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# **THE ROLE OF SPORT IN PEACE-BUILDING**

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## Introduction

This annotated bibliography explores the current efforts by scholars and practitioners to analyse and synthesise existing knowledge and create more understanding in the emerging field of sport and peace-building. The literature reviewed is sourced from articles in both academic, popular and sport and development journals and conference proceedings. The role of sport in peace building is one of the pillars in the sport, development and peace (SDP) field of study. It is an emerging concept which has been highly utilized by international and local governmental and nongovernmental organisations including the United Nations. Although this literature review has covered the main concepts, it is not exhaustive. However, many of the authors appear to have sourced material from one another and the sources cited here have captured most of the current arguments on the subject of sport and peace-building to a large extent.

**Cárdenas, A. (2012) ‘Exploring the Use of Sports for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution’, *Colombian Association for Research and Social Study of Sport*, Available from <<http://www.hope.ac.uk/warandpeace/workingpaperseries/>>[9/10/2012]**

In this article, the author observes that Sport for Development and peace (SDP) has become a recognized method of intervention in disadvantaged communities particularly in the developing world. He argues that sport, most notably football has been used as a catalyst for social inclusion, conflict resolution and peace in different regions affected by poverty and conflict. This paper explores the historical background and evolution of sport for development and peace both as a social intervention strategy and as an academic field. Based on existing peace building theories, the author also highlights the ways in which sport may support peace building and conflict resolution processes.

**Giulianotti R. (2011): ‘Sport, peacemaking and conflict resolution: a contextual analysis and modeling of the sport, development and peace sector’, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 34:2, 207-228**

In this article, the author presents three models to explain the role of sport in peace building and reconciliation. He observes that while many local and international organizations have resorted to sport as a means for bringing peace and reconciliation among communities in conflict, studies on the process through which this can be successful are limited. To fill this gap, three models namely: ‘technical’, ‘dialogical’, and ‘critical’ are examined to generate more knowledge and understanding of the subject. Each model is examined through several key perspectives ranging from its “core objectives” to its “paradigmatic methods”. The author concludes by noting that given that the field of sport and peace is new, more researchers need to engage in theory construction rather than case-studies. This paper is

one of the few that has attempted to give the sport and peace literature an analytical approach.

**Hoglund, K. and R. Sundberg (2008). 'Reconciliation through Sports? The Case of South Africa' *Third World Quarterly* 29(4): 805-818.**

This article analyses the case of South Africa and its experiences in the use of sports in promotion of social cohesion as part of overcoming civil conflict especially in the apartheid era. The author discusses several processes of linking sport to reconciliation such as the utilisation of symbols and symbolic acts of reconciliation like handshakes and national symbols displayed on flags and sporting uniforms. It is observed, however, that symbolism does not necessarily imply genuine transformation in the case of sport as it relies on a team's victory. The application of sport policies to create fair representation has been applied through a quota system to ensure a set number of players are derived from non-white communities. Reconciliation through communal initiatives such as community based projects can act as a means of increased community interaction which can assist in promoting reintegration processes. Through linking experiences from state policies, NGO activities and donor projects with social identity and reconciliation theory, the article outlines the possible positive and negative aspects of sports. Suggestions for further research to find out how to turn sports into effective political tools for post-conflict peace building are made.

**Kamberidou. (2011) 'Athletes United for Peace: Reconciliation through Sport' in *Sport as a Mediator between Cultures* by Lidor, R. Schneider, K. and Koenen K. (Eds) Israel, International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education**

This paper was presented at the International Conference on Sport for Development and Peace in Israel in 2011. The author begins by affirming the contribution of sport to a wide range of ideals such as intercultural understanding, reconciliation and social integration. She notes that remarkable results have been documented by many NGOs that have been using sport as a tool to promote reconciliation and respect for ethnic diversity. She further argues that sport is considered a vital social space, especially in light of today's xenophobic worldviews. She cites several examples of terrorist attacks such as the Norwegian right-wing extremist, Anders Behring Breivik, who aimed at the violent annihilation of multiculturalism, feminism and Islam among others. The paper provides an overview of the ongoing peace education programmes, conflict resolution curricula and collaborative-intergenerational activities of various non-governmental organizations such as: Athletes United for Peace; Mercy Corps; Peace First (formerly Peace Games); Sport in Society (SIS); Teachers Without Borders, (TWB); Bridges To Understanding; Volunteer Action for Peace (VAP); Women's Initiative for Peace (WINPEACE); and the Institute for International Sport and Sport in Society (SIS).

