



FOUNDATIONS
FOR PEACE

Laying the Foundations for
Peace: a policy contribution

2016





Foundations for Peace Network

*Indigenous
funders
promoting the
value of local
peacebuilding*

COMMUNIQUÉ

TEN YEARS OF FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE

In the past ten years, the world has changed beyond recognition. Alongside serious problems such as rising inequality and climate change, war has become the new norm, and peace and security issues dominate much of the globe. Many democracies are faltering with a rising prevalence of failed states, conflicted or deeply divided societies and stalled development.

Studies show that, despite the best efforts of many organizations, the architecture surrounding development aid does not contribute to lasting peace in conflict-affected communities. Indeed, the aid system tends to undermine the autonomy of local activism, which is essential to transforming conflicts.

Foundations for Peace, a network of ten local foundations rooted in their country's contexts, supports community activists at local level over the long term, to open up space for the growth of civil society, to develop a new narrative, and to work on conflict transformation initiatives. Its values are based on respect for all identities and included are diverse voices and people who are often marginalized or demonized.

We wish to share with you our experience and learning over the past ten years, and our views about the imperatives for the future. Key presentations and a policy report on our work and reflections on the past ten years will be available to those who attend. The events and report will be of particular interest to philanthropies who wish to contribute towards conflict transformation. The convening will:

1. Discuss a new paradigm for development in contested or deeply divided societies.
2. Explore the role of different types of community intervention in peace and conflict transformation.
3. Explore new models of partnership working for community-based conflict transformation in contested or deeply divided societies.

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Foundations for Peace Network

Indigenous funders promoting the value of local peacebuilding

www.foundationsforpeace.com

FOREWORD

Foundations for Peace Network celebrates ten years of working together in 2016. Launched in the Church Centre for the United Nations in New York in 2006, the Network has worked collaboratively on many peacebuilding and social justice projects since then. We have also shared a lot of our experiences of working in conflict regions over that period and, in listening and reflecting, we have learned a considerable amount from each other. This learning has enabled us to see more clearly what is needed if sustainable local peacebuilding is to be supported and further developed in regions either emerging from, or currently experiencing, violent conflict.

This short publication, *Laying the Foundations for Peace: a policy contribution 2016*, represents some of our thinking on the way forward and is a sister publication to *Ten years of Peacebuilding Work in Conflict Regions: Reflections of Foundations for Peace Network Members*. Both are presented as materials to promote discussion and exchange at our conference and events in the EFC Philanthropy House, Brussels, in November 2016, to mark our 10th anniversary.

Both are drawn from the combined experiences and reflections of the members of the FFP (Foundations for Peace) Network. The member foundations are indigenous to, and proactively working in, societies that have been deeply impacted by violent conflict and communal division. All are deeply committed to the empowerment of local communities to develop sustainable peacebuilding and conflict resolution solutions to local conflict.

The members share a commitment to social justice and peacebuilding in difficult and complex situations. While each foundation operates in a unique conflict environment and seeks to support peacebuilding activities appropriate to context, we have found many commonalities in terms of impact and need. We have also learned and wish to share the story of the added value of using indigenous foundations to embed sustainable programmes in areas of conflict – we know the complexity, understand the political nuances, and have reach and access. We connect with those most impacted. We also live with our decisions – we do not walk away when times get tough.

The members have learned from each other and from other transnational conflict situations and wish to share this learning with those who have a stake in peacebuilding and social justice philanthropy or practice. We believe that philanthropists and development agencies can, and should, learn from our experiences and work in partnership with us and other indigenous foundations to ensure sustainable long-term benefits for local communities impacted by conflict and division.

More detailed information about our work is on our new website:
www.foundationsforpeace.com

We welcome the opportunity to engage with others who have a key interest in social justice and peacebuilding at our November 2016 events and know the discussion and sharing of knowledge and learning will enhance the path of FFP in



Marina Tabukashvili,
Chairperson,
Foundations for Peace Network

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the future. We undertake to share our resultant Forward Plan – which will be informed by the discussion – with attendees and those who have asked to be kept informed, and hope to build on the relationships commenced in November 2016.

