

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING IN NAGALAND: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

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The role of civil society organizations in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in violent contexts has been stressed during the last few decades. Civil society actors have a limited but significant contribution in the transformation of internal conflict situations. These groups can work toward preventing violent conflicts between the various groups prevailing in a society. Nagaland has been a contested region between the Indian government and Naga nationalists, who have been demanding independence from India since Nagaland's disputed accession in 1947. The Indian government's attempt to mediate with the Naga nationalists has ended up augmenting the violence, as the government has resorted to military means to deal with the nationalists. As such there is a growing number of non-state actors operating in Nagaland, tending to the wounds in the conflict areas, reporting and monitoring human rights, mobilizing people to support the peace process, and organizing programs for bringing unity among the various nationalist groups. This article highlights the existence of such civil society institutions operating in Nagaland. It also reviews the diverse roles played by civil society groups and their initiatives in managing, whenever possible settling, and in