

# Road Map to Peace



## Aim:

to use real life examples of conflict to explore where the road to peace lies.

## Age:

12 years and over

## Time:

45 minutes - 1 hour.

## Materials:

wallpaper, markers, art material

Source: ETISC (2003). Friends in a Faraway Land: East Timor and Ireland School Links.

## What to do:

Ask the group to suggest words linked to peace. Write all the ideas up.

Form small groups and give each group a length of wallpaper and markers or art materials. Explain that the groups are to draw a winding road all the way along their sheet.

Hand out to each group one of the five conflict fact sheets: Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala and Iraq. Allow the groups a few minutes to read their fact sheet.

In the middle of their sheet, the groups mark 'Present' - the situation today. To the left, the groups mark out the history of the conflict, including causes and effects, in the order of when they occur up to the present. The groups can write or use pictures or symbols to illustrate their drawings. Allow 15 minutes for this.

Explain that the process of peace building can be divided into a number of key areas – **healing, relationship building, reconstruction and interdependence**. Write these up on the flipchart. Ask the groups if they understand the terms.

In the group, spend ten minutes discussing the ways peace could be achieved for each of the conflicts under these headings. For each key area, the groups identify one or two practical actions that would support the peace process.

On the right hand side of their sheet, the groups mark, along the road, the actions needed to achieve peace. Again the groups can use words, pictures or symbols. Allow 15 minutes for this.

Explain that the sheets show a road map for each of the conflicts. Each group presents their road map. In the larger group, ask whether the roadmaps for the different conflicts followed similar approaches to achieving peace. What was similar or different about the different conflicts?





## Links

For further information about the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo contact:

Congolese Irish Partnership, 19 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1.

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## Fact Box: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) is 875000 sq. miles in size.

The population of the DRC is 54 million people and the capital is Kinshasa.

The country is rich in precious resources, including coltan, gold, diamonds and timber.

In 1998, Uganda and Rwanda invaded the DRC and stirred up inter-tribal tension.

Estimates of between 3.3 million and 5 million people have been killed in the civil war directly or indirectly, making it the world's

bloodiest conflict since the Second World War.

The Ugandan military armed both sides in return for access to gold, diamonds and timber resources. Rwandan forces were also implicated in the systematic plunder of Congolese natural resources.

In the Ituri region, recent fighting between ethnic Hema and Lendu tribes has resulted in more than 50,000 people killed and 500,000 displaced.

UN forces observed killings in the town of Bunia but were not allowed to interfere in the fighting.

## Fact Box: Guatemala

Guatemala is about the size of Ireland and is located in Central America. The capital is Guatemala City. The population of Guatemala is 13 million people.

The majority of the population is indigenous Maya with their own customs, beliefs and traditions. There are 23 languages spoken in Guatemala.

70% of the land in Guatemala is owned by just 2% of the population.

Between 1960 and 1996, Guatemala experienced civil war in which tens of thousands of people disappeared and 1 million had to leave their homes. Four fifths of civilian victims were Maya.

A peace agreement was signed in 1996.

A UN sponsored Truth Commission has acknowledged that genocide was committed during the 1980s and concluded that over 90% of the crimes were committed by the State army and paramilitary forces. Those accused of planning the genocide remain free and in some cases even hold high political office.

Since 1996, life has remained the same for the Maya people. There remains poverty, land crisis, threats and intimidation. Human rights campaigners believe that past crimes against the Maya have to be acknowledged in order to build a just society for all.





## Fact Box: Iraq

Iraq is located in the Middle East. It is neighbored by Turkey, Syria, Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It has a population of 25 million and is 437000 square kilometres in size. In 1932 Iraq gained independence from Britain.

In 1979 Saddam Hussein gained power in a military coup. He led the country in a war against Iran between 1980 and 1988. Iraq was given military support by the USA, France, Russia and the UK. There were over one million casualties on each side.

In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to operation Desert Storm by US and allied forces in 1991. Saddam Hussein responds by killing Kurds. It is estimated that he had 182,000 Kurds killed in total. Freedom of expression was unheard of and public executions of opposition politicians were common.

In 1991 a UN Resolution established terms for peace, including Iraqi disarmament and weapons inspections. Sanctions began, leading to the death of 4500 Iraqi children each month and the contamination of 40% of Iraq's water supply.

In 2000, Iraq rejected new weapons inspections proposals. Then in 2002, as part of the US war against terrorism, President Bush addressed the UN arguing for war against Iraq.

In November 2002, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1441 laying down rules for Iraqi disarmament and compliance with weapon's inspections. Having received no backing from the UN for a second resolution to commit to military action against Iraq, the US and UK decided to undertake military action without UN backing.

The US and UK invaded Iraq in March 2003 and took approximately 6 weeks to overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The US and UK promised that Iraqi oil revenues would be held in trust for the Iraqi people. Post war tension remained high with armed US and British troops remaining in Iraq to oversee the establishment of a democratic government. However, fatal attacks on British and US troops have increased in frequency.

