Scottish Peace Platform Inception Day

August 19th, 2025

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Opening Remarks: Scottish Peace Platform Context

Mark Muller Stuart, Founder and Executive Director, Beyond Borders Scotland

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Scottish Peace Platform

- SPP to connect, cohere, build capacities of the Scottish peacemaking and -building community

- SPP is inclusive, broad-based, transparent

Scottish
Peace Platform

Scottish Peace Platform: Background

- **2020**: SNP Scottish Election Manifesto – ‘Peace Institute’
- **2022:** Professor Christine Bell report: an iterative, evidence-based, adaptive & monitored process for establishment
- **2024**: ‘Scottish Peace Programme’ bid opens for Scottish Government funding, combining SPP and *WiC 1325 Fellowship*

'Scotland in the world and the world in Scotland'

Beyond Borders Scotland

Beyond Borders Scotland's Projects

- *Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship* and *Alumnae Community of Practice* with Uni. of Edinburgh Law School
- Conflict resolution at Traquair House
- *Beyond Borders International Festival*
- Beyond Borders Scotland Podcasts
- *Scottish Global Dialogues* with Writers of the Signet

Beyond Borders Scotland's Projects

- Ongoing projects: *ArtDot* (music therapy in Ukraine) supported by British Council, IHL fora, *'Art of Care' (*trauma-informed arts practices*)*

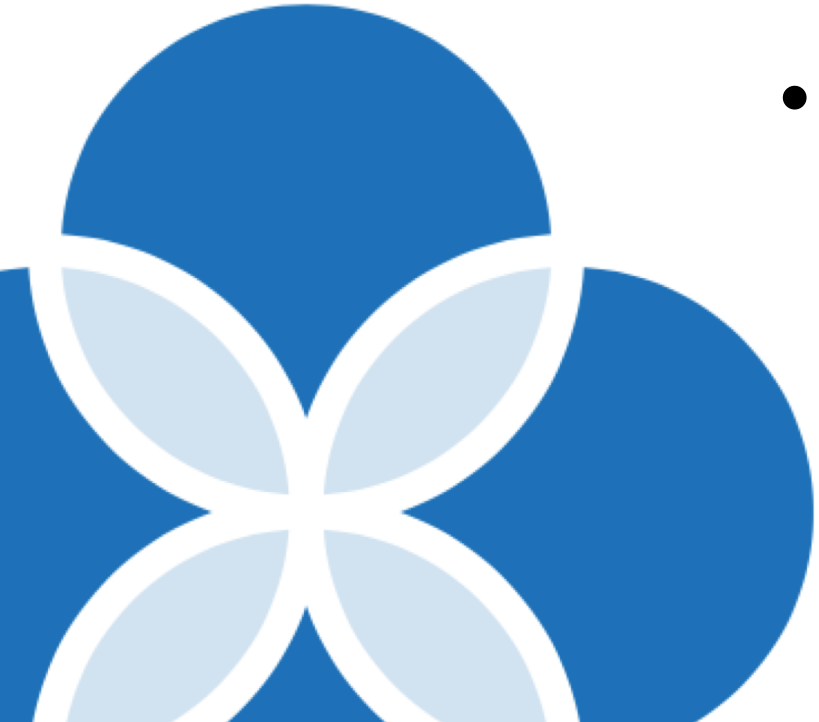
- Previous projects: *Yemeni Voices; Guide to Peacekeeping Using Islamic Principles;* rule of law programmes in MENA region

BBS' Contribution to the Platform

- 15 years' track record of **innovative peace interventions**
- 10 years' project **collaboration with ELS** and **Scottish Government**
- WPS experience, *Alumnae CoP* with **350+ women peacekeepers** internationally
- Established **international relationships**
- Demonstrable **commitment to Scotland**'s global voice

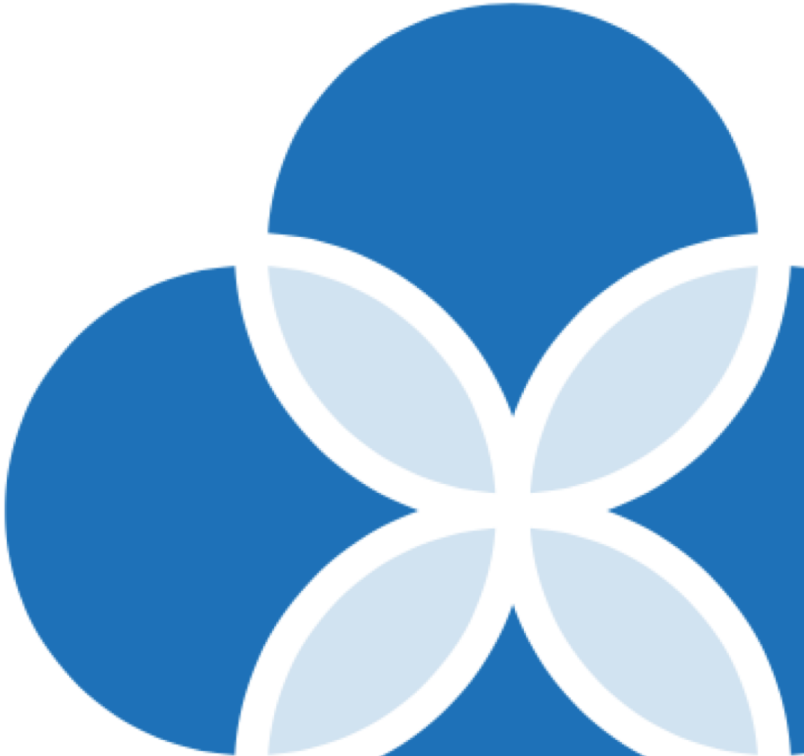
SPP Context: Challenges

- Funding context and aid cuts
- Conflict environment
- Challenges to rules-based international order



SPP Context: Opportunities

- SPP can network and platform Scottish civil society to provide moral and resource support internationally
- Builds on Scotland's small nation diplomacy



Thank you

Scottish
Peace Platform

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Opening Remarks

Scottish Peace Platform Inception Workshop

Tim Epple, Edinburgh Law School

19 August 2025

I. Objectives

Scottish Peace Platform

- ‘to coordinate, connect, and amplify Scotland's diverse peacebuilding stakeholders and initiatives’

Source: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-peace-programme-request-proposals/pages/2/

