



Relational
Peacebuilding
Initiatives

1

RELATIONAL PEACEBUILDING METHODOLOGY

Dr Jeremy Ive, Senior Advisor © 2026

WHAT IS PEACEBUILDING?

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- across the **political divides**
- **future**-orientated
- based on shared **principles**

WHY PEACEBUILDING?

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the missing link between

➤ development

and

➤ security

THREE TRACKS OF PEACE FACILITATION

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Tracks One, Two and Three

➤ not mutually **exclusive**

➤ **reinforce** one another

TRACK ONE

5

- **high-level facilitation** among those in positions of top leadership.
- addresses the **immediate steps** required to be put into place for a peace settlement.

TRACK THREE

6

more specific focus:

- a region or **locality**, and/or
- **single** issues

TRACK TWO

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- **intermediate-level** facilitation on a low-profile basis
- **middle-distance** in its focus

TRACK TWO PEACEBUILDING: TWO FUNCTIONS

- catalysts
- consensus-builders

CATALYSTS

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build **background trust** to
resolve sticking points



CONSENSUS-BUILDERS

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develop and disseminate a
common framework for peace



SOUTH AFRICA 1986



INITIAL NPI CONFERENCE MARCH 1987

- document setting out a **constitutional alternatives**
- participants **across racial and political divides**

NEWICK PARK INITIATIVE (NPI)

ON SOUTH AFRICA consultations 1987 - 1991



TWO SECRET TRACK ONE PROCESSES

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between ...

- senior Afrikaners and ANC **outside SA**
- SA Government and Mandela **inside SA**

NPI PROCESS

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- in touch with the **principals**
- **future**-focused
- **research**-based

CHOICE OF PARTICIPANTS

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1

trusted by the principals

but

not themselves
the political flag-
bearers

CHOICE OF PARTICIPANTS

2

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rooted in the story and
experience of the conflict

but

able to reach out to
those of opposing views

A RELATIONAL AUDIT OF NPI

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5 Relational principles

see The Relational Lens
(Cambridge University
Press, 2016)

RELATIONAL PRINCIPLES

parity – mutual **recognition**

directness – quality **communication**

continuity – unfolded over **time**

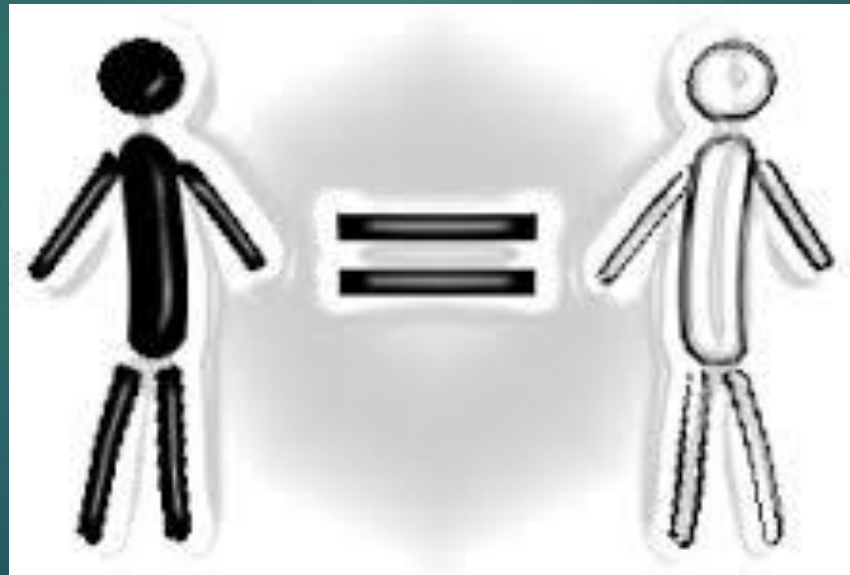
multiplexity – **breadth** of knowledge

commonality – **shared** goals

PARITY

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participants attend in their
personal capacities and are
treated as **equals**