**Keim, M. (2006) 'Sport as Opportunity for Community Development and Peace-Building in South Africa' in *Sport and Development* by Vanden Y., Auweele, Malcolm C. & Meulders, B, (eds.) Leuven: Lannoo Campus**

This paper focuses on the role of sport in the past, the present and future in South Africa. The author outlines how sport contributed in the struggle against apartheid but laments about the disproportionate investment put on individual "star players" relative to sport and recreation programmes in public schools and communities. She further argues that, although South Africa has achieved political democracy, violence, especially, against women is rife. The author, therefore, proposes sport as a means for contributing to community development and peace-building. She suggests that this could be achieved by reinforcing the belief in the positive potential of sport by organizing sport teams at all levels that comprise players across the racial and cultural divide. She also proposes the entrenchment, through policy change, of "physical education" in all educational institutions. The author concludes that for sport to fulfill the function of peace building and development will depend more on "the specific way in which sport is organised and presented", thus endorsing the importance of process. She also points out the need for more research on the role of sport in peace building and reconciliation.

**Kochomay S. (2007) 'Running for Peace: The Role of Peace Races in Peace-building and Development of East African Pastoralists', *Proceedings of the 4th IIPT African Conference on Peace through Tourism*, 24 May 2007 in Kampala, Uganda**

This paper was presented at the "4th IIPT African Conference on Peace through Tourism: Building Strategic Alliances for Sustainable Tourism Development, Peace and Reconciliation on the African Continent". The author discusses the role of peace races in peace building and development among East African pastoralists and shares lessons learnt from the Tegla Loroupe Peace Races. He points out that the success of peace races is owed to its ability to attract high profile personalities in the sports, political, diplomacy and media arenas, thus, "creating opportunities for advocacy on issues affecting pastoralists". Although the practice of peace races in East Africa is new, it has also provided opportunities for showcasing sports as an alternative livelihood through talent identification and transformation of young men from their warrior behaviours. He further notes that peace races help participants redefine perceptions and rebuild relationships among warring communities by creating the foundation on which communities accept and celebrate their areas of commonness and differences. It also serves as a stopgap that can allow discussions and negotiations. The author, however, argues that like any new concept and practice, peace races equally have their challenges that include limited knowledge of the concept of sport and hence lack of acceptance as a sustainable reconciliation method. It also tends to benefit only the few that have athletic talent and is hampered by high costs.

**Kvalsund P. (2009)'Sport and Peace Building' Available from<[http://assets.sportanddev.org/downloads/sport\\_and\\_peace\\_paper\\_pelle\\_kvalsund.pdf](http://assets.sportanddev.org/downloads/sport_and_peace_paper_pelle_kvalsund.pdf)> [5/10/2012]**

In this article, the author seeks to highlight the linkage between sport and peace building. He observes that the intrinsic value of sport has been questioned. George Orwell, for example, stated that "Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. In other words: it is war minus the shooting." While this statement sums up a pessimistic view of sport, many advocates of sport contend that sport is a "transformational tool that has the power to prevent and resolve conflict". Sport acts a "low entry point" for peace building initiatives and at the same time enables parties in conflict to accept the fact that there have to be "winners and losers". The author further underscores the significance of sport by stating that ... "sport and games integrates an important part of the human being, which often gets forgotten in peace building: the body and its emotions" The paper also claims that ... "the power of sport comes with its popularity, and the effect and impact comes with its implementation". The paper argues that sport by itself does not prevent conflict, but it is the process that is important. The paper concludes by suggesting the need for implementers to strike a balance between encouraging sport for the sake of sport and sport for peace and reconciliation.

