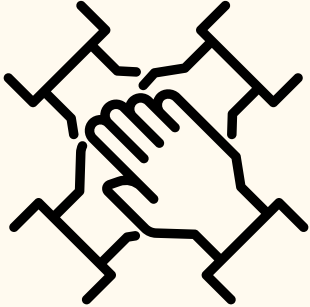


# unarmed civilian protection: a guide for NPUS volunteers

## *What is Unarmed Civilian Protection?*



Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) refers to unarmed civilians working to reduce incidents & cycles of violence, & increase the safety & security of civilians impacted by violent conflict. UCP prioritizes direct physical protection from immediate threats of violence, even as it works to interrupt systemic violence.

## *How does NP use UCP?*



NP's mission is to protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies, build peace side by side with local communities, & advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives & dignity. NP carries out this mission through the practice of UCP.

## *What makes up Unarmed Civilian Protection?*

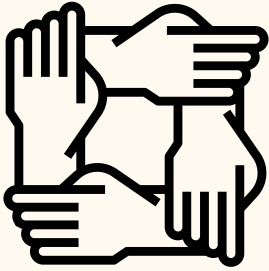


The practice of UCP is governed by a series of principles, objectives, strategies, tactics & sources of guidance. Together, these form a frame of reference that guides UCP practices through differences in language, application, & cultural context.

# UCP: key principles

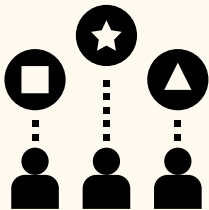
Nonviolent Peaceforce

UCP is guided by five principles: nonviolence, nonpartisanship, primacy of local actors, independence, & civilian leadership. The application of these principles can vary, but the foundation remains constant.



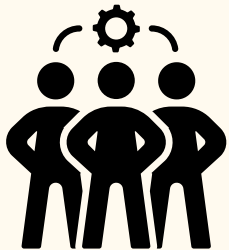
## **Nonviolence**

Acknowledging the complexity of community needs, & understanding that there are alternative ways to meeting needs that do not need or rely on the threat or use of force. This principle means shifting to a culture of conflict navigation grounded in nonviolence.



## **Nonpartisanship**

Not taking sides in a conflict, but working directly against injustice & violence.



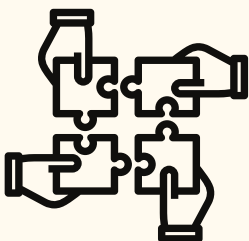
## **Primacy of Local Actors**

Recognizing that those who live in a community have the right to self-determination, & that they know best how to assess their needs & how to drive change.



## **Independence**

Being separate from large international institutions, interest groups, political parties, private companies, or religious groups.



## **Civilian Leadership**

Prioritizing bottom-up organization, leadership, & trust-building in order to shift attention to the needs & experiences of local communities.

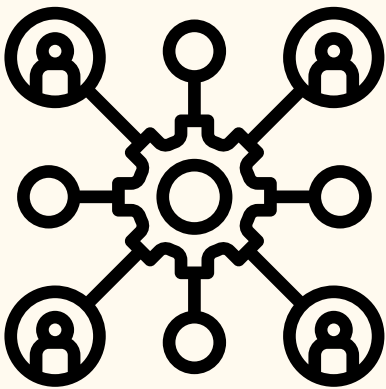
# UCP: key objectives, strategies, & tactics

## Objectives



- 1) Interrupting cycles of violence
  - a) Preventing violence
  - b) Stopping violence
  - c) Reducing the impact of violence
- 2) Enhancing nonviolent responses to conflict

## Strategies



- 1) Directly protecting people from violence
- 2) Influencing state actors, non-state actors, & organizations to protect people
- 3) Bolstering the capacities of at-risk individuals & communities to protect themselves

## Tactics



- 1) Encouragement, or positive engagement with all relevant actors
- 2) Deterrence, or negative pressure to discourage certain behaviors

# UCP: key sources of guidance

**UCP relies on international laws & conventions to monitor human rights violations & prioritize protection needs.**



## *International Humanitarian Law*

Aims to protect human life & dignity within the context of armed conflict, & establishes the responsibilities of armed actors.



## *International Refugee Law*

Aims to protect refugees, persons seeking asylum, & those whose governments are unable or unwilling to protect them.



## *International Human Rights Law*

Aims to prevent governmental abuse, and holds that human rights are inherent and inalienable.



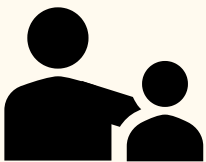
## *Women, Peace, & Security*

Frames conflict through the lens of power relations, & calls on actors to address the root causes of conflict.



## *Children & Armed Conflict*

Highlights the vulnerability of children and the necessity of priority protection services.



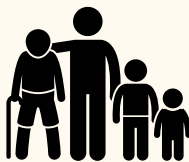
## *Youth Peace & Security*

Highlights the intersection between youth vulnerability & lack of access to decision making processes.



## *Seville Statement on Violence*

Holds that violence is not inherent in the human condition, & that peace and nonviolence can be learned.



## *Civilian Immunity in War*

Aims to contain violent conflict & prevent the aftermath from spilling over into future generations.

NP aims to contribute to structural nonviolence by training volunteers in UCP & building a collective attitude towards conflict that does not default to violence or threat of force.