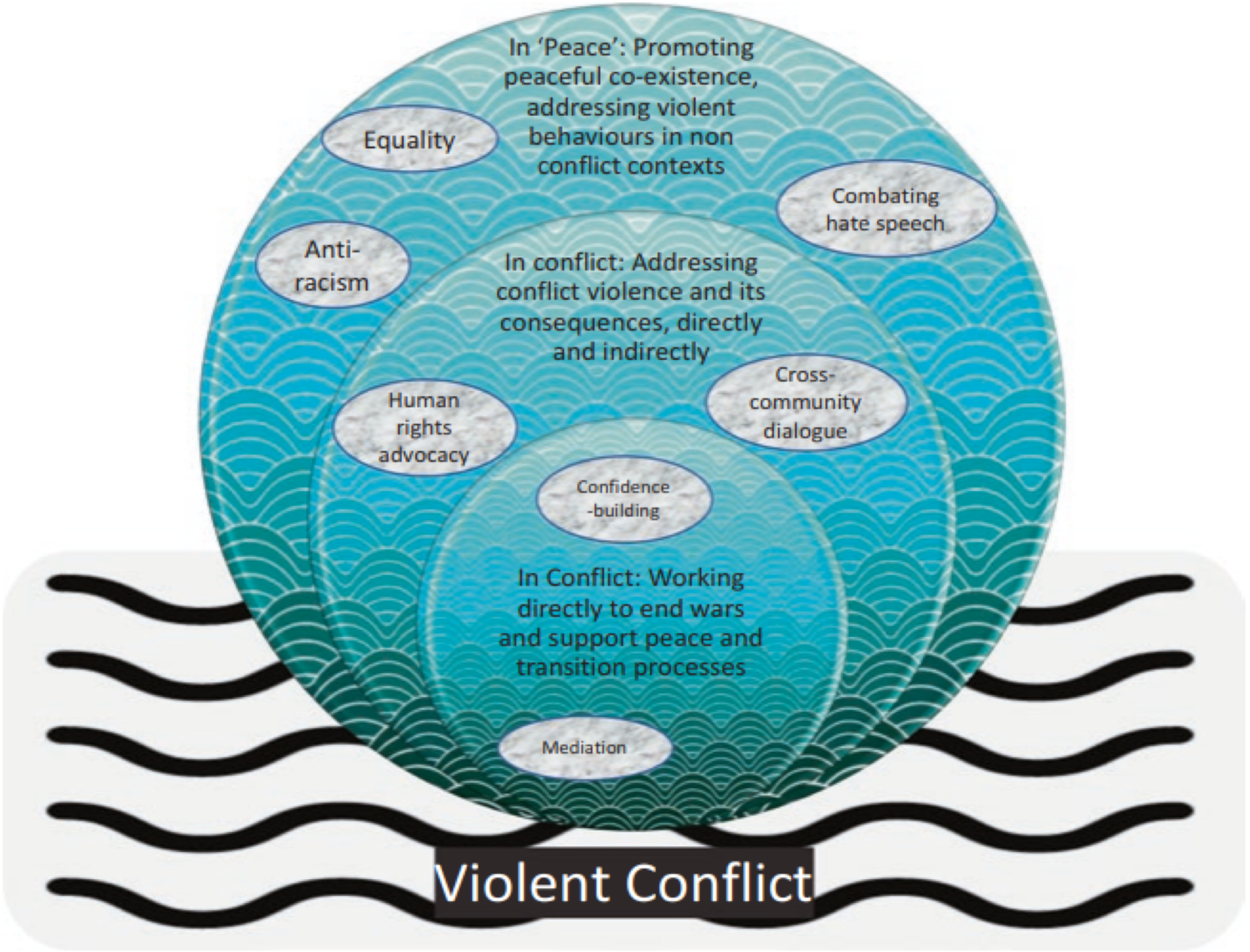


Fig. 2.1 Peacebuilding Ripples

Scottish Peace Platform

II. Scoping peacebuilding

Source: Christine Bell (2024) PeaceTech: Digital Transformation to End War

III. Context

Scottish Peace Platform

- Scotland's history and positionality
- Peacebuilding sector is diverse and partly siloed
- Initial report recommendations
- Changing nature of conflict and peacebuilding
- Backlash against WPS
- ODA cuts

IV. Learning from others

Scottish Peace Platform

- **UK networks:**
  - Scotland's International Development Alliance
  - Scottish Council on Global Affairs
  - Scottish Peace Network
  - Gender Action for Peace and Security UK
- **Other national networks:**
  - Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding
  - FriEnt Germany
- **Feminist peace networks:**
  - European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
  - West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

V. Assumptions

Scottish Peace Platform

- Need to confront prevailing power structures to build peace
- Platform must be inclusive and offer sth. unique to add value
- Platform comes to life if members drive activities
- Scottish peacebuilders want to learn from peacebuilders from elsewhere, and vice versa
- ‘Network fatigue’ will have to be overcome

VI. Principles: To be discussed

Scottish Peace Platform

Example: Values of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

HUMAN RIGHTS

CARE AND COMMUNITY

ANTI-Mmilitarism

SOLIDARITY

ANTI-RACISM

NONVIOLENCE

INTEGRITY

ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Source: https://www.wilpf.org/about-us/our-values-and-approach/

VII. Approach: To be discussed

Scottish Peace Platform

Example: Approach of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

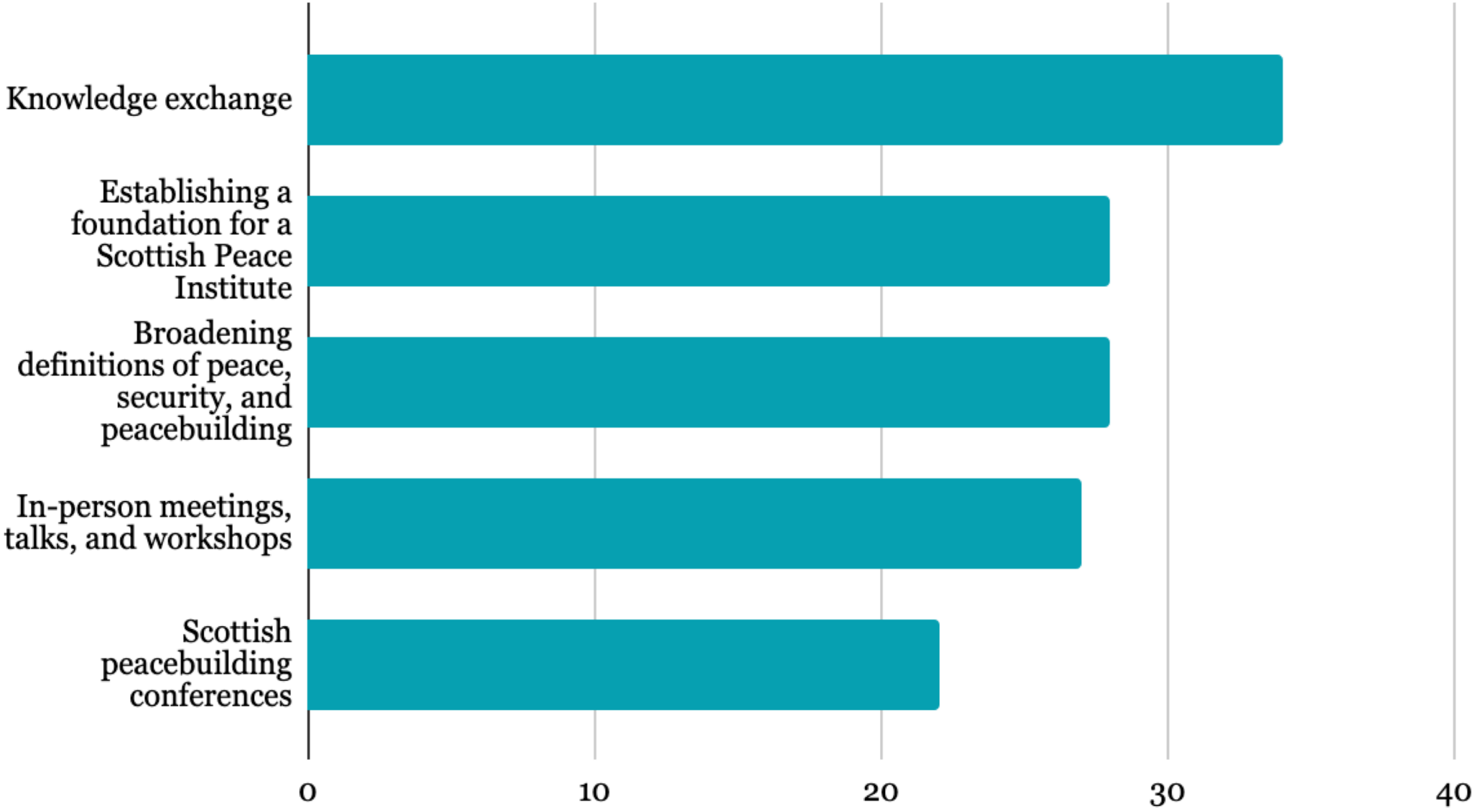
We are committed to a feminist approach to peace that is built on:

