

MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

A reflection on 15 years of conflict
transformation initiatives



About International Alert

International Alert is a 26-year old independent peacebuilding organisation. We work with people who are directly affected by violent conflict to improve their prospects of peace. And we seek to influence the policies and ways of working of governments, international organisations like the UN and multinational companies, to reduce conflict risk and increase the prospects of peace.

We work in Africa, several parts of Asia, the South Caucasus, the Middle East and Latin America and have recently started work in the UK. Our policy work focuses on several key themes that influence prospects for peace and security – the economy, climate change, gender, the role of international institutions, the impact of development aid, and the effect of good and bad governance.

We are one of the world's leading peacebuilding NGOs with more than 148 staff based in London and 14 field offices. To learn more about how and where we work, visit www.international-alert.org.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of International Alert and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

© International Alert 2012

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without full attribution.

Layout by D. R. ink, www.d-r-ink.com

Since the mid-1990s, international and local civil society actors have been engaged in a wide range of different initiatives aimed at transforming the conflicts in the South Caucasus. A number of these initiatives are described in this book, selected to demonstrate the diversity of peacebuilding work undertaken by civil society, including work with politicians, economic actors, women, media, academia and cultural figures, to name a few.

This book brings together the perspectives and reflections of both Western facilitators of these initiatives and local participants from opposing sides of the conflicts. It offers an insider's view of the vision and drive behind different processes, how they evolved over time, the participants' motivations, and the authors' own subjective assessment of success and failure.

The book specifically profiles initiatives implemented by UK organisations International Alert, Conciliation Resources and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, as well as the US University of California, Irvine (UCI). It is aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at the professional peacebuilding community of practice. We hope that it will help to inform and stimulate discussion about different civil society initiatives that aim to build peace in the South Caucasus region.

International Alert.

346 Clapham Road, London SW9 9AP, United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0)20 7627 6800, Fax +44 (0)20 7627 6900, Email general@international-alert.org

www.international-alert.org

ISBN: 978-1-906677-20-6