

Unarmed Civilian Protection

General background: Unarmed civilian protection (UCP) involves a well-established body of knowledge and set of practices used by civilian-led teams for the direct protection of civilians in the short-term and for the creation of a conducive environment for peacebuilding in the longer term. UCP protects civilians using methods such as: protective accompaniment and protective presence, community-led safety and security initiatives such as early-warning/early-response mechanisms, civilians protecting one another through Women Protection Teams (WPT) and Youth Protection Teams (YPT), conflict de-escalation techniques, civilian ceasefire and peace agreement monitoring, the establishment of weapons-free zones, and other unarmed, nonviolent methods.

UCP is practiced in a wide variety of environments, always contextualized to the needs of the situation. Examples: UCP is operational in peacekeeping mission settings, e.g. [South Sudan](#); in countries with UN Special Political Missions (SPMs), e.g. [Iraq](#), [Sudan](#); and in complex political situations with a UN development presence (e.g. [Myanmar](#), [Mindanao](#), [Philippines](#)).

In each of these contexts, unarmed, specially trained local and international civilians live and work with local communities at the grassroots level to protect communities as they acquire knowledge and skills for their own self-protection. UCP has worked with UN missions and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), governments, armed actors, other internationals, and local communities to build up a practical protective community presence during peace operations and after missions are drawn down.

There are solid precedents for advancing this work based on numerous citations of 'unarmed civilian protection' in several Security Council resolutions:

- (1) three UNMISS mandate renewals, e.g. S/RES/2459 (2019) which recognizes: *that **unarmed civilian protection** can often complement efforts to build a protective environment, particularly in the deterrence of sexual and gender-based violence against civilians, and encouraging UNMISS, as appropriate and when possible, to **explore how it can use civilian protection techniques, including through community engagement** and the mission communication strategy, to enhance its ability to protect civilians, and to train UNMISS staff accordingly...*
- (2) UNITAMS resolutions in 2020 and 2021, e.g. (S/RES/2524 (2020) as part of UNITAMS' strategic objectives to: ***b. Assist, advise and support the Government of Sudan's capacity to extend state presence and inclusive civilian governance, in particular through ...methods of unarmed civilian protection,...***; and
- (3) Irish-led S/RES/2594 (2021) specifically on peacekeeping transitions which: *'Expresses the importance of a United Nations presence appropriately configured with necessary capabilities and capacities to provide support to protection of civilians efforts during transitions.....including through promoting and supporting inter-communal dialogue and community violence reduction, building trust between State authorities and local communities, supporting community policing initiatives, or **other methods of unarmed civilian protection**,....*Ms. Gay Rosenblum-Kumar

For further information, please see: <https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/> or contact me. Thank you.

Ms. Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, UN Representative, Nonviolent Peaceforce

E-mail: gay.rosenblumkumar@gmail.com Skype: shanti95/Gay Rosenblum-Kumar

Mobile: 1-646-724-4616 Landline: 1-718-796-4626

Website: <https://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/>