- **Strength in diversity** +
- **Intersectionality** +
- **Transforming power** +
- **Centring lived experience**
- **Learning and sharing**
- **Collaboration and participation**

Source: https://www.wilpf.org/about-us/our-values-and-approach/

VIII. Activities: To be discussed

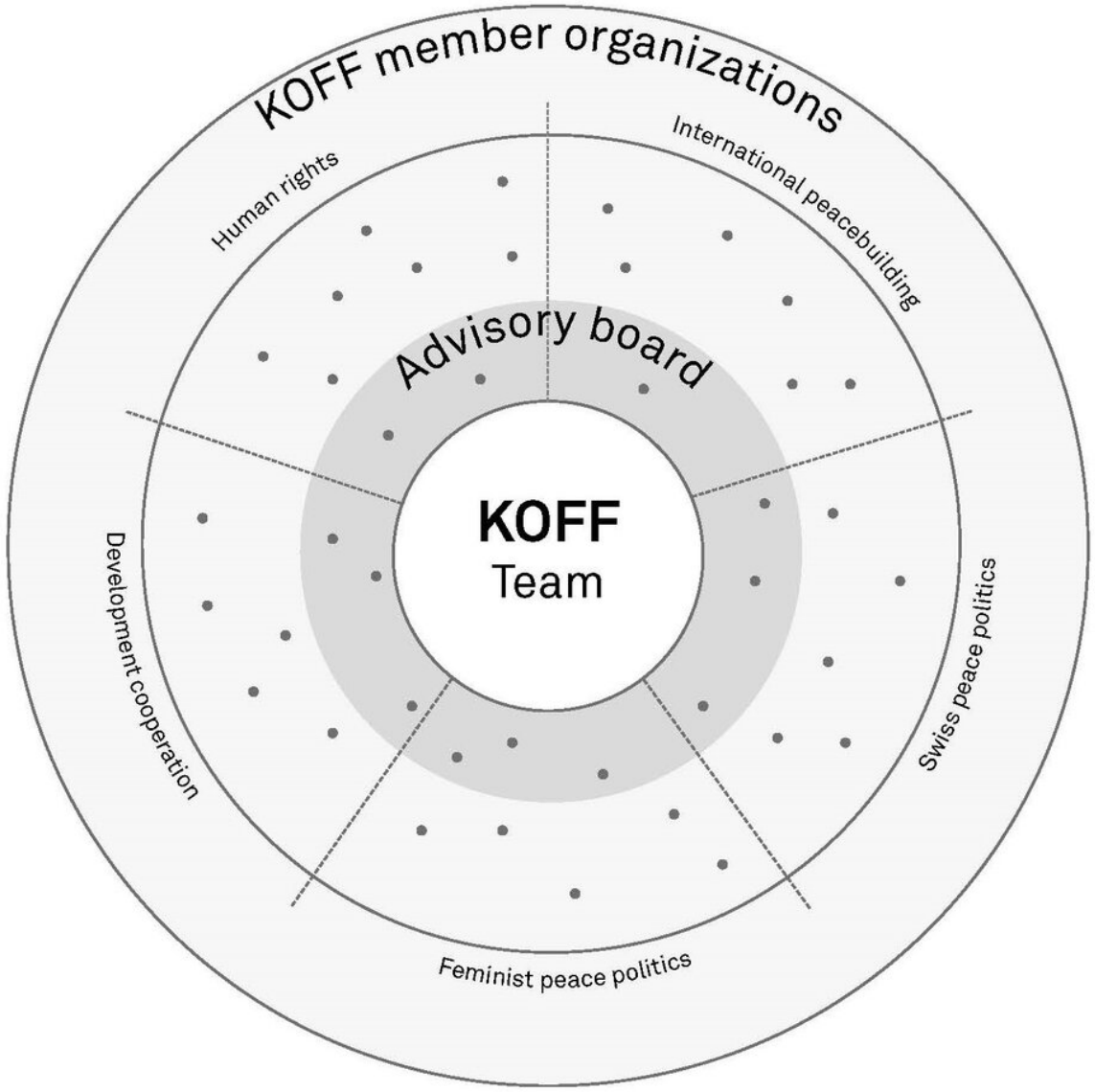
Scottish Peace Platform



Source: 'Top 5 Priorities for SPP' SPP Survey 2025

IX. Governance: To be discussed

Scottish Peace Platform



Source: The Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding Website

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Thank you

tim.epple@ed.ac.uk

Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship: Synergies with the Scottish Peace Platform

Scottish Peace Platform Inception Workshop, 19 August 2025

Noor Al-Naser, Peace Platform Manager, Beyond Borders Scotland

Laura Wise, Senior Adviser and Facilitator, Edinburgh Law School

Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship: Synergies with the Scottish Peace Platform

Scottish Peace Platform Inception Workshop, 19 August 2025

Noor Al-Naser, Peace Platform Manager, Beyond Borders Scotland

Laura Wise, Senior Adviser and Facilitator, Edinburgh Law School

Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship

Scottish Peace Platform

- Based around the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Piloted in 2015, now held three times a year in Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders
- Has hosted over 360 women from 33 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America
- Fellows take part in workshops, field visits, practical skills-building, conversations, and cultural experiences
- Funded by the Scottish Government

2025 Curriculum Refresh

Scottish Peace Platform

- **Curriculum reviewed and refreshed March – July 2025**
  - Interviews and focus groups with former Fellows and Facilitators
  - Academic review of past programmes
  - Expert review of key themes
  - Workshop held in June 2025
- **Outcomes**
  - Identified strengths, weaknesses, and areas for change
  - Updated some long-standing topics to fit current conflict climate
  - Move to consistency across programme delivery
  - Fellows emphasised value of Fellowship experience

