

## PEACE BUILDING AND COMMUNICATION

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**Head: Hellen Gesare-Omangi**



The concept of peace building was introduced formally with The Hague Peace conference in 1898, with the objective of monitoring and supporting world peace through mediation, facilitation, and even arbitration between states. It has, since then, evolved into as an instrument for reducing ethno-political and socio-economic conflicts. Currently it has been broadened to involve a wide range of long-term transformative activities associated with repairing broken relationships, reconciliation, capacity building, and societal transformation after violent conflict has slowed down or stopped (World Bank, 2006). It seeks to advance our understanding of the critical role of communication in effective peace building and in establishing stronger interethnic relationships. The purpose of this thematic area is to enhance peace building stakeholders' communicative competence in post conflict environments.

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