

Peaceful Networks

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What happens when Community Foundations find themselves facing political turbulence, periods of severe community crises or periods of societal transition? Is there a role for community philanthropy during such periods of uncertainty and division?

Here are a few scenarios/questions for you to consider and discuss about what you as Network and Support Associations can do to facilitate the work of Community Foundations during times of challenge and change.

1. You are working to support community foundations in a country that has recently experienced serious ethnic divisions. What steps can you take to support members to address the pressures that they are under?
2. A Support Association/ Network has 30 members, 1 of these is a community foundation working in a contested region. How can an association devote time and resources to support that one when the other 29 have different demands and priorities?
3. What are the concerns or fears that associations of community foundations have about becoming involved in issues of community conflict and peacebuilding? What would you do to help to address these fears?
4. A human rights NGO approaches a support association/ network interested in seeing if community foundation members will adopt grant-making programmes for human rights. As a support association/ network you are conscious that this could cause a difficult relationship with the current government, what would you do?
5. Your support association/ network adopts a motion that it will support conflict transformation/ peacebuilding/ social justice in a proactive manner. How would you go about realizing this in practice and what support/ information would you need?
6. Can community foundations create and maintain space for constructive dialogue in times of conflict? And how can support associations/ networks help them to do this?
7. How do community foundations affirm their values and promote human rights in conflict situations without being seen by 'the authorities' as party to the conflict?
8. There are opportunities to create partnerships with a number of private foundations to access funding for member community foundations. How would you carry out a peace and conflict audit as a basis for putting forward a funding proposal?

9. There has been a crisis/ emergency situation in your region. Millions of dollars are pouring in for relief work. How can you make the case for investment in longer term community philanthropy?
10. As a support association/ network you are concerned that there are underlying issues of diversity and/ or contested space that may give rise to violent divisions in your society. How do you raise these issues with member community foundation?
11. Community foundation XXX has acted as a community convener in addressing issues arising out of an emergency situation. How can you draw the learning from this experience and share it with other community foundations?
12. You receive a call from CNN Journalist wanting to know the position of the Community Foundation Network on the recent State of Emergency. What is your position?
13. You are approached by a major US private foundation with the offer to administer a re-granting fund the benefit of one specific community in a divided society. What do you do?
14. Two high net worth donors have contacted you to express concerns over possible reputational risk to their donor funds in a local community foundation. They say they are concerned at political positions being taken by the grant making programmes administered by the Foundation. What do you do?
15. What policies or procedures should a support association/ network have in place to help it offer support to a community foundation that is facing an unexpected crisis or emergency situation?

For further discussion, contact the ‘Peaceful Networks’ team:

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