As Chairperson of the Network, I would also like to thank our members for their contributions to the two publications and, in particular, to thank Barry Knight for his input, continued guidance and invaluable support to the Network over many years. My thanks must also go to the Secretariat, in particular to Monina O’Prey, Avila Kilmurray and Claire O’Kane, for their continuing commitment and support to FFP since the outset.

Yours sincerely,



Marina Tabukashvili, Taso Foundation, Georgia, and
Chairperson, Foundations for Peace Network.

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LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE: 2016

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Nothing humanizes us like *aporia* – that state of intense puzzlement in which we find ourselves when our certainties fall to pieces ... and when the *aporia* casts its net far and wide to ensnare the whole of humanity, we know we are at a very special moment in history.

Yanis Varoufakis (1)

”

THE RISING TIDE OF WAR

War and armed conflict has become the norm in many parts of the world. That we are willing to accept such levels of violence should be a matter of grave concern to all.

Conflict and injustice go hand in hand and reinforce each other. In an interconnected world, borders mean little and war spreads easily. The consequences are death, destruction, forced migration and economic chaos. To take a single example, in the six years of Syria's civil war, more than 250,000 people have been killed, with 4.8 million forced to flee the country and 6.6 million displaced inside it.

Everyone, regardless of location, is now affected by the rising tide of war, and we can no longer ignore the problem and the consequences. Foundations for Peace invites you on a common journey to develop and deliver solutions. As individual

BOX 1 – THE PREVALENCE OF WAR

In the past year, there have been a total of 39 armed conflicts. The most serious four of these conflicts account for the deaths of more than 125,000 people. (2)

The prevalence of war has been increasing over the past 150 years. Research by Professors Mark Harrison from the University of Warwick and Nikolaus Wolf from Humboldt University shows that between 1870 and 2001, the frequency of wars between states increased by 2% a year on average. (3)

foundations, we have worked for decades to promote social justice and peace in local communities affected by violent conflict. As a network, we have worked collectively on conflict transformation for the past ten years. We share and learn from each other and we support each other when the going gets tough – as it often does. Our local contexts differ enormously but we have found many commonalities and have shared and developed effective, innovative and sustainable responses inspired by local people and grantees. We use ‘small money to make big impact’.

We believe that our role as indigenous funders advancing social justice and peacebuilding puts us in a strong position to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. We work closely with our grantees and are acutely aware, on a daily basis, of the challenges, opportunities and niches for progressive change. We want to share our learning and experience in an effort to change how peacebuilding is both funded and delivered. We believe that the valuable efforts and resources of philanthropists and other stakeholders in peacebuilding and social justice work, including the work of international aid agencies, would be enhanced by our learning.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES PEACE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals for all nations, seeking to attack the root causes of poverty, economic injustice and human rights violations. In those countries where violence and conflict hold sway, these goals will not be realized unless top priority is given to the 16th goal:

To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The effects of war and conflict are widespread and debilitating. Countries at war tend to overlook social progress and deny human rights, a process that feeds suspicion, damages trust, and leads to more militarization and violence. This sets up a downward cycle of division that is hard to break.

The consequences of war affect all aspects of life. Psychological effects include personal and collective trauma and loss of identity or place, social effects such as closed schools and health facilities, and economic effects such as loss of work, shortage of goods and damaged infrastructure. War also ends all normal politics, and those who are directly affected by violence and conflict, including women, children and other marginalized groups, typically have no voice in decision-making.

TOO LITTLE EFFORT

War damages global prosperity. The cost of violence amounts to 13.4% of global GDP. The efforts of philanthropy do not, so far, go close to matching the scale of the problem. According to the figures set out in Box 2, the combined expenditure of philanthropy on peacebuilding and related issues is a tiny fraction of the cost.