October 2025 Pilot: Fellowship Themes

Scottish Peace Platform

Women, Peace and Security

Mediation and Negotiation

Transitional Justice

Gender, Conflict and the Climate Crisis

Reconciliation and Recovery through Creative Arts

Self-care

The Fellowship and Scotland

Scottish Peace Platform

- Scottish component of Fellowship a key programme strength
- Opportunity for mutual knowledge exchange between Fellows and Scotland-based individuals, organisations, and institutions
- Opportunity for Fellows' to experience respite
- Importance of careful comparisons to conflict experience

Ideas for Synergies with Peace Platform

Scottish Peace Platform

Alumnae-led Sessions for Members

Thematic Exchange with Fellows

Hosting Fellowship in Member Spaces

Members on Fellowship Facilitation Roster

Networking between Alumnae and Members

Members at Fellowship Relaunch Event

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Thank you

nalnaser@beyondbordersconsulting.com

laura.wise@ed.ac.uk

Stakeholder mapping, surveying, and consultations

Shona McCallum, Projects Officer, Beyond Borders Scotland

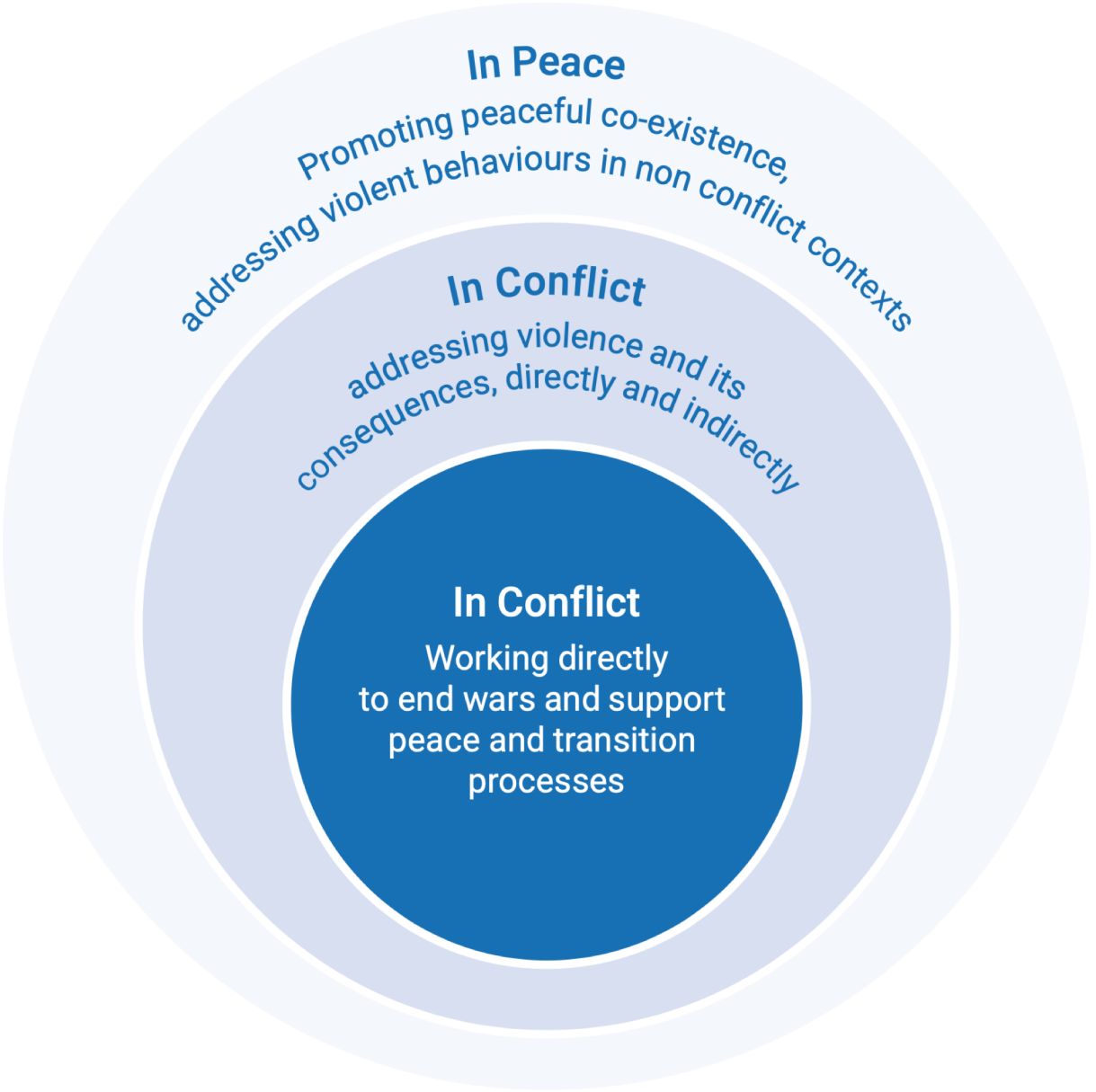
Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Stakeholder mapping: approach and process

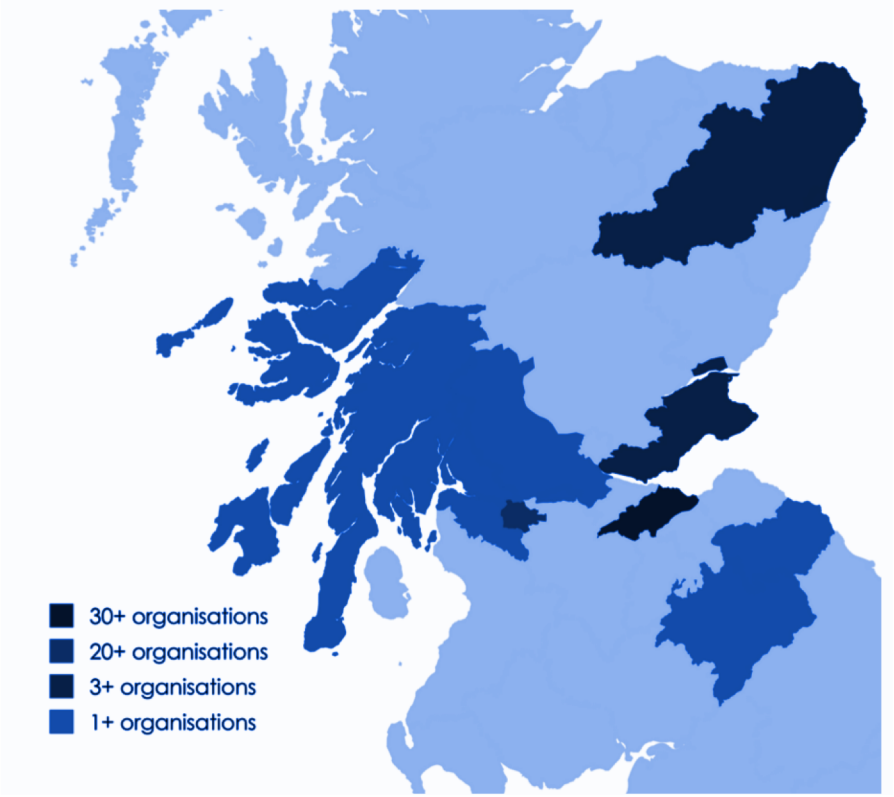
Taking an expansive definition of peace inspired by Christine Bell's 'ripples of peace'.



