





**Unarmed civilian protection (UCP)** is a methodology for the direct protection of civilians, for localized violence reduction, and for supporting local peace infrastructures. UCP provides unarmed, specially trained civilians who live and work with local civil society in areas of violent conflict.

Unarmed civilian protection is an emerging discipline, currently practiced by 39 nongovernmental organizations in close cooperation with local civil society in 21 areas of violent conflict to provide direct protection to civilians. Recent examples include: Colombia, South Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, and the Mindanao region of the Philippines. Increasingly recognized as an effective tool for the protection of civilians, UCP has been cited and recommended in major UN documents including *The High Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations (HIPPO)* who recommended that **Unarmed strategies must be at the forefront of UN efforts to protect civilians**, as well as *The Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*, and, *the Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), 2016*.

In a Synthesis Report of the three global reviews, The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs found:

*The privileging of the military response to violent conflict is counter-productive. All three reports offer a critique of the current privileging of huge, military-heavy peace operations...All three reports see the UN's preoccupation with militarised solutions as an obstacle to lasting peace and something that needs to change. The Global Study is very explicit with regard to the fact that militarised solutions, and the resulting militarisation of society, are detrimental to women's security. This is a claim that is based on a solid body of research.*

Nonviolent Peaceforce was nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

To learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwqKOUzUR-w>

And this article in the International Peace Institute's *Global Observer* <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/09/sustaining-peace-unarmed-civilian-protection/>