BOX 2 – THE COSTS OF WAR AND EXPENDITURE BY PHILANTHROPY

The Institute for Economics and Peace in its 2015 Global Peace Index Report states that the economic cost of violence is US\$14.3 trillion (13.4% of GDP) – equivalent to the combined economies of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Compare that with the budget available to peacebuilding. 745 foundations in 34 countries made over 17,000 human rights grants totaling US\$1.7 billion. Of this, funding for transitional justice and peacebuilding amounted to US\$29.3 million (2%). (Source: Foundation Center, 2014)

TECHNOCRATIC OR TRANSFORMATIONAL?

In recent times of conflict or natural disaster, states have tended to place an emphasis on partnership with philanthropists and international NGOs, effectively outsourcing their responsibilities while seeking to maintain overall control.

Development now tends to be driven by what the former Ford Foundation representative in East Africa, Tade Aina, described as the 'new aid architecture'. Grants, he said, tend to go only to the larger, more formal, better-resourced institutions that possess structures acceptable to donor consortia. (4) Funds are narrowly allocated to specific programme or project purposes. Funders 'do not support investment in endowments or property of local institutions,' and this means 'less flexible support for issues that are determined and adopted autonomously by local institutions,' as they will 'have to fit either the national development agenda or the increasingly narrow focus of the big private donors.' Aina described an 'emerging consensus on procedures and methodologies, predominantly business and market driven and led by the philanthrocapitalists, who are being joined by the old philanthropies in their insistence on narrow focus, high impact, clear and measurable results.'

Despite some successes in reducing poverty in some places, (5) the new aid architecture has helped to create a global development industry that may not be fit for purpose. Many NGOs have become highly skilled proposal writers, budget jugglers and masters of development jargon, and compete with each other to serve the needs of external funders. The impact of international funding has distorted our sense of time (a five-year development project can be considered long-term) and created lines of accountability that drive upwards and outwards. The result is hefty reports landing on desks in London, Washington or elsewhere, far from the people that development is meant to serve. (6)

Reddy and Kvangraven (2015) suggest that such technocratic intervention is immune to power imbalances, and '... when global goals are perceived to be achievable through technical fixes, the fact that development requires fundamental changes in society is lost'. (7) As Esquivel (2016) points out, realizing the 'transformative potential' of the agenda for sustainable development for the years to 2030 needs to be much more than a technocratic exercise. (8)

The evidence suggests that such transformation has to come from within. Unless local people own and develop the change themselves, it will fail to take root. A key role for external funders and agencies is to support local efforts to build social justice and peace. Indigenous forces for change make for lasting peace and no amount of external intervention on its own can deliver this.

According to Athena Athanasiou, a feminist theorist and political activist, fundraising itself is highly political and resources need to be accountable to local people and create spaces of responsiveness, accountability and mutuality. (9) In a nutshell, this is the role that members of Foundations for Peace play at local level.

INDIGENOUS FOUNDATIONS

In the ten years since our inception, we, the members of the Foundations for Peace Network, have had to steer through a myriad of challenges. We have been engaged on a continuing quest for strategies and methods to combat the growth of conflict in our societies, both pre-empting and preventing conflict

through peacebuilding and conflict transformation and ensuring that where fragile peace has been achieved that it does not break down. We are thankful that on this arduous journey, we have been enabled and strengthened by the continued support and guidance of the philanthropic community, of donors who share our values, of like-minded grant-makers, and our inspirational and innovative grantees.

Members of Foundations for Peace share a common value base of peace, non-violence and respect for human rights, even though the contexts and cultures we work in are different, as are the types of interventions we support. We also share the fact that our work is shaped by the efforts of local people. Here are some examples of the origins of individual members of Foundations for Peace.

Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust was formed in 2001 in the wake of Neelan Tiruchelvam's assassination. His wife, Sithie Tiruchelvam, gathered together a group of like-minded visionaries and founded a local grant-making entity to support and build peace in Sri Lanka.

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland was formed in 1979 by local community activists on both sides of the community divide when 'the Troubles' (conflict) were at their height. The focus of the foundation was social justice and community activism as a means to escape from the death and destruction. A key approach was issuing small grants, given with a personal touch to build relationships in a divided society.

