

important insights for Peace building work, however, several further steps must be taken for the formulation of an effective Peace building policy. As Nicole Ball points out, reconstruction efforts are not "normal development." In a situation of post-armed conflict, social and economic relations are in flux and there is a high degree of instability. In order that Canada may best support reconstruction, therefore, several conditions must be met. First, although it is true a window of opportunity for enacting change only exists for a short period of time, long term support is required for the successful maintenance of those changes (Bush, 1996 & Ball, 1995). Second, Canadians assisting in Peace building efforts must recognize that reconstruction is first and foremost an indigenous effort. The term, "acompanamiento," or "accompanying the process," might be a useful starting point for thinking about the kind of partnerships of which Canada might be a part. "Acompanamiento," a term applied to a Canada-Nicaragua development project in the late 1980s and early 1990s, entails notions of collective empowerment and participation, as well as the understanding that it is Canadians who are "accompanying" reconstruction, rather than vice versa (Wilson & Whitmore, 1995:61-77). What role should civil society play in peace building, both in the country concerned and in Canada? Is this involvement critical to the success of peace building? How important is this to women? Should this be a condition for Canada to become involved or provide aid to a peace building initiative?

Finally, in addition to adopting a long-term time frame and "acompanamiento," thinking, it is imperative that Canadian Peace building policy adopt an approach that is systemic in analysis and implementation. To this end, a combination of Canada's work in gender and development and human rights is most useful. As Canada's work in both areas has shown,