The International Seminar on Human Rights and Peace-building marks the launch of a three-year research project conceived by the Centre for Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC) at University of Copenhagen and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) with support from the Carlsberg Foundation in Denmark. It holds the ambition of convening a global platform composed of practitioner-researchers working specifically on the inter-section between human rights, peace-building, and state-building. The Human Rights and Peace-building Seminar will be a recurring annual event to be held in Copenhagen for the duration of the research project.

The first International Seminar to be held in Copenhagen, on November 16th to 18th, 2015, will explore linkages between human rights and peace-building and more specifically how human rights promotion and peace-building can be conceptualized and devised as mutually reinforcing processes and what factors impact the dynamic relation between them. Although the inter-linkages between human rights and peace-building have been recognized widely, much of the research done in this area has focused on transitional justice and the link between justice and peace during peace negotiations and when dealing with human rights violations and atrocities in the aftermath of violent conflict. There is scope for mobilizing a wider lens that looks at the many different types of human rights and peace-building efforts and the complex cause and effect relationship between contextual conditions and factors that influence human rights promotion and peace-building. Also, this lens will zoom in on the sometimes conflicting and/or complementary relations between the two processes and the space they occupy in different phases after the ending of armed conflict.

The purpose of the seminar will be three-fold:

1. To establish the ‘state-of-the-art’ of the field of human rights and peace-building
2. To discuss gaps in policy-oriented research related to human rights, peace-building and state-building
3. To develop the concept and approach for the research project and the platform, further.
BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE CRIC/DIHR RESEARCH PROJECT

The research project of CRIC/DIHR focuses on strengthening the understanding of how international actors can most effectively engage in conflict-affected countries in order to strengthen processes of human rights and peacebuilding. While the primary focus will be on how states engage with other actors (including other states, international community, and civil society) in relation to these processes, the project will explore different forms of state-, state-craft, state-building, and institution-building. It will discuss the forms of knowledge, expertise, normative framework for engagement, and power relations that shape the space for making choices on approach and implementation in human rights and peace-building. The research project will apply – and further elaborate on - the concepts of human rights and peace-building, respectively, as both an aim with specific substantive outcomes and as a process.

The particular contribution of the research project will be a focus on the linkages between human rights and peace-building in relation to state-building and with particular attention for the dynamic inter-relation between different types of human rights and peace-building efforts, in time and space. A key question is whether different approaches have particular relevance in different phases along a developmental arch from immediate post-war to more stable consolidation. It is well-established that timing and sequencing is important when devising strategies for human rights and peacebuilding efforts, but exactly how this works, is less clear. The role of transitional justice processes and mechanisms in enhancing human rights and peacebuilding, and the effect of pursuing particular approaches to transitional justice on the space for undertaking other types of efforts will be explored. The process of engagement and the chosen approach to strengthening RoL will be subject to analysis. In this project, ‘process’ is considered important for the dynamic inter-action between different types of efforts – whether conflicting or complementary – and their effectiveness in contributing to human rights and/or peace-building.

The research assumes a complex interplay between local and international politics, between local and international law, and between local and international discourses on human rights and peacebuilding. This shapes the playing field for developing and implementing policies, strategies and mechanisms for human rights and peacebuilding in a given conflict-affected country/region. Also, it is proposed that agency and state-craft matter; that the knowledge, expertise, normative thinking, choice of approach, etc. of key persons within state institutions and within the international engagement and how they inter-act in their efforts to promote human rights and peace-building makes a difference and must be understood in conjunction with the institutional framework and political, economic, social and cultural factors thatframes the processes of engagement.
MORE THAN A RESEARCH PROJECT?

While the funds from the Carlsberg Foundation will hopefully generate important new knowledge on the linkages between human rights and peace-building, the ambition of the founders of the project extend beyond knowledge development and into the fields of policy development and reform of existing ways of implementing development programmes related to human rights, peace-building and state-building.

In the early-2000s, two meetings were convened in Europe with the purpose of discussing the linkages between human rights and peace-building. Among the initiators were Michelle Parlevliet and Eileen Babbitt. There was a recognized need to come together and discuss how the two fields could complement one another rather than being conflictual. Since then, two (academic) books have been published on the subject of the inter-section between human rights and conflict resolution, plus a more practitioner oriented publication. Today, there are a number of important initiatives in this area all of which have significant contributions to make. The question that will be raised here is whether synergies can be found that can produce something greater than the sum of all these initiatives.

