

THE SHRINKING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PEACE WORK IN SRI LANKACamilla Orjuela¹

What can civil society actors do to promote peace in a time of escalated warfare? This paper discusses the changing conditions for local peace work as Sri Lanka has gone from peace optimism after the ceasefire agreement in 2002 to a return to large-scale violence in 2006. It analyses the relatively limited role that civil society plays in promoting a just end to the war in Sri Lanka, the role of international donor agencies in supporting civil society peace work and the challenges faced by those who criticise the on-going war and attempt to build a movement for peace.

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