

## Building Cultures of Reconciliation

Social scientists and social workers, ministers and other leaders of faith-based communities, many different persons today recognize that the era into which we are rapidly moving may be characterized by social circumstances that are unlike those that have shaped our recent past. Such change inevitably brings different forms of personal and social tension. The purpose of this web page is to suggest ways by which the resources of the schools of the Boston Theological Institute (**BTI**) might be of assistance as we move into new social terrain.

The material that is found here is designed to promote better negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution and transformation insight and skills. It is to enable us to learn to listen to one another and to understand better. Since the BTI is a consortium of seminaries, theology schools and university divinity schools, the material that is found here is inevitably oriented toward religious ideas and understanding, i.e., it draws upon and is related to the deepest values of people and of our culture and cultures. It is also theological. This is because theology is the structure of religion. It makes possible language about that which is most meaningful to us.

Building cultures of reconciliation implies a process. It begins with recognizing the origins of conflict. It often means learning to see the structural violence that lies just beyond the horizon of our own interests – and learning to deal with practices and attitudes that contribute to conflict rather than mutuality. Social conflict is inherent in human relations and is manifest and internal to the persons and parties involved. It is that which reveals difference. Conflict can escalate and eventuate in a variety of outcomes, some of which are destructive. Some can contribute to reconciliation and mutual well being. This does not imply agreement, although it may. Indeed, difference can enrich as well as enflame. Building cultures of reconciliation means developing proactive attitudes and practices that make community possible.

**Reconciliation** happens as persons or groups begin to shape their lives in positive relation to one another. It happens as people learn to deal with what separates them and as they find a bridge to new attitudes and practices that enable people to live in relation to one another, not in isolation from each other.

**Forgiveness** is the means toward breaking the cycles of hostility and violence that lock people into repetitive patterns of mutual destructiveness. A culture of reconciliation is established as persons seek repairative, transformative, or **restorative justice**.

The Boston Theological Institute was founded in order to promote understanding and cooperation, not to erase difference, but to find in difference ways that enhance human experience and deepen patterns of community. Deep change draws upon our assumptions about life, or ontology. It implies a way of understanding, or an epistemology. This must eventuate in practice, or ethics. Building cultures of reconciliation is **what churches are all about, or should be**. Such a culture happens within and among churches as well as

outside of faith-communities insofar as principles of forgiveness, reconciliation, and restorative justice are implemented. These values, and the patterns that work for justice and that build peace, are the focus of this web page.

**A. Programs at BTI Schools**

**B. Additional Programs in the Boston Area**

**C. Materials Produced by the BTI or in Association with Friends & Member Schools**

**A. Programs at BTI Schools**

Each of the schools that form the Boston Theological Institute has courses and programs that promote the ends outlined on this page. There are different ways in which this might be approached. For a complete listing of courses offered through the consortium, return to the home page and go to "Course Catalogue." Courses are organized topically. Many of the courses listed under the headings of "Ethics", "World Religions" and "Ministry in Church and Society" deal with different aspects of religion and social conflict.

The BTI schools and some of their prominent programs are listed below. The names of professors that are given are the names of persons associated with identified programs or are members of the faculty committee in International Mission and Ecumenism. Many of the courses of these faculty deal with topics of interest on this web page. (*Please contact the individual schools for additional or specific information.*)

In order to understand something of the purpose and history of each of the schools of the Boston Theological Institute, return to the BTI home page and go to the school of your choice.

**Andover Newton Theological School**

210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Phone: 617-964-1100

Website: [www.ants.edu](http://www.ants.edu)

**Programs:**

- **Kelsey Owens Black Ministries Program**  
About: The Kelsey-Owens Black Ministries Program, which was established in 1989, and serves as a source of guidance and knowledge about African-American religious experience for Black students and others.
- **Orlando E. Costas Hispanic and Latin American Ministries Program**  
About: The Orlando E. Costas program works to develop professional and lay leadership for ministry within the Hispanic community.
- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

**Boston College Department of Theology**

Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: (617)552-3880

Website: [www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/cas/theo/](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/theo/)

**Programs:**

- [Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry](#)  
Phone: 617-552-4880  
Website: [www.bc.edu/irepm.html](http://www.bc.edu/irepm.html)  
Programs offered include a joint M.A. in Pastoral Ministry and M.S.W. in Social Work.
- [Center for Christian-Jewish Learning](#)  
Website: [www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/research/cjl/](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/research/cjl/)  
E-mail: [cjlearning@bc.edu](mailto:cjlearning@bc.edu)  
Executive Director: Philip A. Cunningham  
Phone 617-552-6027  
Judaica Scholar: Ruth Langer  
Phone: 617-552-8492
- · International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative

