

Conference session at *Working for Justice & Building Peace*
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Global Psychosocial Network (GPN)

Psychosocial support for humanitarian workers, activists, and psychosocial professionals in conflict and disaster zones

Exploratory group members: Yosef Brody, Mary Fabri, Sarah Kamens, Jancis Long, Brad Olson, Judy Roth

Consultants: Judy Eidelson, Daniela Kantorová

In multiple conflict and disaster zones across the globe, psychosocial workers are addressing the needs of traumatized populations and refugees. Activists and humanitarian workers living in conflict and disaster zones are engaged in a daily struggle for freedom and basic human rights.

These human rights workers, activists, journalists, doctors, nurses, therapists, counselors, social workers, researchers, and volunteers live in the same violent contexts as the populations they serve. As a result, they themselves may be the victims of violent acts, disasters, or other crises. These experiences may eventually take their toll in different ways. For example, feelings of loss and meaninglessness may become more frequent than the compassion and interests that brought the person to this work in the first place. The adrenaline surges of war and violence may begin to seem more compelling than living. Or the person may feel as if they've lost the ability to connect with other people, including those closest to them. These experiences vary from person to person and context to context.

Despite their efforts to help others, psychosocial professionals, humanitarian workers, and activists often find themselves without private and confidential support of their own. Sometimes, these workers are hesitant to seek local services for professional and/or personal reasons. At other times, adequate support is unavailable.

GPN aims to create a network of providers who offer low-cost, need-based psychosocial care to other psychosocial professionals, humanitarian workers, and activists across the globe.

The psychosocial services we will offer include (but are not limited to):

- Consultation
- Support
- Counseling
- Therapy
- Assessment
- Training

Would you like to become involved as a GPN provider or volunteer?

Do you know a person or group who might be interested in receiving GPN services?

Would you like to view our website-in-development?

Please contact Sarah Kamens at srkamens@gmail.com