

Sharon Kniss

sharonkniss@gmail.com / 540-236-4398

Education	MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE STUDIES Track focus: Policy Analysis and Political Change University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana	May 2014
	BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JUSTICE, PEACE, AND CONFLICT STUDIES Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia <i>Cords of Distinction, Summa Cum Laude</i>	April 2006
Work Experience	INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT / COOPERATIVE BY DESIGN, LLC <i>Peacebuilding Specialist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and facilitate training and support for organizations in the areas of strategic planning, teambuilding and organizational health, and conflict management and mediation• Provided technical services for a project review and report for an international NGO conducting land conflict mediation• Facilitated complex multi-party conflict interventions• Partnered with community mediation experts in Indiana on statewide collaboration and advocacy• Consultant and trainer for restorative justice implementation in South Bend, Indiana• Conceptualized, designed and convened an international consultation of practitioners and academics on reintegration and reentry for cross-sector learning and partnership• Drafted two chapters in a forthcoming book for training faith leaders in conflict transformation within their communities	August 2009 - Present
	KANSAS INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION <i>Director of Education and Training</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflict transformation mediator, facilitator, coach, and trainer• Oversaw and led all training design and implementation• Lead facilitator for organizational and group conflicts• Taught as professor in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies at Bethel College• Administered Conflict Resolution Certificate, an academic and training certificate at Bethel College• Team content lead on Criminal and Restorative Justice Certificate, an academic certificate at Bethel College• Lead coach for Restorative Justice processes and training, including implementation for the Restorative Schools Initiative• Coordinated the Restorative Schools Initiative and oversaw team of consulting trainers• Creator of the Kansas Restorative Schools Network• Initiator and Steering Committee Chair, Restorative Kansas (first-ever statewide Restorative Justice Conference)	May 2016–December 2019
	GOSHEN COLLEGE, GOSHEN, INDIANA <i>Adjunct Professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taught undergraduate foundations course: Transforming Conflict & Violence.	January 2015 – April 2016
	COMMUNITY FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA <i>Program Director</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led a collaborative network of organizations in building a strategic platform for peace and justice in the community.	July 2014 – April 2016

-
- PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE, WASHINGTON, D.C.** Sept. 2014 – January 2015
Security Fellow
- Provided content guidance, editing assistance, and evaluation collection in the development and publication of the Security-Governance, Accountability, and Performance framework and guide for civil society, governments, and security organizations considering security sector reform.
- CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES & UNIV. OF NOTRE DAME, ACCRA, GHANA** January – May 2014
Consultant, Business on the Frontlines
- Led a collaborative consultancy with Business and Law graduate students to identify opportunities for shared value creation in corporate-NGO partnerships
- CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES** July – December 2013
Intern, Peace and Reconciliation Program
- Investigated impact of the resolved land conflicts through CRS' conflict mediation program, by conducting on-site interviews and research, achieving MEL strategy outcomes.
 - Researched multi-party NGO peacebuilding collaborations which developed the working consensus-based vision document: Mindanao People's Peace Agenda.
- OUR COMMUNITY PLACE, HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA** August 2010 – July 2012
Community Center Director
Community Wellbeing Coordinator
- Facilitated organization-wide restructuring process, using multi-stakeholder dialogue focus groups and collaborative decision-making processes
 - Developed and strengthened cross-sector community partnerships
 - Designed and oversaw program implementation, violence prevention and intervention strategies, and organization-wide use of circle processes and mediation
 - Supervised staff, interns, and volunteers in an environment of high diversity
- MAHATMA GANDHI CENTER FOR GLOBAL NONVIOLENCE** August 2009 – August 2010
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA
Program Coordinator
- Ran special event logistics, including Gandhi Award to Former President Jimmy Carter and national student conference
 - Supervised 12 interns, executed programming, budget, and communications
- BRIDGE BUILDERS, LONDON, U.K.** July 2006 – July 2009
Trainer and Mediator
- Designed and led 26 trainings (1-3 days) on mediation and conflict transformation and team-led 16 week-long trainings
 - Four consultancies with leaders to start mediation programs in the UK and Germany
 - Mediated 12 conflict cases
 - Co-hosted two national mediation conferences
-

Advisory Roles and Associations	NATIONAL COALITION FOR DIALOGUE AND DELIBERATION	Summer 2018 – Present
	NEWTON COMMUNITY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE , Newton, Kansas	2016 – 2019
	NAACP-WICHITA BRANCH , Wichita, Kansas	2016 – 2019
	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	December 2015 – Present
	ADVISORY BOARD, MAMAS AGAINST VIOLENCE , South Bend, Indiana	August 2015 – May 2016
	BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH , South Bend, Indiana	July 2015 – May 2016
	BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ST JOSEPH VALLEY CAMERATA , Elkhart, Indiana	Sept. 2014 – May 2016
	BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GEMEINSCHAFT HOME , Harrisonburg, Virginia Personnel Committee (Chair, November 2010 – June 2011)	July 2010 – July 2012
	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE REFERENCE COMMITTEE, FAIRFIELD CENTER , Harrisonburg, Virginia	January 2010 – July 2012

Additional Training	COMMUNITY TRUSTBUILDING FELLOWSHIP Initiatives of Change, Richmond, Virginia	January – May 2020
	ANTI-RACISM TRAINING (training) Roots of Justice, Newton, Kansas	February 2017
	CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY (13-week training) Wichita Police Department and Sedgwick County Sheriff Department, Wichita, Kansas	Fall 2016
	CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY (9-week training) South Bend Police Department, South Bend, Indiana	Spring 2015
	ADVANCED CIRCLE TRAINING WITH KAY PRANIS (training) Shambhala Meditation Center, Chicago, Illinois	March 2015
	STRATEGIES FOR TRAUMA AWARENESS & RESILIENCY (workshop) New Market, Virginia	August 2011
	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: THE PROMISE, THE CHALLENGE (graduate credit) Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia	May 2011
	VICTIM OFFENDER CONFERENCING (training) Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia	January 2011
	DEVELOPING COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES (2-semester training) United Reformed Church, Cambridge, UK	Sept. 2008 – April 2009
	INDIGENOUS PEACEMAKING PROCESSES (graduate training) Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia	June 2005