**[Boston University School of Theology](#)**

745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston MA 02115

Phone: 617-353-3050

Fax: 617-353-3063

WEBSITE [www.bu.edu.sth](http://www.bu.edu.sth)

**Programs:**

- [Anna Howard Shaw Center](#)  
Promotes structures and practices that empower women and honor diversity.  
Phone: 617-353-3075  
Website: [www.bu.edu/sth/shaw/](http://www.bu.edu/sth/shaw/)  
E-mail: [shawctr@bu.edu](mailto:shawctr@bu.edu)
- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**
- **See further programs under “B. Additional Programs in the Boston Area”**

**[Episcopal Divinity School](#)**

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA 02138

Phone: 617-868-3450

Fax : 617-864-5385

Website: [www.episdivschool.edu](http://www.episdivschool.edu)

**Programs:**

- **Anglican, Global and Ecumenical Studies**
- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

**[Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary](#)**

130 Essex Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982

Phone: 978-468-7111

Fax: 978-468-6691

Website: [www.gcts.edu](http://www.gcts.edu)

**Programs:**

- Center for Urban Ministerial Education  
[Alvin Padilla](#), Professor of New Testament, Dean  
363 South Huntington Avenue, Boston MA  
Phone: 617-983-9393
- The Mockler Center for Faith and Ethics in the Workplace  
Phone: 978-646-4072  
Fax: 978-646-4565  
E-Mail: [mockler@gcts.edu](mailto:mockler@gcts.edu)
- **J. Christy Wilson, Jr., Center for World Missions**
- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

[Harvard Divinity School](#)

45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: 617-495-5761

Fax: 617-495-9489

Website: [www.hds.harvard.edu](http://www.hds.harvard.edu)

**Programs:**

- **Center for the Study of World Religion**  
42 Francis Ave., Cambridge MA 02138  
Phone: 617-495-4495  
Fax: 617-496-5411
- Women's Studies in Religion  
45 Frances Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617-495-5705  
Fax: 617-496-8564  
E-Mail: [wsrp@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:wsrp@hds.harvard.edu)
- Program in Religion, Human Rights and International Affairs  
Human Rights and Religious Organizations  
Peacemaking and Ethno- Religious Conflict  
Individual and Group Rights: Adjudicating Competing Claims  
Phone: 617-496-3138
- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

[Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology](#)

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445-7415

Phone: 617-731-3500

Fax: 617-850-1455

Website [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)

**Programs:**

- **Environment Office**

- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

### **Saint John's Seminary**

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135

Phone: 617-254-2610

Fax: 617-787-2336

Website: [www.sjs.edu](http://www.sjs.edu)

#### **Programs:**

- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

### **Weston Jesuit School of Theology**

3 Phillips Place, Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: 617-492-1960

Fax: 617-492-5833

#### **Programs:**

- **International Mission and Ecumenism Program Representative**

The schools of the Boston Theological Institute also support jointly the Hispanic Summer Program: Please see [Joint Projects](#).

### **B. Additional Programs in the Boston Area**

In the academic and socially-conscious world that characterizes the Greater Boston area there are many centers and institutions that might be listed here. These are places that foster local and international peace-building efforts. The religious climate fostered by many associated directly or indirectly with BTI schools has tended to promote the development of voluntary associations that have promoted justice and peace-building initiatives. The following are only a sampling of some of the more noteworthy programs that are directly associated with BTI schools.

### **Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life**

Boston College

24 Quincy Road

Chestnut Hill, Newton, MA 02467

Phone: 617-552-1862

Fax: 617-552-1863

Director: Alan Wolfe

### **Carr Center for Human Rights Policy**

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Director Michael Ignatieff  
Phone 617-495-9379  
Website: [www.ksg.harvard.edu/cchrp/](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/cchrp/)

### **Center for the Study of World Religions (CSWR)**

42 Francis Avenue  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138  
Phone: 617-495-4495  
Website: [www.hds.harvard.edu/cswr](http://www.hds.harvard.edu/cswr)

### **Institute on Race and Social Division**

Boston University  
704 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
Phone: 617.353.5850  
Fax: 617.353.5733  
Website: [www.bu.edu/irsd](http://www.bu.edu/irsd)  
Director: Glenn Loury, University Professor of Economics

### **Institute on Religion and World Affairs**

Boston University  
Department of International Relations  
152 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215  
Director: Peter Berger, Professor of the Sociology of Religion  
Phone: 617-353-9280  
Website: [www.bu.edu/irwa/](http://www.bu.edu/irwa/)

### **John F. Kennedy School of Government**

Harvard University  
79 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone 617-495-9379  
Website: [www.ksg.harvard.edu/](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/)

