

# **Peace Education and the Context of Sustainability**

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## *Abstract*

Peace and security are fundamental to human dignity and development. The sustainable development of any culture is always endangered by insecurity and conflict. Human tragedies result in overwhelmed health systems, the destruction of homes, schools and often whole communities, and increased numbers of displaced people and refugees. Access to education, particularly quality educational opportunities, is a prevailing issue regarding gender disparities in education in contexts of crisis, post-crisis, and state fragility (Kirk 2011). Education for sustainable development plays a key role in promoting values for peace and social justice.

This presentation examines the interconnectedness of peace education and sustainable development. The role of peace education in post-conflict situations will be discussed and the presence of peace education training for teachers who work with newcomer children and youth in Canada will be explored. An example of a peace and development pilot course taught in a graduate level program focused on sustainability will be shared and strategies for engaging educators in the topic of peace for sustainability will be examined.

Peace education is seen as the core to developing sustainability within our society, economy and environment. Achieving a world that promotes peace and sustainability will require a look into our own value system as educators, a willingness to acknowledge and understand “others” values and a transformation of our current education system. Educators need to be concerned about advancing a global ethic that will facilitate peacebuilding and training of the new generation of global peacebuilders (Lin, 2008).