This initiative gives space to re-start the dialogue on whether there is a need for a renewed and focused bridge-building effort between the fields of human rights and peace-building and whether this may in fact be a ‘launch pad’ for significant policy and reform initiatives in this area. While the term ‘Platform’ is subject to discussion, it is meant to signal a networking effort that is firmer in nature and which holds the ability to launch joint initiatives for reform and policy development. This may imply the production of new types of knowledge and knowledge dissemination, or it may imply new types of policy engagement. It will be up to the participants in this meeting to decide whether a Platform is needed and if so, what this Platform should achieve and how it should function.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

The seminar will convene high-level experts among practitioner-researchers who have focused extensively on the linkages between human rights, peace-building and state-building. An effort will also be made to engage diplomats and relevant policy makers from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of relevant countries (including Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, United Kingdom, Sweden, Sweden, Sweden, Sweden).

---

Germany and the Netherlands). The seminar will consist of internal sessions of facilitated discussions among the experts, policy makers, and the research team of CRIC and DIHR and open sessions in which they can share their insights with other interested practitioners, researchers and students.

The seminar will consist of three parts with the first half-day, on Nov. 16th, reserved for an internal sharing among the international experts (researchers, practitioners, policy-makers). The second day, Nov. 17th, is an open seminar exploring two themes: 1) The ‘State of the Art’ - the linkages between human rights and conflict resolution, and 2) Human rights policy, programming and practice in conflict affected countries – and its impact on processes of peace-building and state-building. The inputs from speakers on the second day will be no more than 20 minutes and a discussant will set the scene for the open discussion that follows. The third part takes place on Nov. 18th, and consists of another internal discussion on the interest and scope for establishing a Global Platform on human rights and peace-building.

While the speakers mentioned in the tentative programme for the open session are all renowned researchers/practitioners/policy-makers in this area, many of the other international participants whose presence we hope to secure, are equally highly recognized practitioner-researchers. Their participation will contribute considerably to the internal sharing session and the formation of the Global Platform. The research project of CRIC/DIHR also intends the seminar to lead to a tangible ‘outcome’ in the form of a publication – e.g. an edited volume or thematic journal issue – and we will appreciate indications of interest to contribute to such a publication from experts, policy-makers, and researchers participating in the seminar.

International participants will be requested to identify institutional options for funding their own participation. However, if need be funds will be made available to ensure participation of as many of the experts and policy-makers targeted as possible.

The tentative schedule for the international seminar is outlined below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 – Nov. 16th</th>
<th>Day 2 – Nov. 17th</th>
<th>Day 3 – Nov. 18th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open seminar on human rights and peace-building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Internal Session</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-13:30 <strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td>9:00-12:00 The ‘State of the Art’ - the linkages between Human Rights and Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>0900-11:30 Discussing possible establishment of a Global Platform on Human Rights and Peace-Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30-17:00 <strong>Sharing of Research-Practitioner projects and policy development related to the linkages between human rights and peace-building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presenters:</strong> Michelle Parlevliet, Research Fellow, CRIC/DIHR project Christine Bell, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Edinburgh Alan Keenan, Senior Analyst and Sri Lanka Project Director, International Crisis Group</td>
<td>1. <strong>Assessing interest and scope:</strong> how interested are those present to develop a ‘platform’ on human rights and peacebuilding, what would those present wish to gain from and contribute to it, what ideas and opportunities for collaboration and interaction exist?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Presentation:</strong> of the CRIC/DIHR research project 2. <strong>Scoping and sharing:</strong> input from the international experts and policy makers on research projects and policy development efforts related to human rights and peace-building they are engaged in. 3. <strong>Considering connections and cross-fertilisation:</strong> identifying and discussing complementarities that may be sought between the different initiatives.</td>
<td><strong>Discussant and Chair:</strong> Graeme Simpson, Senior Advisor to the Director General of Interpeace</td>
<td>2. <strong>Considering purpose and outcomes:</strong> what could/should be the purpose and possible outputs of such a platform?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:15-17:30 <strong>Wrap-Up</strong></td>
<td>12:00-13:00 <strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td>3. <strong>Considering who and how:</strong> who would be part of such a platform, how would it function/operate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00 <strong>Dinner</strong></td>
<td>13:00-16:00 <strong>Human Rights policy, programming and practice in conflict affected countries – and its impact on processes of peace-building</strong></td>
<td>12:00-13:00 <strong>Lunch and Goodbye</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chandra Lekha Sriram, Professor of International Law &amp; International Relations, Uni. of East-London Rohan Edrisinha, Governance Adviser to UNDP, Sri Lanka Ben Majekodunmi, Senior Human Rights Officer, Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights Unit, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>