STRATEGIC PLAN
2010–2015

Life Peace Institute
Background

The Life & Peace Institute (LPI) is an international and ecumenical centre based in Uppsala, Sweden, that supports and promotes nonviolent approaches to conflict transformation through a combination of research and action. The creation of LPI in 1985 was initiated by a major international conference held in 1983 as a response by the churches to the conflicts in the world, especially in light of the nuclear threat posed to humanity. The conflict patterns of the world have since changed, with a sharp increase in intra-state conflicts. The work of the Institute has increasingly focused on the transformation of such conflicts.

Since its inception, LPI has carried out meaningful programmes for conflict transformation in a variety of countries, conducted research, and produced numerous publications on nonviolent conflict transformation and the role of religion in conflict and peacebuilding.

The main focus of LPI’s programmes has been on Africa, with LPI’s Horn of Africa Programme being established and well-known since the early 1990s. Other initiatives have been carried out in Congo-Brazzaville, Croatia and East Timor. In 2008, LPI’s Board reaffirmed and strengthened the focus on Africa. LPI is currently engaged in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Ethiopia, as well as with faith-based organisations in Africa.

The mission of LPI is to support and promote nonviolent approaches to conflict transformation, and hence contribute to the prevention and mitigation of violence as a precondition for peace, justice and nonviolent coexistence. The Institute’s conflict transformation work is based on an understanding that conflict is a natural part of societies that has the potential for both constructive and destructive change. LPI contributes to the strengthening of existing local capacities for conflict transformation through work with partners and by enhancing the preconditions for nonviolent conflict transformation. Research plays an essential role in LPI’s conflict transformation approach, both as a precondition for understanding the context of engagement and as a means for conflict transformation.

LPI’s work is carried out mainly through engagement with and support of civil society organisations, building strategic partnerships with national, regional and international organisations and networks, as well as linking up with donors and international actors to support environments conducive to nonviolent conflict transformation.

LPI is a foundation registered in Sweden with the Christian Council of Sweden as the parent body, and is governed by an international board. LPI draws its identity from the experience of dialogue, building trust and theological reflection in the Ecumenical Movement. This identity is also a motivating factor to promote inter-religious dialogue and cooperation for peaceful relations among people. While LPI works with all kinds of civil society organisations — depending on the context of engagement in the different country programmes — it puts special emphasis on engaging in work or dialogue with faith-based organisations that for LPI represent a part of civil society.
Vision
LPI envisions a world where peace, justice and nonviolent relations prevail through people’s active work and commitment.

Mission
LPI supports and promotes nonviolent approaches to conflict transformation through a combination of research and action that entails the strengthening of existing local capacities and enhancing the preconditions for building peace.

Guiding Principles
LPI’s work is based on the following principles:

- **Understanding the context**: LPI bases its work on a thorough understanding of the context in which it engages.
- **Coherent work on all levels**: LPI acknowledges that building peace is a complex process that has to include all levels of society. The Institute therefore employs a coherent multi-track approach with a special emphasis on supporting the middle and grassroots levels.
- **Building on local knowledge**: LPI believes that people have the power to build peace. LPI is hence sensitive towards local cultures and traditional methods/customs of conflict transformation and incorporates the different perspectives and voices of the people into analysis and action.
- **Local ownership and long-term perspective**: LPI respects and supports local ownership and engages in peacebuilding work with long-term goals.
- **Gender-sensitivity**: LPI applies a gender sensitive approach to conflict transformation.
- **Accountability, transparency and trust**: LPI is accountable towards both its partners and its donors, and aims for relationships based on transparency and trust.
- **Impartiality**: As an international institute, LPI conducts its work in a non-partisan way.

Strategic Priorities
LPI focuses on three interrelated strategic priorities, seeking to implement them in a coherent and complementary way.

**Civil society support and engagement**
LPI supports civil society organisations with a special emphasis on faith-based organisations in their conflict transformation work, through capacity building and joint engagement in research and action.

**Capacity building**
- Processes and methodologies of conflict transformation
- Enhancing research and analytical skills
- Organisational and institutional development
Joint engagement and research
- Participatory analysis of pertinent issues related to conflict transformation
- Conflict transformation initiatives identified by research
- Documentation and lessons learned of actions implemented by partners

Policy work and awareness-raising
LPI engages directly and in collaboration with others on awareness-raising and policy work. It strives to enhance awareness of civil society conflict transformation processes, as well as raise pertinent policy issues deriving from the work in the field.

Awareness-raising addressing
- Local, national, regional and international actors

Policy work addressing
- Regional and international organisations, governments, donors, as well as national and international church networks

Cross-fertilisation of conflict transformation theory and practice
LPI engages in knowledge transfer, and makes the conflict transformation knowledge and experiences of LPI and its partners available for peacebuilding practitioners and research communities. At the same time, it gathers relevant theories and experiences from other contexts and organisations, and communicates them within LPI and to its partners.

Sharing of experiences
- Documentation of initiatives, approaches, processes and methodologies
- Analysis of lessons learned
- Dissemination of results (reports, publications)

Networking and research
- Participation in and organisation of relevant events
- Assessment of relevant conflict transformation studies/research
- Establishment of expert advisory/reference groups

Strategic partnerships with relevant institutions such as
- Universities and academic institutions
- Faith-based organisations and networks
- Peacebuilding organisations

Implementation Modalities
The main mode of implementation for the Strategic Plan is three-year and annual planning processes. Criteria and checklists serve for the operationalisation of the guiding principles as well as identification of entry and exit strategies for engagement. LPI as a professional organisation works with a results-based planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning system. Scenario planning is additionally used to react to the changing context in conflict situations. Programmes are implemented through civil society partners with a special focus on strategic partnerships or dialogue with faith-based organisations. LPI secures sustainable staffing and funding based on sound donor relations.