Indonesia Untuk Kemanusiaan (Indonesia for Humanity) was formed in 1995 by social change activists as a grant-making organization to support social justice.

Tewa was initiated in 1995 by a feminist activist and supported by a diverse group of women in Nepal to empower organized groups of women to work on social justice and inclusion. It was conceived as a truly sustainable development model in contrast to the dependency induced by official development assistance.



Foundacion AlvarAlice was established in 2003 in Colombia by the family of Alvaro Garces Giraldo and Alice Echavarria Olozaga to honour their parents' philanthropic spirit. The vision is 'to contribute to an equitable and peaceful Colombian society'. Grants support conflict resolution in interrelated areas of peacebuilding, education, healthcare, civic action, and income generation.

Reconstruction Women's Fund started a foundation in 2004 in Serbia, five years after the wars in former Yugoslavia, developing an antimilitarist platform and feminist agenda to build peace.

Dalit Foundation was formed in India in 2003 to support the empowerment of Dalits in the context of the persistence of the ancient caste system based on principles of purity and pollution. Work includes programmes to support women's leadership, human rights, health and social justice, with specific goals to eradicate caste violence and manual scavenging.

Taso Foundation evolved from the Women's Fund of Open Society to an independent local foundation in 2007, by starting programmes for communities of internally displaced people and those affected by the turbulence of the 1990s and the 2008 war with Russia.

Manusher Jonno Foundation became an independent foundation in 2006 and supports human rights and governance initiatives in Bangladesh. It provides funding and capacity building support to more than 240 organizations, and is involved with partners to support national advocacy efforts in favour of marginalized and excluded groups.



Dalia Association was established in 2006 as the first indigenous community foundation by members of the Palestinian community from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, the green line, and the Diaspora. Its mission is to realize the rights of Palestinians to control their resources and sustain local development.

The Foundations for Peace Network has formed relationships with many other foundations across the world, and has developed particularly close links with community-based funders in Africa, South America and Europe.

FUNDERS AS EQUALS

Although these funders have emerged in different ways, all have grown from the soil of the community they serve. Their origins give them a legitimacy rarely enjoyed by external funders or interventions. They live with the impact of the decisions that they take.

As local funders, they conceive themselves as partners with their grantees, working alongside them and responding flexibly to the rapidly changing circumstances that building peace requires. Their roots in the community mean that they are there for the long haul and cannot disappear when the going gets tough. Aware of the nuances, local knowledge means that they can play a key role in building relationships between different groups, connecting people from the grassroots to those in power, and developing forums to work on local problems that affect everyone.



Being on the ground, and working on difficult and sensitive issues, means that foundations can assess the performance of their grantees through direct feedback, rather than having to use logic models or spend big money on evaluation consultants. Accountability works on a peer-to-peer basis.

HOW THE FUNDERS OPERATE

Indigenous foundations typically try to pick up the pieces of broken systems to restore destroyed social tissue and find some vestige of normality in situations where life has been totally disrupted, the rule of law consistently broken, and civil society distorted in the process. Particular situations that members of Foundations for Peace have faced include ethnic cleansing, displacement of peoples, human atrocities and genocide. Common features include a ruined living communal environment, a failed judicial system and partisan policing, closed schools and services, lack of social services including psychosocial support for those traumatized by violence, and the context is often underpinned by competitive demands from communities. Failure to address causes of conflict, little access to justice, and contested narratives, contribute to an absence of an agreed way forward often leading to cyclical violence.

Small grants are used to develop inclusive processes to address imbalances of power and bring into account issues often unpopular with certain interests, but are nevertheless vital for peace. Such issues include human rights, violence against women, giving voice to victims, participation of excluded minorities and the engagement of young people.

Work typically adopts a gender lens. War impacts women and children differently. As war takes hold, men typically join the conflict, leave home for safety reasons or leave in search of economic opportunities. This leaves women to hold families and communities together – taking care of the elderly, the children and fending for themselves. In doing this, women are highly vulnerable as the risk of violence increases as a result of escalating conflict. Supporting women in situations of conflict is vital since, not only are women more likely to be victims, they also have the greatest potential to help in building the peace.

