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**Directorate of Political Affairs DP**  
Political Affairs Division IV – Human Security:  
Peace, Human Rights, Humanitarian Policy, Migration

# **Towards Reconciliation Addressing Protracted Conflicts and Revitalizing Dialogue**

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# **Towards Reconciliation Addressing Protracted Conflicts and Revitalizing Dialogue**

- I. The Human Rights Legacy of Protracted Conflict**
- II. A Holistic Approach to Dealing with the Past:  
The Principles against Impunity**
- III. Towards Reconciliation: The Role of Dialogue**



# I. The Human Rights Legacy of Protracted Conflict

- **A legacy of grave human rights violations is one of the defining characteristics of protracted conflicts.**
- **Since the 1990s, more than 90 percent of armed conflicts have involved intra-state warfare, resulting in:**



# **I. The Human Rights Legacy of Protracted Conflict**

- **A majority of civilian victims with long-term effects on public health and social welfare;**
- **The geographic proximity of victims and perpetrators;**
- **A weak or corrupt state with no clear vision of the common good;**
- **Parallel power structures, including links with organized crime;**
- **A culture of violence and militarism.**



# I. The Human Rights Legacy of Protracted Conflict

**Initiatives to confront impunity and to promote the rule of law by investigating past abuses are important steps in:**

- **Realizing the rights of victims;**
- **Ensuring the accountability of perpetrators.**



## **To this end there is a need to:**

- **To acknowledge publicly the abuses that have taken place;**
- **To hold those responsible who have planned, ordered, and committed such violations;**
- **To rehabilitate and compensate victims;**
- **To reform institutions and replace public officials associated with past abuses.**

## **This process is known as Dealing with the Past**



# **This process is known as Dealing with the Past**

## **Dealing with the Past is a necessary precondition for reconciliation**



## **II. A Holistic Approach to Dealing with the Past**

**There is no standard model for Dealing with the Past.**

**The so-called ‘Joinet/Orentlicher’ principles, developed by the UN Human Rights Council to address the issue of impunity, provide a useful framework to conceptualize four areas of activity central to this approach.**





# The Principles against Impunity

- **The Right to Know**
- **The Right to Justice**
- **The Right to Reparations**
- **Guarantees of Non-Recurrence**



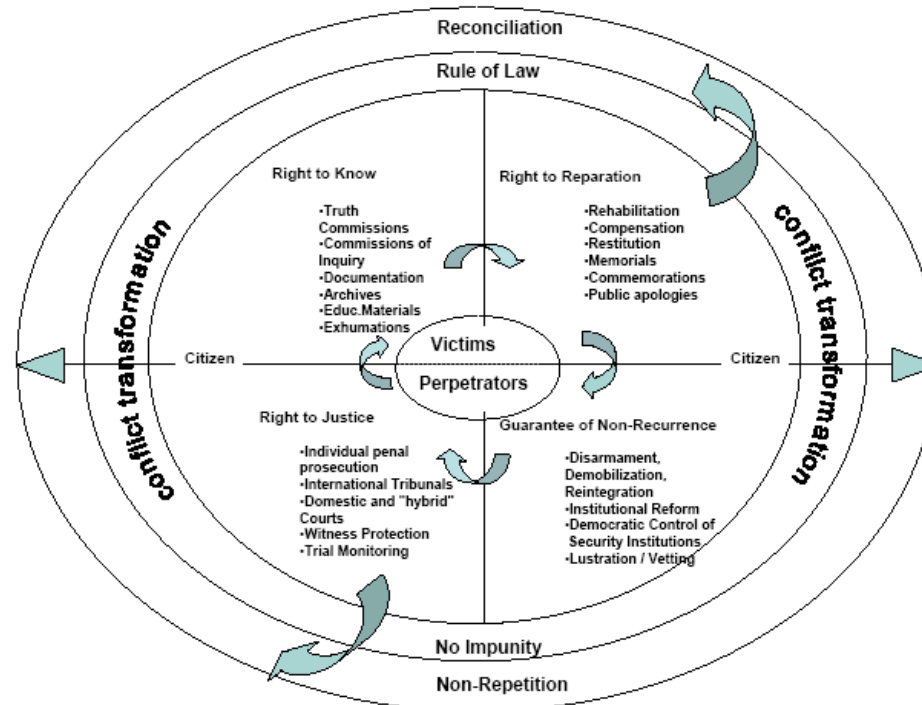
# The Principles against Impunity

**The ‘Joinet/Orentlicher’ principles identify:**

- 1. Collective duties to be met on the part of the State;**
- 2. Rights to be realized on behalf of individual victims and of society as a whole.**



# A Conceptual Framework for Dealing with the Past



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## **III. Towards Reconciliation: The Role of Dialogue**

### **Elements to be negotiated in a process of reconciliation**

- **Acknowledging and addressing past human rights abuse**
- **Developing a shared vision of an interdependent and just society**
- **Building a new basis for social identity**
- **Transforming oppressive structures and ideologies**
- **Creating conditions for behavioral and attitudinal change**



### **III. Towards Reconciliation: The Role of Dialogue**

#### **Addressing the paradoxes of reconciliation:**

- **Recognition of pain and suffering and the articulation of a common future**
- **Concerns for exposing what happened and for letting go in favor of a renewed relationship**
- **Redressing wrongs balanced against the need for stability of the status quo**
- **The burden of reconciliation is placed on the shoulders of the victims**



# **Towards Reconciliation Addressing Protracted Conflicts and Revitalizing Dialogue**

Thank you for your attention