Source: Christine Bell (2024) PeaceTech: Digital Transformation To End War (redesigned for SPP)

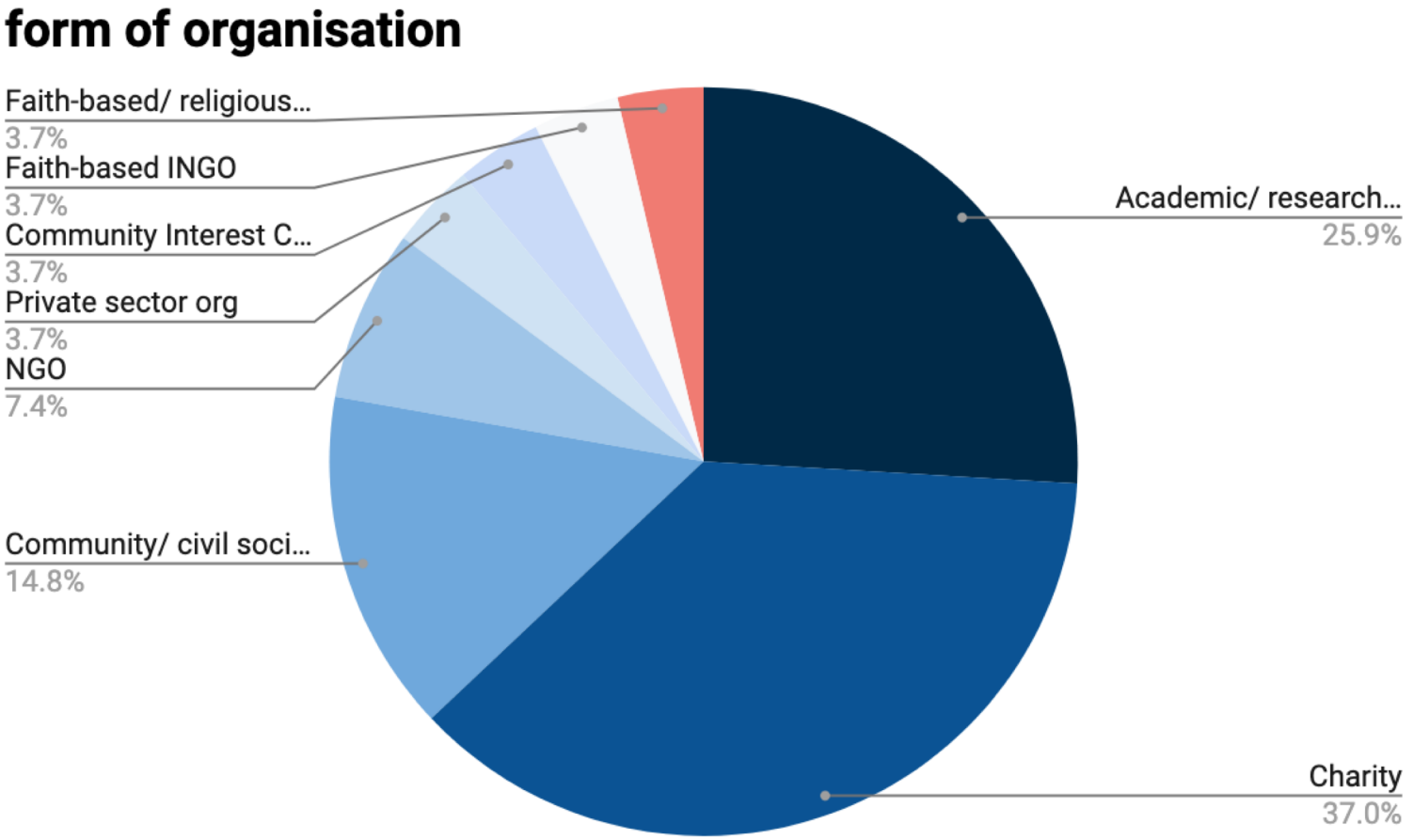
Stakeholder mapping: results

77 organisations were identified and approached for surveys



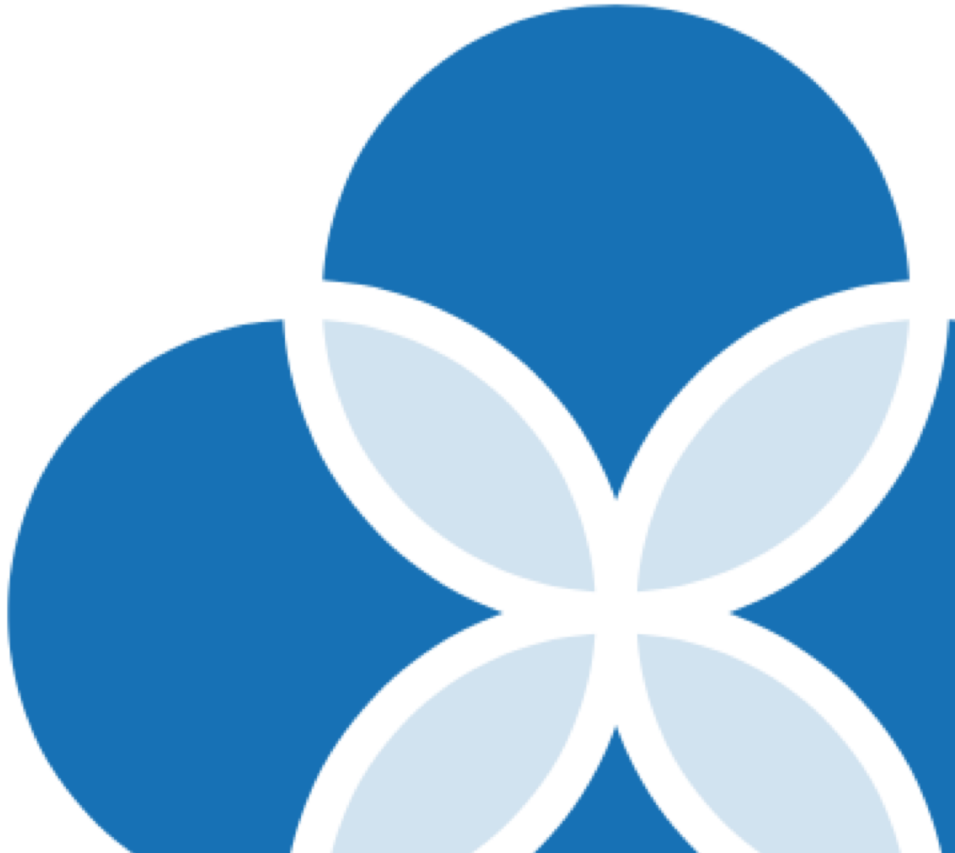