### **Institute for the Study of Economic Culture**

Boston University  
10 Lennox Street Boston, MA 02215  
Phone: 617-353-9050  
Fax: 617-353-6408  
Website: [www.bu.edu/isce](http://www.bu.edu/isce)  
Director: Peter Berger, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Sociology and Theology

**The Interreligious Center on Public Life.** A Joint Venture of Hebrew College &  
Andover Newton Theological School  
43 Hawes Street, Brookline, MA 02446  
Director: Sanford Seltzer  
Telephone: 617-278-4955

**Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution**

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University  
1737 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617-496-0680  
Fax: 617-496-7370  
Website: [www.wcfia.harvard.edu/picar](http://www.wcfia.harvard.edu/picar)  
[picar@cfia.harvard.edu](mailto:picar@cfia.harvard.edu)  
Director Herbert C. Kelman, Professor of Social Psychology  
Deputy Director Donna Hicks,

**Program on Negotiation**

(a consortium of **Harvard**, **MIT** and **Tufts** Universities)  
Harvard Law School  
513 Pound Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617-495-1684  
Fax: 617-495-7818  
Website: [www.pon.harvard.edu](http://www.pon.harvard.edu)  
Executive Director: Sarah Cobb

**W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research**

Harvard University  
Barker Center 225  
12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617-495-3325  
Fax: 617-496-6377  
Director: Henry Louis Gates, W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Chair of  
Afro-American Studies

There are also important programs at Brandeis University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, and at other area centers. Contact these schools for information about related programs.

## **C. Materials Produced by the BTI or in Association with Friends & Member Schools**

### **1) Values-Oriented Materials (*also see below*)**

- Reconciliation Networks of Our World Conference Materials, **October 2000**.
- Seeking Sabbath. A Conference on Spiritual Renewal and Personal Well Being, November, 2001 [Link to Conference Materials]
- ***Theological Literacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***. Edited by Rodney L. Petersen (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002).

### **2) Documents from the Restorative Justice Working Group**

- **Center for Restorative Justice, Suffolk University**
- Papers from the First Restorative Justice Conference, February 1999 “**An Introduction to Restorative Justice**,” from the First BTI- Center for Restorative Justice Restorative Justice Conference, 1999. Speech by Dan Van Ness.
- Papers from the Second Restorative Justice Conference, November 1999 [Link]
- Papers from the Third Restorative Justice Conference [Link to be developed]
- **JUSTPEACE**. Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation. The United Methodist Church: “Engage Conflict Well. A Guide to Prepare Yourself and Engage Others in Conflict Transformation.”

### **3) Peace-Building and Missiology**

Many of the items that are listed below are available for purchase through this web site. Return to the main page and go to “order Catalogue.”

#### **a. Four Part Series on Conflict Resolution**

This is a four film series on religion and conflict resolution. Our group studies conflict resolution as it applies to each specific country, films in the country, elicits the assistance of professional consultants, and then writes a script. The editing then follows, all the while keeping abreast of any new pertinent research and developments.

A major focus of our work that distinguishes it from others is the symbiotic relationship that religion and politics share in the specific society. In Northern Ireland it was the sectarian views of Catholicism and Protestantism, while in the Balkans it was nationalism as it related to the Orthodox Church, with ramifications in the Muslim and Roman Catholic communities. In South Africa it was the inroads toward peace made by the Protestant Churches and by charismatic leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. The final film in this series, “Jerusalem,” filmed on location in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israel and the Gaza Strip, centers on the Judaic and Islamic traditions in conflict over the past half century since Israel’s establishment.

Each film asks how religion has been a double-edged sword in conflict resolution. At times religious institutions have played the role of by-stander, while at other times, they were major players in bringing about reconciliation. Our objective is to present the

volatile situation in a balanced fashion so our audience can begin to see the nuances of the religious and political scenes.

Each film may be purchased separately or together, discounted as part of the series.

### **Conflict and Peace-Making in Northern Ireland**

#### ***Out of the Ashes: Northern Ireland's Fragile Peace***

Filmed on location in 1998, *Out of the Ashes* explores the history of conflict in Ireland and recent efforts to find resolution.

### **Conflict and Peace-Making in the Former Yugoslavia**

#### ***Prelude to Kosovo: War and Peace in Bosnia and Croatia***

*Prelude to Kosovo* captures the drama of the Bosnian and Croatian conflict, with the subsequent events of Kosovo viewed as the tip of the iceberg. The documentary was shot on location in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

### **Conflict and Peace-Making in the Republic of South Africa**

#### ***South Africa: Beyond a Miracle***

The inroads toward justice and peace made by the Protestant Churches and by charismatic leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and by Nelson Mandela, as well as by numerous others, is the focus of this film. Ends with a sobering questions about contemporary social life. [Link to description.]

