

**The Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network scoping
session, University of Melbourne, 8-10 October 2018**

Call for Expressions of Interest – Deadline: 20 July 2018

Introduction

The proposed Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network would be an inter-disciplinary network exploring, in the first instance, truth-telling and reconciliation throughout the range of Commonwealth contexts. This could include the historical injustices faced by indigenous populations and others in those societies where formerly antagonist groups, whether along religious, political, cultural or ethnic lines, must continue to live side-by-side.

These categories are not mutually exclusive. Moreover, it could be argued that much of the conflict and ongoing inequity across Commonwealth-related countries is borne out of historical injustice, and that injustice persists. In this regard, the modern Commonwealth is a paradox. It is both a vestige of the British Empire so prominent in this injustice, and a voluntary network based on the values of human rights, democracy and equal opportunities. The ACU acknowledges the colonial legacy of the Commonwealth and, to that end, the importance of truth and reconciliation processes in addressing colonial legacies and realising the Commonwealth's modern vision.

Purpose of a Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network

As a Commonwealth organisation, the ACU takes seriously its role in facilitating practical steps to address these legacies. It is expected that the Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network (the network) will add value to existing activity in this area (research and curriculum), and explore opportunities for equitable collaboration across the Commonwealth Universities. Some initial thoughts of the functions of the network are suggested:

- Provide an opportunity for Commonwealth universities who work in the field of peace, truth, justice and reconciliation to collaborate on research, teaching and learning, student and staff exchanges.
- Provide support to researchers in communicating their research, acting as an important mechanism for connecting local researchers working in challenging post-conflict contexts to domestic and global academic and non-academic audiences.
- Contribute to the decolonising research agenda by facilitating equitable research collaborations throughout the Commonwealth that ensure deep empirical research conducted in-country by local researchers is visible and credited.
- Contribute to university reform, through the sharing across ACU institutions of approaches taken to truth-telling and reconciliation within universities themselves. For example, the Reconciliation Actions Plan's adopted at some Australian Universities, decolonisation committees and agendas being developed and debated within the UK and elsewhere, and affirmative action policies implemented in post-apartheid South Africa.

Universities from the range of contexts (including indigenous populations) in the Commonwealth are invited to express interest (see below) in participating in the proposed network.

Expression of interest for participation in the Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network scoping session

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for participation in the scoping session for the Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network are invited from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and the University of Melbourne. EOIs are required to clearly outline how a participant's institution will contribute to the network, rather than see the ACU (or other organisation) be delegated the responsibility for ongoing work.

Purpose of the scoping session

The broad outline and purpose of the Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network are outlined above. The purpose of this scoping session is to:

- enable participants to further explore the suggested scope, thematic focus, and characteristics of the network.

To get the most out of the gathering, it is encouraged that proposed attendees have delegated decision-making within their institution to enable progress towards establishing the network.

Expressions of interest

Your short EOI should include:

- Department and university name
- Whether your institution is a member of the ACU
- Your key focus area (i.e. research collaboration, teaching and learning, mobility (staff or student), university reform)
- An outline of how your work would contribute to a peace and reconciliation network across Commonwealth universities? (keep to half a page).
- How a network would add value to your work? (keep to half a page)
- How you could contribute to the operationalisation of the network (keep to half a page)

The selection of participants will be decided by a small committee, drawn from both the auspice organisation (ACU), and the host institution (University of Melbourne). The selection will be on the basis of contribution to a network across academic activity (including university reform), and selecting for the diversity of the group to meet.

Should resources be a barrier to participation, this should be indicated on the EOI, and should the EOI be selected to participate, support to attend will be discussed with the ACU.

Expressions of Interest should be sent via email to George.Lakey@acu.ac.uk by 20 July 2018, with **Commonwealth Peace and Reconciliation Network** in the subject line.

Please address any queries to George Lakey at George.Lakey@acu.ac.uk

Non-exhaustive list of ACU member institutions working in related fields:

Americas

Country	Institution	Research / teaching
Canada	Algoma University	First Nation Chancellor
Canada	Brock University	First Nation Chancellor
Canada	Concordia University	First Peoples Studies
Canada	First Nations University of Canada	Centre of Reconciliation Studies
Canada	McGill University	Office of First Nations and Inuit Education
Canada	Queen's University	Indigenous Studies
Canada	Trent University	Indigenous Studies
Canada	University of British Columbia	First Nations and Indigenous Studies
Canada	University of Manitoba	National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
Canada	University of Northern British Columbia	First Nations Studies
Canada	University of Toronto	Truth and Reconciliation
Canada	University of Winnipeg	Indigenous Studies
Canada	Vancouver Island University	First Nations Studies
Canada	Western University	First Nations Studies

Africa

Country	Institution	Research / teaching
Botswana	University of Botswana	San Research Project
Kenya	University of Nairobi	Conflict and Peace Studies
South Africa	Durban University of Technology	International Centre of Nonviolence
South Africa	University of Cape Town	Justice & Transformation; Centre for Conflict Resolution
South Africa	University of the Free State	Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice
South Africa	Wits University	African Centre for Conflict Management
Uganda	Gulu University	Based in affected region; Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies
Uganda	Makerere University	Peace and Conflict Studies Centre
Uganda	Uganda Martyrs University	Governance and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Northern Uganda

Asia

Country	Institution	Research / teaching
India	IIT Guwahati	Subaltern Voices and Narratives
India	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion
Sri Lanka	Colombo University	Conflict, Peace and Reconciliation
Sri Lanka	South Eastern University of Sri Lanka	National Unity and Reconciliation

Europe

Country	Institution	Research / teaching
Cyprus	University of Cyprus	Peace and Conflict Studies
Northern Ireland	Queen's University Belfast	The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice
Northern Ireland	University of Ulster	Transitional Justice Institute
UK	City, University of London	Post-conflict human rights and transitional justice
UK	King's College London	Menzies Centre for Australian Studies
UK	London School of Economics	Post-conflict, reconciliation, transitional justice
UK	SOAS	Post-conflict, reconciliation, transitional justice
UK	University of Cambridge	Transitional Justice Research Network
UK	University of Oxford	Oxford Transitional Justice Research
UK	University of Southampton	Transitional justice

Pacific

Country	Institution	Research / teaching
Australia	Macquarie University	Department of Indigenous Studies
Australia	University of Melbourne	Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
Australia	University of Queensland	Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Australia	University of South Queensland	College for Indigenous Studies, Education and Research (CISER)
Australia	University of Sydney	Department of Peace and Conflict Studies; Indigenous Studies; Justice and Reconciliation
Australia	University of Western Australia	School of Indigenous Studies
Australia	University of Wollongong	Indigenous Studies
Fiji	University of the South Pacific	Post-conflict
New Zealand	Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī	Indigenous Tertiary Education Provider
New Zealand	University of Auckland	Maori Studies
New Zealand	University of Canterbury	Maori and Indigenous Health
New Zealand	University of Otago	Maori Studies
New Zealand	University of Waikato	Maori and Indigenous Studies