**Lea-Howarth J. (2006) *Sport and Conflict: Is Football an Appropriate Tool to Utilise in Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation or Reconstruction?* (Unpublished MA Dissertation. University of Sussex)**

The author discusses the role of team-sports in peace building under the concepts of "conflict resolution", "reconciliation" and "reconstruction". He argues that team-sports can act as a tool to address "cultural violence, engender reconciliation and aid rehabilitation primarily by building social networks and educating participants". The author analysed several case studies of football-based grassroots peace building projects in Sierra Leone and Israel. His analysis and arguments are anchored on John Paul Lederach's ideas about peace building and Johan Galtung's theories of peace, violence and the '3Rs' of "Resolution, Reconciliation and Reconstruction". The author argues that though both Lederach and Galtung see building relationships as key to pursuing peace, neither offers any practical ways in which this task may be pursued. The case studies were critically examined and lessons suggested to those who wish to develop peace building projects based on team-sports. The author makes a case for grassroots projects in comprehensive peace building strategies in the world today.

**Myles S. (2012) 'The Case For Peace-Building as Sport's Next Great Legacy: A Literature Review, Assessment, and Suggestions for Applying the 'Slow Child' In The Emergent Field of Sport for Development and Peace. Available from <<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/31187>>[9/10/2012]**

In this article, the author explores the concept and practice of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP). He observes that SDP has attracted a lot of interest among researchers, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, and activists. This paper focuses on sport and peace, one of the areas in Sport, Development and Peace movement. The author acknowledges that sport and peace is the most difficult sub-area to sustain and measure its success, hence its status as a “slow child”, but he also proposes that sport and peace offers the greatest opportunity for sport to find a significant role in development and peace building. The author goes on to provide an overview of the history and evolution of SDP and explores in depth the important place of sport and peace. Theoretical frameworks that guide sport and peace are also discussed, followed by a brief literature review and examples of sport and peace initiatives. In the last section of the article, the author gives a synthesis of the criticism aimed at SDP and suggests ways to achieve a lasting legacy for sport as a meaningful peace-building intervention strategy

**Schrag, M. J. (2012) The Case for Peace-Building as Sport's Next Great Legacy: A Literature Review, Assessment, and Suggestions for Applying the “Slow Child” in the Emergent Field of Sport for Development and Peace, (Unpublished thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2012)**  
[https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/31187/Schrag\\_Myles.pdf?sequence=1](https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/31187/Schrag_Myles.pdf?sequence=1)  
(downloaded on 5/10/2012)

Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) has gained substantial global interest in recent years among researchers, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, development workers, corporations, not-for-profits and community-based organizations, and activists. The rise of this field has drawn criticism from scholars who are concerned about the rigor of program assessment methods and the potential for neo-colonial paternalism, among other issues. While these complaints are valid and to a large degree accurate, the potential for SDP as a development tool is great and should be considered worthy of further exploration by researchers and practitioners. This paper focuses on the fifth SDP sub-area: sport and peace. It acknowledges that sport and peace is the most tenuous sub-area to sustain and quantify success (hence it's —slow childll status), but it also proposes that sport and peace offers the greatest opportunity for sport to find a worthwhile place in the development sphere and claim a legacy for sport in the 21st century that is markedly different from previous roles that sport has occupied. This paper provides an overview and timeline of the evolution of SDP,

explores in detail the vital (if slow-developing) place of sport and peace within SDP, including theoretical frameworks that guide, or should guide, sport and peace. This is followed by a brief literature review and exemplars of sport and peace initiatives, and a summary of best practices for sport and peace success. A final analysis section synthesizes the criticism aimed at SDP with the rather impressive maturation of sport and peace initiatives to confidently suggest a way forward to achieve a lasting legacy for sport as a meaningful peace-building site.

**Schulenkorf, N. and Thomson, A. *Rethinking Sport: Providing Opportunities for Reconciliation*, 2008 <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ocs/index.php/4Rs/2008/paper/viewPaper/122>, Retrieved on 8/10/2012**

In this article, the authors observe that sport has social value and can be used as a medium to foster commitment towards change and reconciliation among different ethnic groups. The article is based on two case studies. The first case study from an international perspective is based in Sri Lanka and utilises participatory inter-community sport events as a means to bridge ethnic divides between Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim groups. The second case from an Australian context employs a sports role model program in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, which informally promotes reconciliation both in the community and in the role models social networks. The findings from the case studies provide two striking examples of the opportunities and challenges in using the channel of sport to encourage reconciliation. The authors conclude by suggesting the need for greater understanding of how to strategically manage the outcomes from such programs, and to contribute to policy which sustains the development of social legacies for communities through sport.