### **Conflict and Peace-Making in the Middle East**

#### ***Different Drummers: Daring to Make Peace in the MidEast***

Filmed on location in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israel and the Gaza Strip, this film centers on the Judaic and Islamic traditions in conflict over the past half century since Israel's establishment. [Link to description.]

## **b. Additional Films on Religion and Conflict**

These films were made as background to the series noted above or were produced under the auspices of Boston College and are made available by arrangement through the BTI or the Boston College Department of Fine Arts.

- After Conflict. Working with the Trauma of Victims and Victimiziers. An Interview with Lidja Obad. Osijek, Croatia, 1998.

- A Change of Heart: An Interview with South African Reformed Theologian Nico Smith.
- Unexpected Openings: Northern Ireland's Prisons. [Link to description.]
- *"Christianity: 2000 Years of Illusion on the African Mind?"* A Dialogue with Various Rastafari, Clinton Chisholm, Mutabaruka, and others. Kingston, Jamaica, 3 May 2001.
- *Cuba, the Caribbean and Globalization* – film in process, expected June 2002
- *Dread Jesus: The Prophetic Challenge Rasta* – film in process, expected summer 2002

### 3. Books, Booklets, and Internet Materials

These books, booklets, and materials have been produced in association with or as a part of the BTI Costas Consultation in Global Mission.

- *Human Rights and the Global Mission of the Church*. Edited by Lorine M. Getz (Newton: Boston Theological Institute, 1985).
- *One Faith, Many Cultures. Inculturation, Indigenization, and Contextualization*. Edited by Ruy O. Costa (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1988).
- *Reconciliation. Mission & Ministry in A Changing Social Order*, by Robert J. Schreiter, C. PP. S. (Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1992, 1999).
- *Christianity and Civil Society. Theological Education and Public Life*. Edited by Rodney L. Petersen (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995).
- "Modernization, the Church and the East Asian Experience," 1996 Orlando Costas Consultation on Global Mission, Boston Theological Institute.
- "What, Whence, Whither? Understanding Mission Studies at the End of the 20th Century," featured speaker, Professor Andrew Walls, Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, the University of Edinburgh, 1997 Orlando Costas Consultation on Global Mission, Boston Theological Institute.
- "Persecution of Christians: Challenge and Response," featured speakers included Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the USA and testimonies from students who have had first hand experience of Christian persecution, including Joshua Utomo (Indonesian Orthodox HCGOST), Maung Maung Htwe (Burmese-Myanmar Baptist, BUSTH), Erisa Mutabaazi (Rwandese-Ugandan, Anglican, EDS), Ramon Dominiguez (Cuban-American Roman Catholic, St Johns) and Huang Van Lee (Vietnamese Catholic, St. John's), moderated by Casely B. Essamuah (Ghanaian Methodist, BUSTH).

Additional speakers included: Kent Hill, President of Eastern Nazarene College and former President of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, Bryan J. Hehir, Professor of the Practice in Religion and Society at Harvard Divinity School and the Harvard Center for International Affairs, and Albert M. Pennybacker, Associate General Secretary of NCCC-USA for Public Policy and President of the Ecumenical Development Initiative of the World Council of Churches-USA. 1998 Orlando Costas Consultation on Global Mission, Boston Theological Institute.

- “*The Antioch Agenda*,” (book forthcoming) based on the papers delivered at the conference, “Christ Outside the Gate: Celebrating the Life and Work of Orlando Costas,” the 1999 Costas Consultation featured speaker Canon Vinay Samuel. The focus of the event was to remember the life and work of Orlando Costas. The event was cosponsored by the BTI and the ANTS Orlando Costas Hispanic and Latin-American Ministries Program, with Elizabeth Conde-Frazier heading up organization and arrangements.
- “*Missions and Gender*,” ed. by **Dana Robert** (forthcoming), 2000 Orlando Costas Consultation on Global Mission, Boston Theological Institute.
- “*the coming church! the neXt-generation and global Christianity*,” 2001 Orlando Costas Consultation on Global Mission, Boston Theological Institute.

b. These books, booklets, and materials have been produced in association with or as a part of the BTI Conflict Resolution Initiative.

- ***Earth at Risk. An Environmental Dialogue Between Religion and Science.*** Edited by Donald B. Conroy and Rodney L. Petersen (Amherst, New York: Humanity Books, 2000).
- ***Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Religion, Public Policy, and Conflict Transformation.*** Edited by Raymond G. Helmick, S. J. and Rodney L. Petersen (Philadelphia: Templeton Press, 2001, 2002).
- ***Theological Literacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*** Edited by Rodney L. Petersen (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002).