Stakeholder mapping: results

Various forms of organisations with different focus were identified

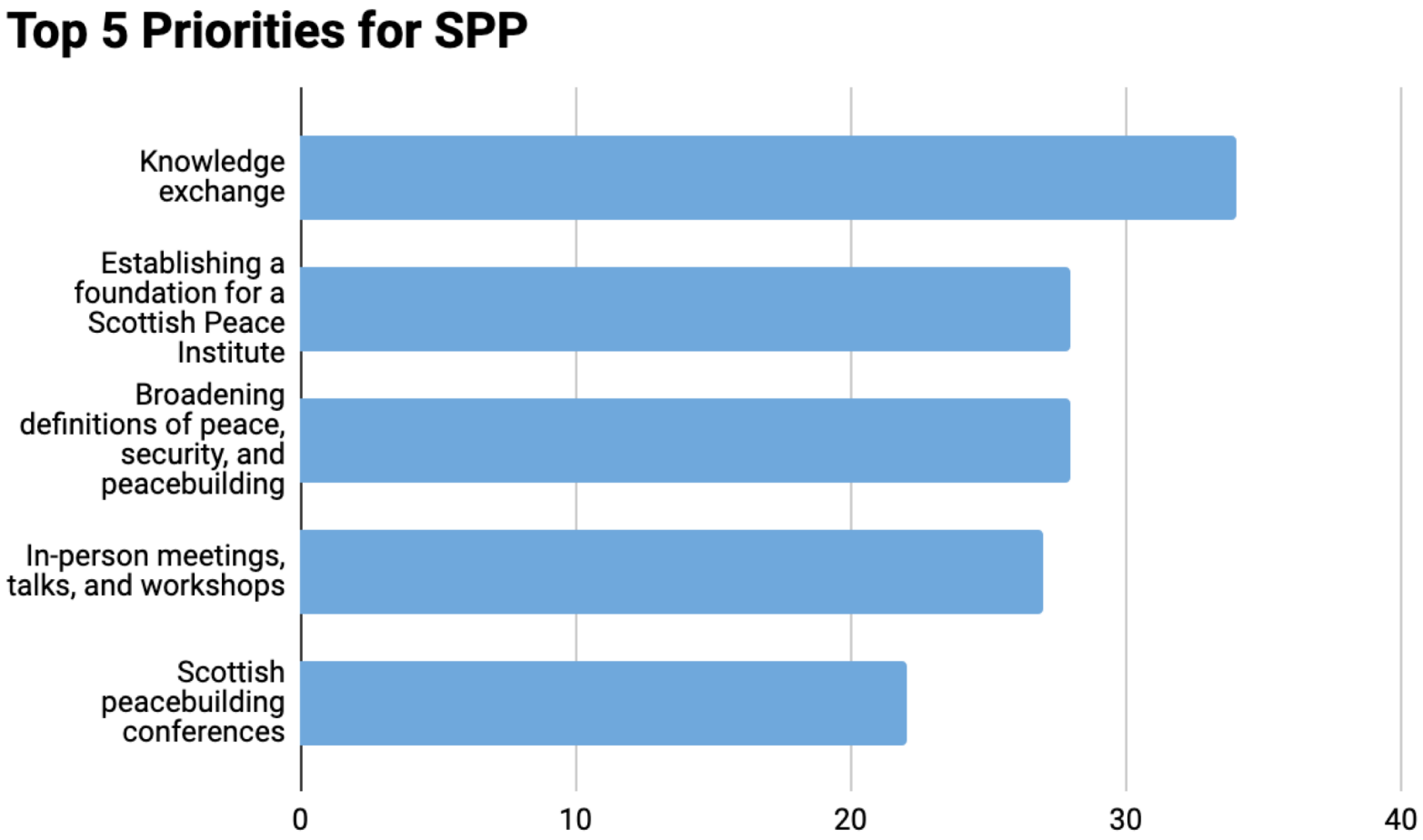


Surveying

- Organisational and individual surveys
- Open access via holding site
- 8 sections to gather a mixture of qualitative and quantitative date