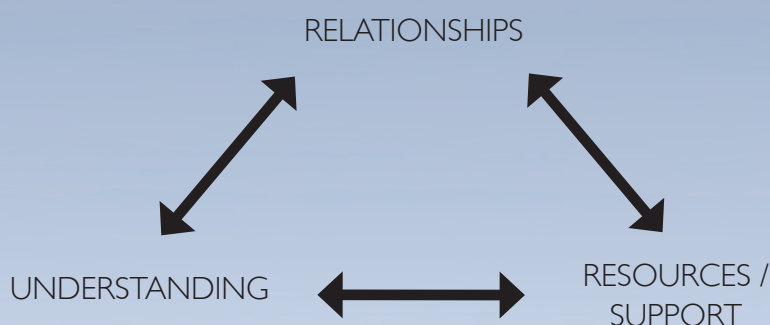
A vital dimension is to open up 'safe space' for local activists to express their needs and contributions to build bridges between divided communities and to counter regressive forces such as militarism and repressive authorities.

Risk is inevitably part of the territory, and calculating consequences is a constant task in peacebuilding. Working in divided societies means that societal arrangements are rarely stable and are always at risk of disruption as a result of violent attack.

ASSESSING IMPACT

Evaluation is no straightforward matter in divided societies because linear development toward peace is rarely possible. Small indigenous foundations working to build peace typically face three main challenges; visibility, impact, and legitimacy. Such foundations often have to work quietly below the radar, so they cannot always promote what they do. This means that the work is often invisible, lacks readily measurable outputs or outcomes, and is sometimes questioned by outsiders as self-interested or partisan.

The key measures of added value for Foundations for Peace are (1) the relationships they develop with their constituencies, (2) the support they provide to their stakeholders and (3) wider societal understanding towards a just and peaceful society. These three dimensions are shown in the following diagram.



To take some examples about how this works in different countries, Taso in Georgia has supported a community philanthropy forum, led by women pursuing an anti-violence agenda, an initiative supported by local government. The Reconstruction Women's Fund has supported meetings of women from genocide areas from across the former Yugoslavia to talk about their losses and pain, and to find ways to move forward together. The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust in Sri Lanka has championed the rights and psychosocial needs of people left disabled by the war, an issue neglected by the state since the end of the conflict in 2009. This has involved efforts to engage disabled people in community life, developing services such as talking books for the visually impaired, and advocacy for recognition of the issue from the government. These short examples show how Foundations for Peace members build the infrastructure for peace from within their societies – more examples of the work and member reflections are included in the sister publication to this document, *Ten years of Peacebuilding Work in Conflict Regions: Reflections of Foundations for Peace Network Members*.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

What we have seen so far adds up to an approach to peacebuilding in which local communities have an active part to play in their futures, rather than being cast as passive recipients of aid. Local foundations can support such efforts because they have the necessary knowledge, access, and contacts, and take the time to invest in relationships and to build trust.

Where foundations in divided societies struggle is their access to resources because, by definition, there is no stable community from which they can receive donations for their work, and the work itself can often be seen as controversial, particularly where the emphasis is on the inclusion of excluded groups. This opens the door to partnerships with international funders that have money but lack the local knowledge, access and contacts. Investing in, and through, community-based funders also allows international funders to co-design effective sustainability strategies that recognize the long-term challenges of protecting often fragile peace processes.

Over the past decade, the members of Foundations for Peace have worked together to build horizontal relationships across different conflict zones in the world, supporting one another in times of stress and building each other's skills, knowledge and expertise. What is missing from the mix is the vertical

relationships with large foundations, aid agencies and other resource holders to generate a coalition of interests around peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Foundations for Peace sees its future as a connector between national and international players on the one hand and the local actors and communities on the other. It can and will act as the bridge to connect efforts at all levels. It welcomes discussion on how best to deliver this.

