

Definitions of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP) and UCP activities

Unarmed civilian peacekeeping is the practice of unarmed civilians, deployed in situations of violent conflict to prevent or reduce violence and provide direct physical protection to civilians with the purpose of creating a safe space for local peace and justice efforts.

Some organizations also use the term unarmed civilian protection, still using the acronym UCP. The definition remains the same, but the emphasis shifts slightly. “Peacekeeping” connotes an activity where one is acting as a neutral third party, reducing potential violence between two armed and antagonistic groups. “Protection” perhaps is more appropriate for activities that involve protecting children from violence, or working specifically to protect human rights defenders from state or paramilitary violence. These latter examples acknowledge a power imbalance and that the potential for violence is one-sided.

Inclusion Criteria for UCP

For the purposes of this data base, the following criteria were used to determine whether an organization was considered to be a UCP organization:

1) Engaged in UCP activities

The following list of activities comprises the wide range of activities that UCP entails:

- Protective accompaniment
- Protective presence
- Interpositioning
- Ceasefire monitoring
- Rumor control and fact finding
- Creating Buffer Zones/safe spaces
- Facilitated dialogue
- Relationship building
- Capacity building/education
- Monitoring/observation/reporting
- Conscious visibility
- Local level shuttle diplomacy
- Multi-level diplomacy
- Interactive monitoring (e.g. ceasefires and truces)
- Conflict early warning/early response
- Direct action
- Emergency response network (part of reporting)

However, although UCP organizations engage in the above activities, some of these activities could also be classified under the broader categories of peace building (e.g. capacity building/education) and

peacemaking (e.g. facilitating dialogue, diplomacy). There are many organizations that are involved in the broad spectrum of peace building and peacemaking that are not engaged in the narrower spectrum of peace keeping. For the purposes of inclusion, a UCP organization (or action) must demonstrate involvement in at least one of the following activities (that more accurately represent the much smaller category of peacekeeping):

- Protective accompaniment
- Protective presence
- Interpositioning
- Interactive monitoring (e.g. ceasefires and truces with volunteers on the ground)
- Creating Buffer Zones/safe spaces

For example, if an organization's focus is human rights monitoring, but they do not have a presence on the ground that purposefully acts as a protective presence (with trained personnel) they would be excluded.

Another example, if an organization's primary focus is training and education, but the organization does not engage in the monitoring of ceasefires or creating safe spaces, they would be excluded.

- 2) **Committed to nonviolence**
- 3) **Activities occurred after 1990**
- 4) **UCP activities are the main focus of the organization**

There are large organizations, such as the United Nations, that have teams that engage in activities that fall under that criteria of UCP. However, it is difficult to describe and track these activities as they are often hard to distinguish from their larger missions – the focus of which are much broader than the activities of UCP.