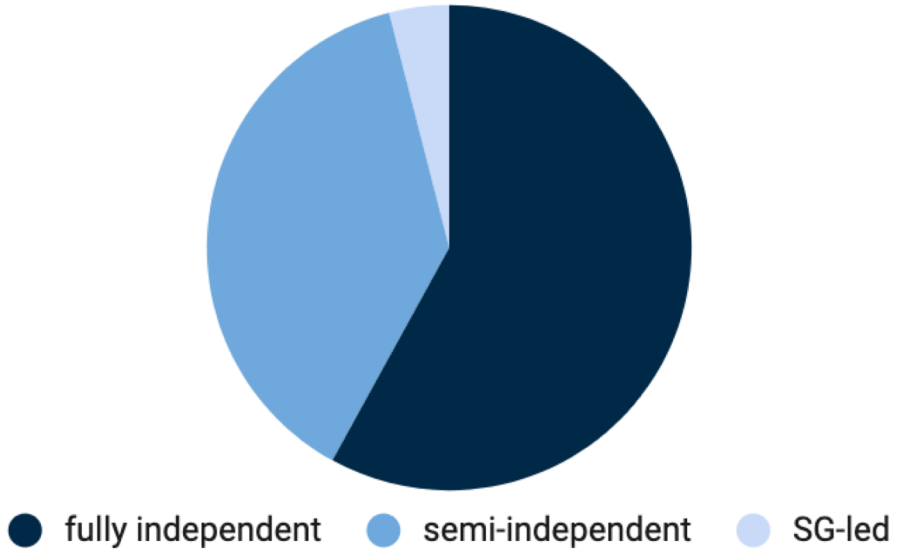


Surveying results - response and priorities

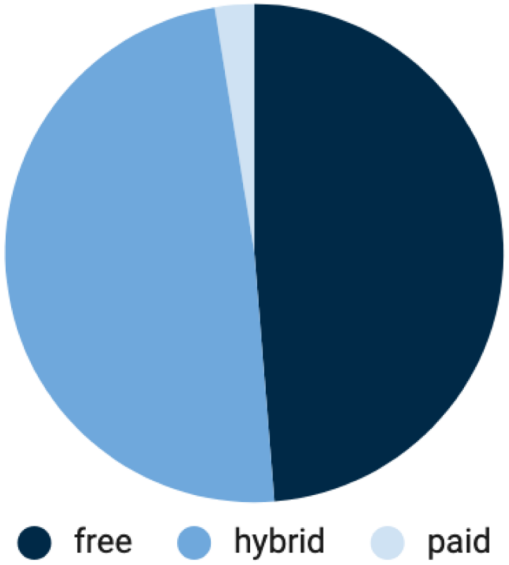


Surveying results

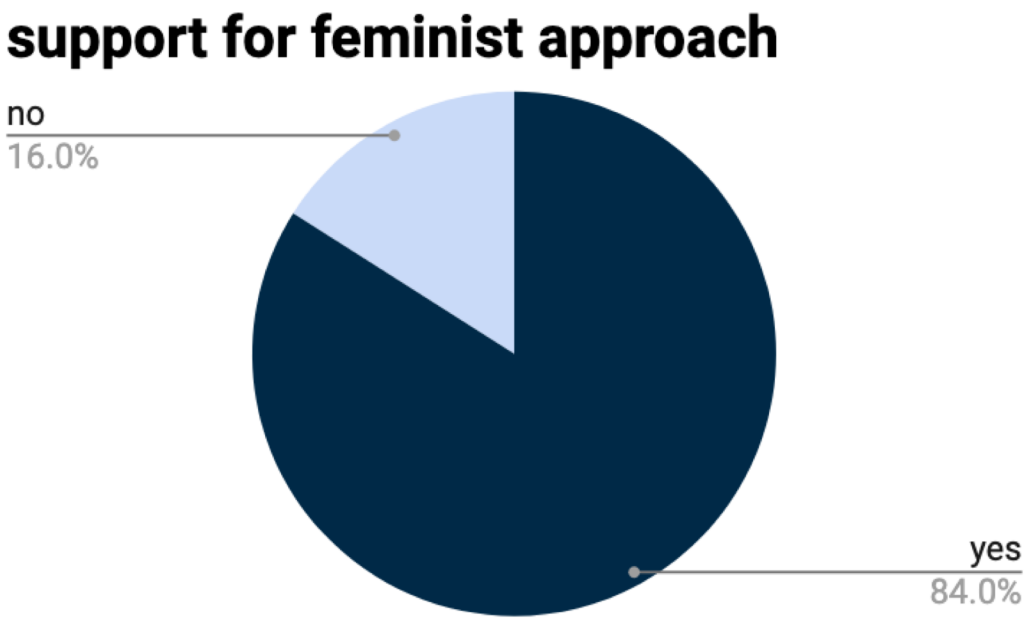
preferred form of SPP

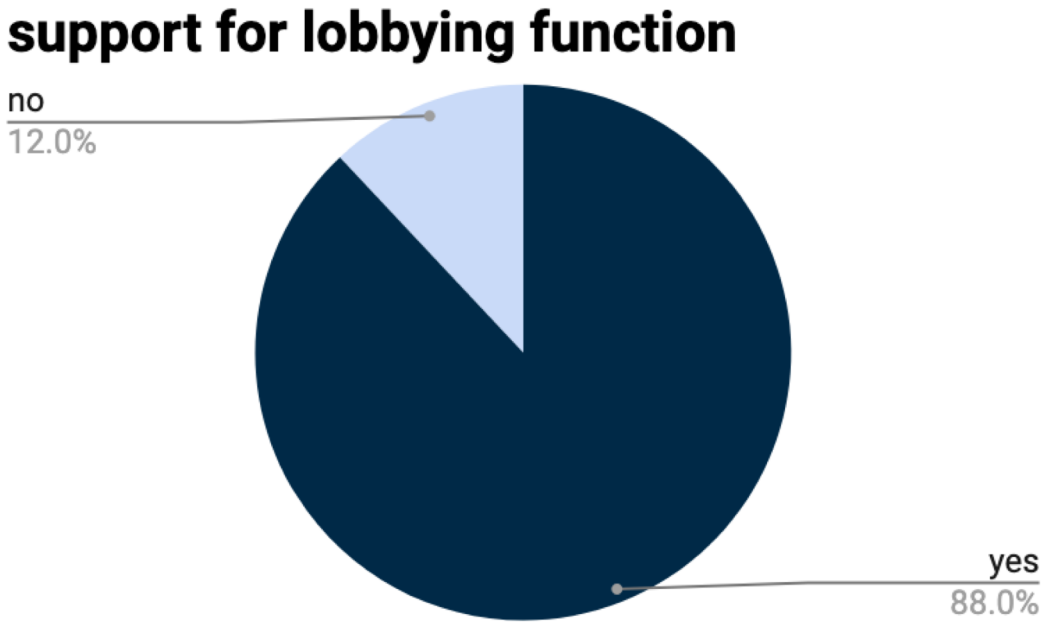


preferred membership arrangement



Surveying results





Surveying: Potential benefits of the SPP

- ★ Networking, collaborating, building partnerships
- ★ Knowledge exchange and resource collection & sharing
- ★ Reducing duplications of effort
- ★ Increasing unity and links amongst Scottish peacebuilding organisations
- ★ Cultivating a ‘culture of peace’ in Scotland, a
- ★ Quiet diplomacy and accountability

Scottish
Peace Platform

Surveying: Potential challenges for the SPP

- ★ Offering something unique and valuable to members
- ★ Network fatigue
- ★ Lack of inclusivity / representation of Scotland
- ★ Balancing different organisational perspectives & priorities
- ★ Funding and global political and conflict context