DIRECTNESS

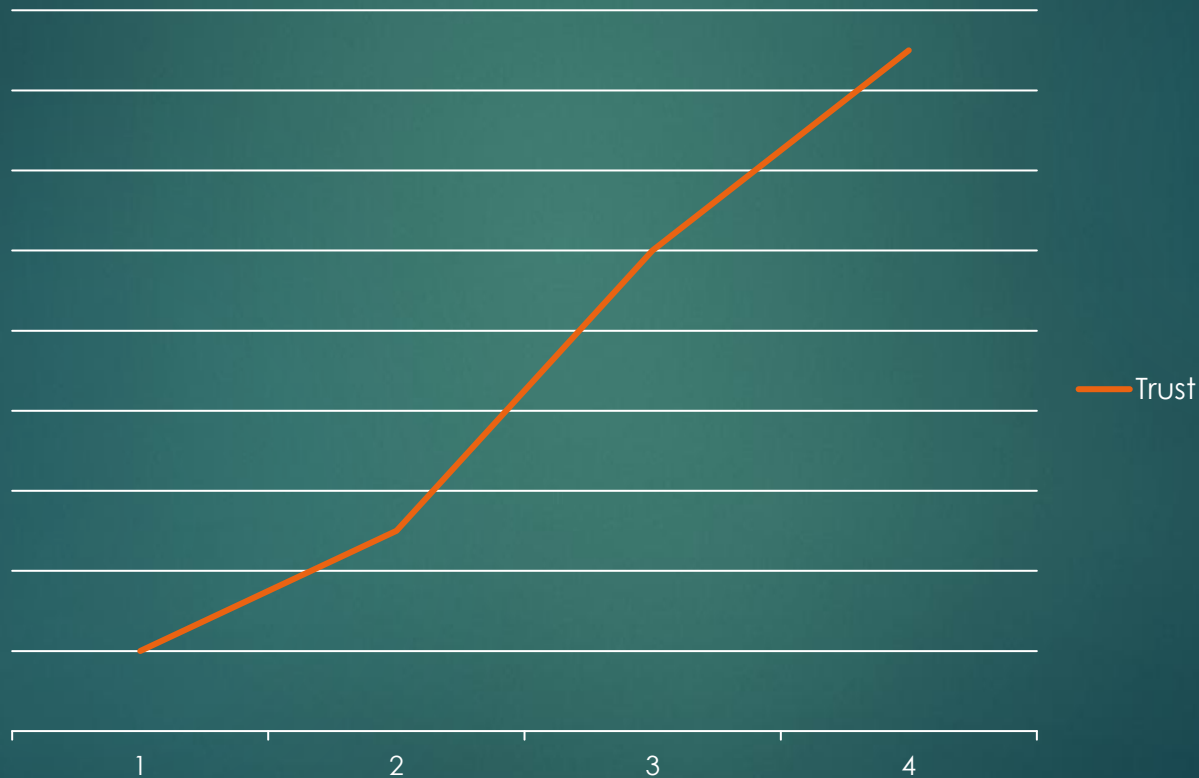
face to face conversation
in a safe environment



CONTINUITY

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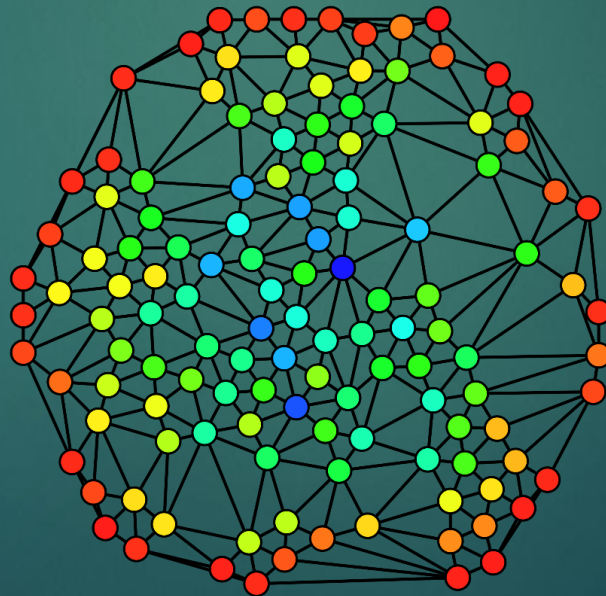
increasing trust over 4 years



MULTIPLEXITY

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understanding of each others
political context and personal
background



COMMONALITY

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developing shared objectives



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a set of keys. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the fingers gripping a metal ring. The keys are silver and have a simple, rectangular head. The background is blurred, showing a person's face and a dark sleeve. The overall tone is warm and focused.

KEY ELEMENTS OF RELATIONAL PEACEBUILDING

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- shared principles
- key people
- safe and neutral venue
- a series of meetings
- consensus built
- transmitted to political leaders



**confidential but not secret:
Chatham House rule**



catalytic process: Track Two



**consensus-building: bridging the
ideological gaps**

APPLICATION

1. CONFIDENTIAL PROFILE

Chatham House Rule

- ▶ safe space “to facilitate sustainable consultations
- ▶ attend in personal capacities
- ▶ supportive consultation



2. MAINTAINING NEUTRALITY

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**non-partisan
identity**

**personal
capacities**

**neutrality in
funding**

3. RELATIONAL PRINCIPLES

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treat

- all as equals

facilitate

- direct communication.

commit

- to a sustained process

encourage

- grasp of background

focus

- on shared values

4. PARTNERSHIP & COMPLEMENTARY ROLES

30

- ▶ leverage FSF's political access
- ▶ to act as a **catalyst** for initial dialogue while ...
- ▶ using **consensus-builders** who help develop common frameworks for peace



5. CATALYSTS: MAPPING THE RANGE OF ACTORS

**listening-
first
approach**

**in touch
with the
principals**

**building
personal
trust**

6. CONSENSUS-BUILDING: BRIDGING THE GAP - MCD

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start with
practical
cooperation

establish a
"middle-
distance" focus

facilitating
"middle-
distance"
structures

research-led
dialogue

7. DEFINING LONG-TERM SUCCESS

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resolution of "sticking points"



```
graph TD; A[resolution of "sticking points"] --> B[platform creation]; B --> C[sustained dialogue];
```

platform creation

sustained dialogue

process step	catalyst	consensus-builder	realisation	34
objective	open a secure, low-profile channel	establish a shared framework	smooth transition	
operational mode	high confidentiality	research-led	transmitting pre-negotiated, frameworks	
focus areas	resolving sticking points	weighing constitutional alternatives	implementing a resilient, pre-agreed structures	