

Collaborating Centre for Research on Healthy Cities in the Netherlands, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in Toronto, studied Spanish in Ecuador, and represented Canada in several international conferences related to youth, democracy, peacebuilding, environment, and trade. Her areas of research interest include: human security, conflict management, peacebuilding, human rights, Latin America, and the environment.

**Siobian Patricia Smith, University of Northern British Columbia,
Prince George, British Columbia**

Organised Resistance: The Role of Civil Society in Dismantling Apartheid in South Africa

Abstract

South Africa is a nation plagued by a history of institutional racism and structural inequality which relegated approximately 80% of its population to live under the inhumane laws of apartheid. When the dismantling of the apartheid system began in 1990, the world celebrated the emergence of a new, truly democratic regime for the citizens of this country. What was critical to the success of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa is that citizens were involved in the process of change and strategic action through their involvement with unions and their affiliates. With opposition political parties banned and freedom fighters exiled, the unions worked together with various organizations of civil society to mobilize the necessary political will and increase public pressure on the National Party government. The relatively peaceful means by which the majority demolished the entrenched, racist system was a true testament to the underestimated role that civil society can play in changing humanity.

Biography

I have recently returned from Southern Africa where I spent eight months travelling, conducting research and volunteering with Canadian Crossroads. In South Africa I completed independent thesis research and in Swaziland I spent four months working in community programs with the Red Cross. I am currently completing my Masters degree in International Studies at the University of Northern B.C., focusing on international development. My graduate thesis is an investigation into the failure of corporatism in South Africa in the post-apartheid era. I graduated from the University of Victoria in 1998 with my BA in Political Science.

Priya Sood, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

*The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Conflict and Humanitarian Efforts:
Case Study of India*

Abstract

In India, the number of NGOs has increased dramatically impart because of the state's ability to function as the primary actor in development has waned. It is necessary to analyze NGOs potential collaboration with governments to show that NGOs, as one of the more active members of civil society, do serve to keep the state in check not only through direct confrontation but also