakhine State*. Australian National University, New Mandala.
- 2013 *Gender Issues & Perspectives: Gender Issues in Myanmar & Around the World*. Mote Oo Education
- 2009 *Revolution of the Heart: Buddhism and Social Engagement in Burma*. Masters thesis, UN Mandated University for Peace.

Professional Experience:

Sept. 2015 - present	UNICEF (ADAP/PBEA) New York (home based)	Consultant: Peacebuilding Design, M&E Toolkit Writer Develop peacebuilding competency framework & toolkit for design, monitoring & evaluation of programs for adolescents in conflict zones. Develop concept note for field-testing.
2014-present ongoing	Kingthar Institute for Peace And Development Rakhine State, Myanmar	Consultant: Peacebuilding Advisor Strategic guidance, technical support to CBO for setup of art, sport & education projects for peacebuilding & social cohesion.
Aug. 2014 - Jan. 2015	Search for Common Ground Myanmar	Consultant: Conflict Analysis and Baseline Study Research, analyze social divides. Identify opportunities for use of culture & media to build peace. Advise & write reports.
July - Dec. 2014	UNICEF (PBEA) Myanmar Yangon and Rakhine State	Consultant: Rakhine State Education Conflict Analysis Research, analyze education influences to conflict in Rakhine State. Recommend education strategies to build peace.
Early 2014	Shalom Foundation Yangon, Myanmar	Consultant: Evaluation & Strategic Planning Advisor Evaluation of interfaith youth project. Strategic guidance to develop education, media & creative peacebuilding strategies.
Late 2013	GOAL Ireland/Myanmar	Consultant: Conflict Assessment Rakhine State Research conflict history, context, development. Identify roots, drivers, trends & triggers. Recommend intervention strategies.
2013	Mote Oo/GHAP Thailand/Myanmar	Consultant: Curriculum Development Identify curriculum needs. Design curriculum for community and environmental health, org. development & project design.
2011 – 2013	Thabyay Education Network Various locations, Myanmar	Community Education Program Manager Design program & curriculum frameworks, train & manage 16 staff, setup NFE peacebuilding projects in conflict areas.
2010	The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center Highlands, USA	Youth Programs Manager Design peace & justice workshops for youth, facilitate training, organize conferences, supervise 40 staff, mentor volunteers.
2008-2009	Monkey Business Camp Berkeley/Oakland, USA	Program Director Train and manage 20 staff, supervise 5 locations, train and mentor 60 youth leaders, design curriculum, finance, M&E.
2008	Human International Academy (HIA) San Diego, USA	Teacher University preparation teacher for international youth. Teach essay writing, presentation skills, cultural perspectives classes.
2007	International Language House Yokohama, Japan	Teacher Design and implement music, movement, art & play based language curriculum for pre-K and elementary students.
2006	Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) Sangkhlaburi, Thailand	Teacher Trainer Design curriculum, conduct training on critical thinking, human rights and community development for Myanmar teachers.
2002-2006	Monkey Business Camp Berkeley/Oakland, USA	Counselor (2002-2003). Site Director (2004-2006) Manage 5 staff, mentor youth, lead groups of 40 children. Organize and facilitate learning activities for children & youth.

Additional Experience:

- 7 years work w/ disabled & disadvantaged children
- 2 years mentor for East African refugee youth
- 2 years organizer for University Vedic Culture Society

Additional Skills:

- English native, Spanish fluent, Burmese int.
- Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel, SPSS
- Japanese Calligraphy, meditation, Capoeira