



## Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC)

Since 1974 several TRC have been established in the following countries: Uganda, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Chad, El Salvador, Germany, Haiti, South Africa, Ecuador, Guatemala, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uruguay, South Korea, Peru, Panama, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Ghana, Congo, Morocco, Paraguay, Liberia, Canada, Kenya, Mauritius, Honduras and Solomon Islands.

### What are TRC?

TRCs are commissions tasked with: bringing to light criminal events and gross violations; holding public hearings with victims and abusers; promoting social peace agreements and warding off future violations.

### Objectives

TRC have as main objectives: allowing *storytelling* and the sharing of memories; bringing to light the perpetrated crimes; promoting the recognition of the victims; spurring material and symbolic reparations; giving the possibility to receive amnesty on the basis of recognition, restoration and reconciliation acts.

## TRC FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

### TRUTH

Semantic definition: The quality or state of being true, compliant and coherent with the principles given to an objective reality.

Legal definition: attribute of a descriptive proposition or narration. Possibility of verifying facts or statements about facts during legal proceedings.

Christian theological definition: Truth is not a concept, it is embodied in Jesus Christ. (*John 14:6*)

In TRC: process of researching and reconstructing historical circumstances through personal narration, in order to clarify the occurred events.

### RECONCILIATION

Semantic definition: the process of reconciling, making peace and recreating harmony.

Legal definition: settlement of a dispute or litigation through a pacifying agreement shared by the involved parties.

Christian theological definition: reconciliation between God and the human beings through a purification process in which God takes the initiative. (*2Corinthias 5: 18; 20*)

In TRC: process, based on sharing memories, which promotes symbolic and material reparation for the victims in order to attain individual/social pacification.

### Sources:

Zehr, H. (2002). *The little book of restorative justice* (The little books of justice & peacebuilding). New York: Good books. United States Institute of Peace, <http://usip.org>