Scottish
Peace Platform

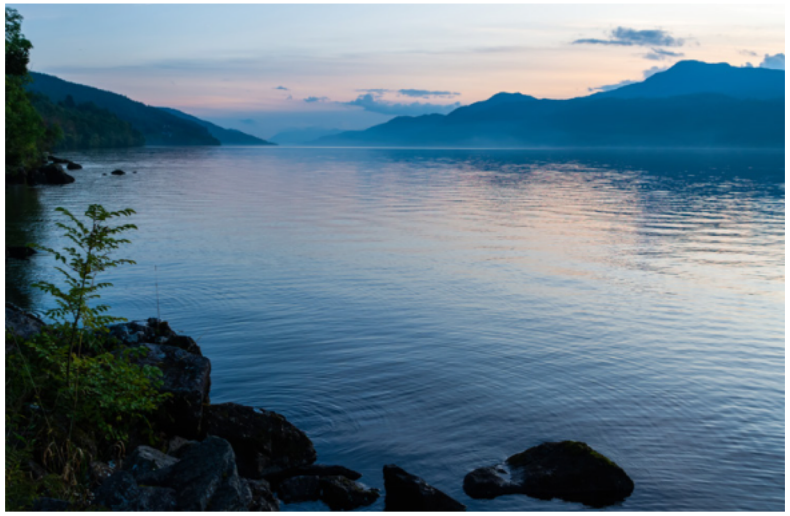
Consultations

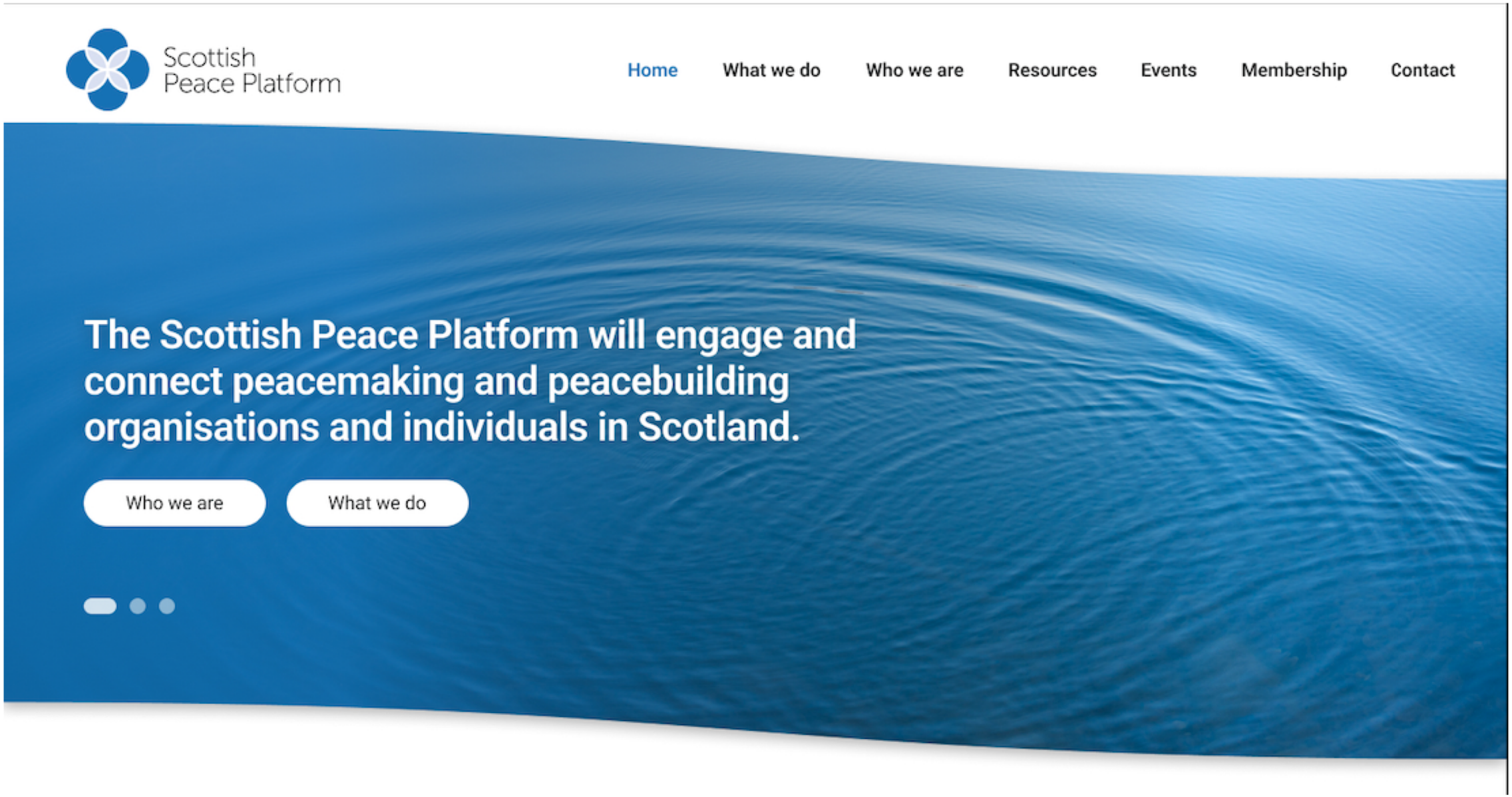
- ★ Met with 20+ organisations, including potential members in Scotland and comparable peace platforms/ networks/ institutes in UK and Europe
- ★ Underscored survey feedback on membership fees, priorities, and challenges

Scottish
Peace Platform

Digital platform: development and plan

- ★ Website (with a public website and a members' log-in area) starting a phased launch from September
- ★ Website design is easy to navigate, enables sharing of resources, and builds on 'ripples of peace' idea





www.scottishpeaceplatform.org

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Scottish Peace Platform
Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

Purpose, governance, membership, and ways of working

- Prepared for review at the Inception Workshop, 19 Aug 2025
- Working draft for consultation

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Purpose of the ToR

Set out a governance and membership model that is feminist, inclusive and independent.

- Guide how the Platform will operate, make decisions and engage members.
- Invite feedback to refine and finalize the ToR ahead of the autumn 2025 launch.
- Working draft for consultation

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Governance and Leadership

Coordination team at Beyond Borders Scotland and Edinburgh Law School, led by the SPP Manager.

- Activities driven by member organisations.
- Advisory Board appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), provides strategic steer and accountability.
- Inclusive composition across sectors, from civil society to academia and private sector.
- Meets at least quarterly to guide strategy and hold the coordination team to account.

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Platform Coordination Team

SPP Manager leads daily facilitation and ensures alignment with principles:

- Project Officer supports coordination, logistics and communications, stakeholders engagement.
- Edinburgh Law School team provides technical guidance, research and expertise.

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Code of Conduct & Guiding Principles

Code of Conduct

- Respect, professionalism, and courtesy in all interactions
- Promote inclusivity, valuing voices of women, youth, and grassroots communities
- Zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment
- Respect confidentiality; apply Chatham House Rule where relevant
- Accountability for actions and alignment with Platform values
- Adhere to safeguarding, sustainability, data protection, and M&E processes
- Only authorised spokespeople may speak on behalf of the Platform

Guiding Principles

- Prioritise gender equality and diverse participation in peacebuilding
- Ensure inclusive, community-driven approaches beyond elites
- Encourage collaboration, solidarity, and global connections
- Commit to transparency, clear communication, and accountability

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Membership Structure, Categories

Category	Who Qualifies	Rights and Participation	Notes
Full Member	Org. based in Scotland working on peacebuilding or related fields	Voting rights, eligible for Board, propose activities, post on members area	Participate in at least one SPP event per year
Associate	Individuals, orgs. outside Scotland or without formal base	Access to comms and workshops, collaborate on projects	May observe Board by invite, no voting rights
Observer	Relevant institutions with strong interest in SPP	Attend meetings, contribute advice	No voting rights, not on governance board

Application Process and Key Dates

- Inception Workshop: 19 August 2025
- Eligible organisations (stakeholder mapping participants & new organisations) invited to apply for membership after workshop, application form will be shared by Project Officer.
- Applications submitted by email to SPP Manager & Project Officer
- Full Members confirmed before Platform launch (Autumn 2025)
- Digital Peace Platform launched: September 2025 (Full Members receive login details)
- First AGM & Advisory Board constituted: Autumn 2025

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Membership Suspension or Termination, Grounds

Breach of Code of Conduct may lead to suspension (up to 6 months), reviewed by Advisory Board. Grounds for suspension/termination include:

- Harassment, discrimination, or reputational harm
- Sharing sensitive information or misuse for personal/political agendas
- Continued inactivity or non-participation
- Misuse of leadership role for organisational gain
- Engagement in unethical or illegal activities damaging credibility

Members may cancel membership anytime by notifying the Coordination Team

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Next Steps and Contact

Share feedback on this draft ToR at or after the Inception Workshop:

- Confirm membership interest and submit proposals for Full Membership.
- Platform launch planned for autumn 2025, members area from September.

Scottish Peace Platform

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

Beyond Borders Scotland

Thank You!

nalnaser@beyondbordersscotland.com