Medical Peace Work

An emerging field of expertise in health work, violence prevention and peace building and seven interactive online courses
Health workers as agents for peace

The role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace is the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all.

(World Health Assembly, 1981)
Framework and definitions

• What is Medical Peace Work?
What Medical Peace Work is **NOT**:
“Violence is often predictable and preventable. Like other health problems, it is not distributed evenly across population groups or settings. Many of the factors that increase the risk of violence are shared across the different types of violence and are modifiable.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland
(WHO 2002)
Basic concepts used in MPW

- **Peace** = capacity to handle conflicts with empathy, creativity and in a non-violent way
- **Conflict** = incompatible goals in a goal seeking system
- **Violence** = unnecessary insult of basic human needs
- **Human needs**: physical, mental, social and spiritual
- **Peace work**: preventing/reducing violence and promoting peace

(Galtung 1996 and 2002, Rosenberg 2003)
Holistic concepts of peace and health overlap

- Wellbeing
- Basic needs
- Human security
- Human rights
- Absence of suffering, trauma, harm

Peace

Health
Implicit & explicit medical peace work

Health Professionals → Health work → PEACE

Health Professionals → Peace work → HEALTH
Characteristics of MPW-framework

- Holistic peace concept
  - Peace work NOT only at the top level
  - Peace work NOT only in war zones
  - Peace work NOT only for peace activists

- Public health approach to violence and peace

- Explicit peace work – for the sake of HEALTH
→ www.medicalpeacework.org

- Web-based teaching resource centre
- Seven MPW online courses
  - free of charge
  - 83 textbook lessons
  - 350 multiple-choice questions
  - 21 problem-based e-learning cases
Peace training for health workers - why?

- Power abuse causes health problems
- Health workers at risk of doing harm
- Health workers as agents for peace
- Peace capacity can be strengthened
Target groups

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Public health workers
- Psychologists and psychotherapists
- Other health professionals
- And students in these fields
Goals of MPW training material

- **Prevent** war, terror, human rights violations, and other abuses of power.
- **Promote** compassion, caring relationships, fair structures, and a culture of peace.
- **Improve** health outcomes for patients and communities in violent settings.
- **Strengthen** the health professionals’ competencies in peace and conflict work.
Learning objectives (1)

When you have finished this course you should be able to:

• apply a public health approach to war and other forms of violence.
• demonstrate knowledge about the health impact of direct and structural violence on individuals and societies.
Learning objectives (2)

• **highlight the range** of different ways in which health care workers can contribute to the reduction of peace deficits.

• **identify health professionals’ own peace qualities** and demonstrate awareness of other useful peace skills.

• **recognize and exploit opportunities** for violence prevention and peace promotion at your workplace and in clinical practice.
Returning to this web site?

Login here using your username and password (Cookies must be enabled in your browser).

Username
Password
Login

Forgotten your username or password?
Yes, help me log in

Is this your first time here?

Hi! For full access to courses you'll need to take a minute to create a new account for yourself on this web site. Each of the individual courses may also have a one-time "enrolment key", which you won't need until later. Here are the steps:

1. Fill out the New Account form with your details.
2. An email will be immediately sent to your email address.
3. Read your email, and click on the web link it contains.
4. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in.
5. Now, select the course you want to participate in.
6. If you are prompted for an "enrolment key" - use the one that your teacher has given you. This will "enrol" you in the course.
7. You can now access the full course. From now on you will only need to enter your personal username and password (in the form on this page) to log in and access any course you have enrolled in.

Create new account

You are not logged in. (Login)
Seven online courses

1. Health Workers, Conflict and Peace
2. Medicine, Health and Human Rights
3. War, Weapons and Conflict Strategies
4. Structural Violence and the Underlying Causes of Violent Conflict
5. Peace Through Health in Violent Conflict
6. Refugee and Migration Challenges
7. Prevention of Inter-Personal and Self-Directed Violence
MEDICAL PEACE WORK IS ALSO ...

a partnership of health organisations and teaching institutions

- Croatian Medical Journal, HR
- Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility, FI
- Global Doctors, DK Norwegian Medical Association, NO
- Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, TR
- Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, SI
- IPPNW Germany, DE
- International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organizations, NL
- Johannes Wier Foundation, NL
- Medact, GB
- Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine, NO
- Nuremberg Clinic - Centre for Communication, Information, Education, DE
- NVMP Gezondheidszorg en Vredesvraagstukken, NL
- University of Bergen, Centre for International Health, NO
- University of Bradford, Centre for Conflict Resolution, GB
- University College London, Centre for International Health & Development, GB
- University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, DE
- County Governor in Troms, NO

AND OPEN FOR MORE ASSOCIATES

Galtung J (2002). *What is peace studies?* In Johansen J, Vambheim V (eds). Three papers by Johan Galtung. Tromsø, Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø, Norway


World Health Assembly (1981). *Resolution 34.38*. 

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