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ABOUT FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE

wwwFOUNDATIONSFORPEACE.com

CHARTER FOR FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE

At its first Annual General Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 13 November 2004, Foundations for Peace adopted the following charter.

VISION

Foundations for Peace envisions a pluralistic society across the world that respects human rights and dignity and in which conflicts are resolved through peaceful means.

MISSION

Foundations for Peace is a global network of independent, indigenous funders working to advance equality, diversity and interdependence in areas of entrenched and persistent communal conflict with a history of, or potential for, violence.

STRATEGIES

Foundations for Peace has three strategies. These are:

1. To draw lessons from and share models of good practice in peacebuilding that have been implemented within and between local communities.
2. To promote and advance public policy to support equality, diversity and interdependence nationally and internationally.
3. To inform, promote and thereby increase the flow of philanthropic funds to support indigenous peacebuilding foundations across the globe.

OBJECTIVES

To advance equality, diversity and peacebuilding in areas of communal conflict with a history of, or potential for, violence by:

- a) promoting solidarity and providing individual and organisational support to enhance knowledge and experience of peacebuilding;
- b) enabling collaborative work to make a distinctive contribution to the peacebuilding practice;
- c) building individual and organisational capacity through sharing learning, ideas and experience and creating opportunities for collaboration;
- d) gathering, analysing and disseminating the collective learning for the public benefit from conflict-affected regions across the globe.

VALUES

Foundations for Peace values the sanctity of human life as set out in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

In particular, Foundations for Peace wishes to make a distinctive contribution to peacebuilding in areas of entrenched and persistent communal conflict with a history of, or potential for, violence. The values that underpin Network members' philanthropic interventions in areas of such conflict are equality, diversity and interdependence.

Foundations for Peace is non-partisan and shall not take positions on global political issues. Each member authority will have full autonomy to develop policies, positions and practices relevant to its mission and philosophy within its sphere of interest.

FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE NETWORK MEMBERS

wwwFOUNDATIONSforpeace.com

FFP members as of November 2016:

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland:

www.communityfoundationni.org

Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust, Sri Lanka:

www.neelan.org

Reconstruction Women's Fund, Serbia:

www.rwfund.org

Taso Foundation, Georgia:

www.taso.org.ge

Tewa, Nepal:

www.tewa.org.np

Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh:

www.manusherjonno.org

Dalit Foundation, India:

www.dalitfoundation.org

Dalia Association, Palestine:

www.dalia.ps

AlvarAlice, Colombia:

www.alvaralice.org

Indonesia for Humanity, Indonesia:

www.ysik.org



Foundations for Peace Network is registered with the
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WHAT INDIGENOUS INDEPENDENT FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS CAN OFFER IN TERMS OF ADDED-VALUE INCLUDES –

- Acting as a knowledge hub of the local conditions and bringing particular sensitivity to the adverse impact of violent conflict and social injustice on specific communities and groups within their society.
- Being open to a range of different approaches – both grant-making and development roles – in order to proactively support work around peacebuilding and social justice.
- Being both practical and innovative in delivering support to grass-roots communities impacted by conflict, using knowledge of local political and environmental nuance to enable urgent needs to be met.
- Offering a convening role to bring groups together across sectarian, ethnic, caste and other divides, and working with partner organisations and initiatives to ensure that this can happen safely.
- Networking at community level with marginalised or excluded groups and testing ways to support their active participation in alliances for change.
- Acting as a bridge between different levels in society.
- Offering flexible and timely grant delivery – in situations of rapid change, as often occurs during peacebuilding or conflict, a small grant made in a timely and flexible manner can be more effective than a larger grant.
- Helping to develop broad platforms/alliances to build cooperation and solidarity around issues of social justice and peacebuilding. This can entail indigenous Funds and Foundations using their position in society and their reputational capital to stand by advocates for change.
- Acting as a channel for external philanthropy and/or Development Aid either through a partnership approach to the delivery of funding or as a source of active consultation.
- Offering a signposting service for external funders, particularly advising on how planned interventions might be interpreted (or misinterpreted) and applying a peace and conflict impact assessment with regard to proposed initiatives.

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