MOSIAC OF PEACEBUILDING NETWORKS PROJECT
STATUS UPDATE

In the summer of 2016, an effort was launched to consider the then political and social change and disruption that was taking place in the United States. A group of conflict resolution and peacebuilding professionals starting meeting at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution to consider what a collective effort might look like.

It was determined that an event at the Point of View Retreat and Research Center (a part of George Mason University) might allow for a range of organizations to share their vision of next steps. To that end, an event was held June 2-3, 2017. The event was titled "Innovating in Challenging Times: Building an Infrastructure for Supporting Transformative Peace." Various groups were invited. This statement in the invitation provided focus to the gathering:

> *Over the last couple of decades, the broader field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding has grown to include a wide diversity of actors engaged at the levels of policy, practice, education, research, training, and funding. This gathering aims to identify our collective knowledge, resources, and innovative opportunities to advance solutions that effectively address current and future challenges, taking a proactive approach to peacebuilding.*

Over 50 organizations, through representatives, met to share their assessments, visions, and ideas for moving forward. A major outcome of the gathering was the ability to connect groups and individuals across disciplinary and interest lines to consider collective and coordinated action.

The title "Mosaic of Peacebuilding Networks" was adopted as the name of the effort moving forward, and as of this date the planning group recognizes that a number of outcomes have come about as a result of this effort, including:

- A mapping of groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals advancing peacebuilding and conflict resolution approaches, led by Communities in Transition (CIT)
- Considering common objectives and strategies among participants as a means to assessing how working collaboratively can be better accomplished has evolved to the network coordinating meetings, led by United Religions Initiative (URI)
- Seeking understanding as to how those gathered might continue to work together. In the fall 2017 meetings replicating some of the processes used at the Point of View event were held at other conferences, including the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) and the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA).
- Gaining familiarity with groups and individuals working to advance peacebuilding and conflict resolution solutions. One emerging example is the commitment (as recommended through this effort) to hold a joint conference of PJSA and ACR in 2020. Similar collaborations are in the works.
- Reflecting on the current state of the U.S. social, political, and economic climate and thereby explore innovative opportunities to advance solutions to meeting current and future challenges. This created new partnerships shaping present platforms, such as the 12th Annual International Conference on Conflict Resolution and the subsequent manual.

The planning group continued to meet and addressed issues of organization structure, including how to expand the planning group and establish an advisory group. An objective with which the planning group had wrestled when considering a follow-up gathering is considering actors in the field not commonly included in our work and how they might be included, with a focus on listening. However, at the present time, the planning group has determined that another gathering is not presently on the agenda. Rather, individual and organizational efforts are encouraged.

For the most part, this has been an organic initiative with a number of individuals and organizations learning about each other's efforts and searching to find commonality. While we have not met all of the objectives we had set before us we are excited about the many different platforms that have emerged that have created better ways as a community to communicate with each other and support one another's work.