



***Virtual* International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education**
Transforming Conflict and Crisis to Justice and Hope: An Initiative for Peacebuilders

Main Conference November 6 - 7, 2020
Student Led Pre-Conference – October 30 – Nov. 1, 2020

Main Conference, Friday, November 6th

9AM – 10:30AM - Opening Panel: *Transforming Conflict and Crisis to Justice and Hope: An Initiative for Peacebuilders* (See photos and bios below)

- **Margaret Mitchell, YWCA of Greater Cleveland**
- **Nancy Riestenberg, Minnesota Department of Education**
- **Yadira Soto, Organization of American States**
- **Romina Kasman, UNESCO**

11 – 12:30 PM – Workshop Sessions 1 (90 minutes)

3:30 – 5:00 PM– Workshop Sessions 2 (90 minutes)

Main Conference, Saturday, November 7th

10 – 11:30AM – Workshop Sessions 3 (90 minutes)

12:30 – 1:30PM – Workshop Session 4 (90 minutes)

2 – 3:00PM – Closing Panel: *Transforming Community Divisions for Justice and Hope* (See photos and bios below)

- **William Froehlich, Divided Communities Project, The Ohio State University**
- **“Defending and Extending Democracy Through Nonviolent Resistance”, Hardy Merriman, The International Center for Nonviolent Conflict**
- **Renata Valree, National Association for Community Mediation**

Keynote Panel Bios (Last updated September 24, 2020)



(Photos L – R) Margaret Mitchell (YWCA), Nancy Riestenberg (MNDE), Romina Kasman (UNESCO)



(Photos L – R) Yadira Pinilla (OAS), Renata Valree (NAFCM), Hardy Merriman (ICNC), Bill Froehlich (OSU)

William “Bill” Froehlich is the Deputy Director of the Divided Community Project (<https://go.osu.edu/dcptoolkit>) and the Langdon Fellow in Dispute Resolution at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law where he teaches mediation, negotiation and alternative dispute resolution and manages Moritz’s top-ranked Program on Dispute Resolution. A former labor attorney, Bill served as an advocate in mediation, arbitration and other dispute resolution forums. Bill earned his J.D. from The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law and is a graduate of Denison University.

Romina Kasman, Programme Specialist, Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, OREALC/UNESCO Santiago, Chile. There she implements global citizenship education initiatives. She holds a bachelor degree in political science and a Masters’ Degree in International Education (The George Washington University) and in Economics for Education and Entrepreneurship (University of Delaware). She has more than 15 years of experience designing, implementing and evaluating initiatives in civic and citizenship education, as well as in developing educational materials and capacity building activities for policy makers, educators, civil society leaders and youth. Previously she worked for 7 years at the OAS, coordinating initiatives related to education for democratic citizenship and policy dialogue among Ministries of Education of the Americas.

Mr. Hardy Merriman is President and CEO of the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC). He has worked in the field of civil resistance for over 18 years, presenting at workshops for activists and organizers around the world; speaking widely about civil resistance movements with academics, journalists, and members of international organizations; and developing resources for practitioners and scholars. His writings have been

translated [into numerous languages](#). Most recently, Mr. Merriman co-authored the ICNC Special Report "[Preventing Mass Atrocities: From a Responsibility to Protect \(RtoP\) to a Right to Assist \(RtoA\) Campaigns of Civil Resistance](#)."

Margaret Mitchell is a relational leader who anticipates trends and has a proven track record of creating competitive breakthrough strategies. She communicates complex issues with vision, and purpose through her core values. She is a consistent top performer who pursues growth with energy and drive. Margaret is a strong decision maker who builds consensus and strives for personal and organizational excellence. She skillfully develops and coaches others, and is recognized for her savvy ability to build and maintain relationships with children, youth, families and people from all walks of life. Margaret joined YWCA Greater Cleveland in May 2011 by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors in the capacity of President and CEO. She was recruited to the YWCA as a change agent to energize the strategic vision and elevate organizational relevance and reputation. Under her leadership YWCA Greater Cleveland transformed its traditional preschool into an unduplicated trauma-informed therapeutic model serving homeless families with children ages 3 to 5; leads a community level collective impact collaborative to prevent and end youth homelessness in Greater Cleveland, and put the organization on track to financial health reversing decades of deficit funding.

Ms. Yadira Pinilla is a senior policy officer for the Department for Human Development, Education and Employment. She was a former advisor to the Director for Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of the OAS. Ms. Soto's has over 25 years of experience in international affairs and multilateral diplomacy. She has worked extensively with UN agencies, regional organizations, donors & civil society organizations in promoting a critical role for multilateral peacebuilding. Ms. Pinilla has held political advisory positions for both the Assistant Secretary General and Secretary General of the OAS. In her previous position, as political advisor, she advised on issues of security, democracy, political crisis, and youth development. Ms. Pinilla experience and expertise in OAS democracy strengthening missions has enabled her to contribute to OAS best practices in post-conflict development and peacebuilding and conflict management at the international level. She has published several works on the development of regional policies to mainstream conflict management mechanisms within governmental entities, as a form of strengthening democratic governance in the Americas.

Nancy Riestenberg has over forty years of experience in the fields of violence prevention education, child sexual abuse prevention, and restorative measures in schools. She has worked with school districts in Minnesota and thirty other states, from the Cass Lake-Bena School District in Minnesota to Los Angeles Unified School District. As Restorative Practices Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, she provides technical assistance on violence and bullying prevention, school connectedness, school climate, dropout prevention, cultural relevance in prevention education, crisis prevention and recovery, and restorative measures. She is the author of *Circle in the Square: Building Community and Repairing Harm in Schools*.

Ms. Renata Valree is the founder and CEO, Ambassadors for Peace where she provides consultation and coaching to state, public and community-based organizations on conflict management, conflict resolution services/system development and effectiveness, leadership development, communication and cultural intuitiveness training. Ms. Valree holds an B.S., Health Care Management, Masters in Public Administration and a Masters, Negotiation Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. Ms. Valree is past Chair, for the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM), past Tri-Chair, Community Mediation and Restorative Practices Section for the Association for Conflict Resolution, Vice Chair, Society of Emotional Intelligence, Los Angeles Chapter and most recently was nominated and selected to the National Association of Non Profit Organizations and Executives Board of Governors. She retired from a 25-year career with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office. In her former position she served as Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Program, She serves on the Special Advisory Council to the South Bureau Ministerial Alliance Board. She's also Founder of the Antelope Valley Days of Dialogue program and teaches at California State University Dominguez Hills as an Associate Professor.