**Serena B. *The Contribution of Sport Within the Process of Peace and Reconciliation: From Trauma Healing to Social Integration: The Impact of Sports in the Rift Valley Province After the Post-election Violence in Kenya*, 2009 , Sant Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy**

In this paper, the author looks at the role of sport in post conflict situations with a special focus on the post-election violence of 2008 in Kenya. The case study analyzes different typologies of sport interventions undertaken in the Rift Valley, Kenya after 2008. . The author analyses the role of sport in peace and reconciliation using Galtung's "3R's" conflict transformation theory of "Resolution, Reconciliation and Reconstruction". The author points out that the process is crucial... "It is not enough to put a ball in the middle of a football ground to get peace...sport is just an empty and neutral box to be filled". The author observes that the effectiveness of sport depends upon the process of implementation. This process brings together various actors who develop either positive or negative influences on each other. The author concludes by pointing out that "sport alone is not sufficient to reach any reconciliation; on the contrary, sport can lead to conflict if seen as

win at all costs". Sport, therefore, can be a "low entry and high impact point for a social change".

**Sugden, J. Critical left-realism and sport interventions in divided societies, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, September 2010 vol. 45 no. 3 258-272**

The author begins by questioning the value of sport to processes of peace and reconciliation and continues to examine the role played by sport in South Africa before and after apartheid. Drawing upon his own experiences gained from conducting research and leading sport-based intervention initiatives in Northern Ireland and Israel, the author argues in this article that "sport is intrinsically value neutral and under carefully managed circumstances it can make a positive if modest contribution to peace building". Based on notions of "pragmatism and left realism" the article concludes by presenting a 'ripple effect' model that illustrates the circumstances under which sport can make a difference in the promotion of social justice and human rights in deeply divided societies.

**Tsuchiya S, Sport as an International Tool for Development and Peace-building (2009 University for Peace in Costa**

**Rica [http://www.monitor.upeace.org/archive.cfm?id\\_article=621](http://www.monitor.upeace.org/archive.cfm?id_article=621), Retrieved on 10/10/2012**

In this article, Satomi Tsuchiya argues for the greater use of sport in peace and development work. The author observes that Sport for Development and Peace is an emerging concept which endorses the view that sport initiatives can be "powerful, practical, and cost-effective tools" for peace. This is evident from the activities of many governments and NGOs that utilize sport as a tool to achieve development goals such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and resolve social conflicts and bring about peace. The author argues that sport can be a powerful means for the personal growth and development of the youth, however, she also observes that, although, sport as a means for development and peace has been recognized by many organizations, sport can be used to promote conflict and stimulate nationalism leading to national, ethnic, cultural and religious segregation. In conclusion, the author suggests the importance of the critical evaluation of the use of sport for peace building as it cannot be universally applied due to the diversity of every situation. In other words, sport cannot work as a reconciliation strategy in every conflict situation.

**Tuohey B. and Cognato B. A Case Study on the Use of Sport as a Tool for Conflict Transformation by Peace Players International, 2008**

This article presents the findings of a case study on the activities of "Peace Players International (PPI)" on the use of sport as a tool for conflict transformation and peace-building. PPI's work can be summarized by its motto: "Children who play together can learn



to live together." The authors explain that that belief derives from Gordon Allport's "Contact Hypothesis," which posits that "the interaction of individuals from two different groups can lead to significantly decreased prejudice". PPI's methodology is characterized by flexibility and inclusiveness, based more on practical experiences rather than ideology. PPI has identified at least four programme components crucial to all its activities: "local leadership; a balance of sport and educational content; integration that is both frequent and long-term; and an internal leadership development process". In addition, it has identified "long-term monitoring and evaluation; securing flexible, consistent funding; and coping with political changes outside its control as challenges". The authors conclude by arguing that while "sport for peace" is a fast growing field of study, the question on how sport-based interventions can be effectively incorporated into comprehensive efforts for peace building and conflict transformation has been neglected. They suggest that for peace builders to maximize the potential of sport, mapping of the various strengths and weaknesses of sport is important.