



## Partners in Peace

Discourses and Practices of Civil-Society  
Peacebuilding

**Mathijs van Leeuwen, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands**

Non-State Actors in International Law, Politics and Governance Series

December 2009  
234 pages  
978-0-7546-7743-7

234 x 156 mm  
Hardback  
£60.00



How do international organizations support local peacebuilding? Do they really understand conflict? *Partners in Peace* challenges the global perceptions and assumptions of the roles played by civil society in peacebuilding and offers a radically new perspective on how international organizations can support such efforts. Framing the debate using case studies from Africa and Central America, the author examines different meanings of peacebuilding, the practices and politics of interpreting conflict and how planned interventions work out.

Comparing original views with contemporary perceptions of non-state actors, *Partners in Peace* includes many recommendations for NGOs involved in peacebuilding and constructs a new understanding on how these possible solutions relate to politics and practices on the ground. Concise in both theoretical and empirical analysis, this book is an important contribution to our understanding of civil society's role in building sustainable peace.

### Contents

Overcoming conflict: the importance of civil-society peacebuilding; Civil society building peace: the development of an idea; Mapping the peacebuilding landscape: policies and practices of international development organizations; Grounding local peace organizations: a case study of southern Sudan; Imagining the Great Lakes region: civil-society regional approaches for peacebuilding in Rwanda, Burundi, and DR Congo; Crisis or continuity? Framing land disputes and local conflict resolution in Burundi; To conform or confront? Civil society and agrarian conflict in post-conflict Guatemala; Conclusion: civil society peacebuilding - what does it mean in practice?; Bibliography; Index.

### About the Author

Mathijs van Leeuwen is an Assistant Professor at Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM), Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

[www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754677437](http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754677437)

# ASHGATE

To order this book please visit [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com), or email [orders@ashgate.com](mailto:orders@ashgate.com)  
A 10% discount applies to orders placed through [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)