

The Factors and Strategies of Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Nigeria

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Abstract: This paper examines the factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria, a country that has experienced various forms of violent conflicts since its independence in 1960. The paper analyzes the causes and consequences of these conflicts, as well as the efforts made by different actors to prevent, manage and resolve them. The paper also explores the challenges and opportunities for effective peace building in Nigeria, with a focus on the role of education, civil society, women and youth. The paper argues that conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria require a holistic and inclusive approach that addresses the structural and root causes of conflicts, promotes dialogue and reconciliation, enhances human security and development, and builds a culture of peace and tolerance among the diverse groups in the country.

Keywords: Conflict resolution, Peace, strategies, nation building and Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Conflict resolution is conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution. Committed group members attempt to resolve group conflicts by actively communicating information about their conflicting motives or ideologies to the rest of group and by engaging in collective negotiation. Dimensions of resolution typically parallel the dimensions of conflict in the way the conflict is processed. Ultimately a wide range of methods and procedures for addressing conflict exist, including negotiation, mediation, mediation-arbitration, diplomacy, and creative peacebuilding (Abbas, 2018).

According to North Central College Report, 2019, conflict resolution is the process of ending a dispute and reaching an agreement that satisfies all parties involved. Since conflict is an essential part of being human, effective conflict resolution is not designed to avoid disagreements. Instead, conflict resolution skills are used to facilitate discussions, increase understanding and control emotional responses. Conflict resolution and peace building are essential for sustainable development and social cohesion in any society. Nigeria, as a diverse and populous country, faces various challenges of violent conflicts that threaten its stability and progress. Some of the factors that contribute to these conflicts include ethnic and religious differences, socio-economic inequalities, political grievances, environmental degradation, corruption, and violent extremism. These factors create a climate of mistrust, resentment, and hostility among different groups and communities, leading to cycles of violence and human rights violations.

Conflict resolution is a skill that benefits professionals across all types of career paths. What makes this true? Simply put, interpersonal conflict can occur in virtually any setting, from office jobs to in-field work. Understanding how to deal with interpersonal conflict, reconcile emotions and reach an understanding are valuable practices that boost well-being and productivity and all of these techniques are learned through conflict resolution. Conflict resolution is more than just a single technique for understanding the difference between mediation and arbitration (Amaresan, 2021). It is more than just navigating difficult conversations. Conflict resolution and peace building are not easy or quick processes. They require sustained commitment, collaboration, and creativity from all stakeholders involved. However, they are necessary for Nigeria to achieve its full potential as a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic nation.

Jacobson (2021) in his submission, opines that conflict resolution is the process of finding peaceful and mutually acceptable solutions to disputes or disagreements among parties. Peace building is the process of creating positive and lasting relationships among parties that have been affected by conflict, and transforming the structural conditions that generate conflict. Both processes are essential for preventing the recurrence of violence and fostering a culture of peace in Nigeria.

Conflict resolution and peacebuilding are germane to nation development, because it builds relationship. Personal and professional relationships can often suffer from unresolved arguments. If two or more parties struggle to resolve their conflict, these feelings may lead to

explosive behaviors and resentment later on. Communication, emotional awareness and empathy are crucial elements of conflict resolution that can lead to high-functioning and more satisfying relationships in all aspects of life. Rather than simply dismissing a relationship after a rough patch or argument, conflict resolution techniques can help in strengthening these relationships and prevent these issues in the future. Conflict resolution and peacebuilding also help in goal achievement (Schmitz, 2021). Ongoing conflict situations may stand in the way of completing goals, particularly in business relationships. When arguments arise in the workplace, productivity typically declines. It can be difficult to focus or work together on a project when underlying conflict is present. Resolving these issues at the root can lead to greater efficiency and goal achievement.

In order to pass personal and professional milestones, it is important to utilize conflict resolution skills—particularly the ability to compromise, negotiate and move forward after a disagreement.

Conflict resolution can help bring people together once an issue is put to rest. One of the most important elements in conflict resolution is choosing to tackle problems as a team, rather than attacking each other. This technique is a wise way to enhance each party's commitment to the process, and avoid greater feelings of defensiveness. While conflict can be destructive, it can also be a sign of strong commitment and emotional attachment. By working with these feelings, each party can gain a better understanding of one another's goals and lead to greater dedication and loyalty moving forward (Amaesan, 2021).

Resolution is important, but so is conflict in itself. When people have differing perspectives, this can open the door to new ideas, innovations and ways to solve a problem. Proper conflict resolution skills are designed to keep disagreements from escalating while continuing to discuss each point of view and eventually reach a collaborative conclusion. By using conflict resolution skills, you'll be better equipped to learn from and teach others in both professional and personal realms.

The Federal government of Nigeria in effort to enhance effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding, promotes some conflict resolution and peace building initiatives such as:

- The establishment of the National Peace Committee (NPC) in 2014, which was instrumental in ensuring a peaceful transition of power after the 2015 general elections. The NPC is composed of eminent Nigerians from different backgrounds and sectors, and it serves as a platform for dialogue and mediation among political actors and stakeholders (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2019).
- The implementation of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) in 2009, which aimed to address the grievances of the Niger Delta militants who had engaged in armed struggle against the federal government over issues of resource control, environmental degradation, and marginalization. The PAP offered disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) benefits to the ex-militants, such as monthly stipends, education, training, and employment opportunities.
- The creation of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Initiative (CPPBI) in 2010, which is a non-governmental organization that is committed to the prevention of violent conflicts in Nigeria and Africa. The CPPBI engages in advocacy, research, training, dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation activities to promote peace and security in conflict-affected communities.
- The involvement of women in grassroots peace building efforts in Nigeria, which recognizes the important role that women play in preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as in promoting social cohesion and development. Women have participated in various peace initiatives such as interfaith dialogues, early warning systems, community policing, peace education, trauma healing, and advocacy for gender equality and justice.

However, there is a need for more concerted and holistic efforts to address these challenges and gaps, and to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of conflict resolution and peace building initiatives in Nigeria. This paper therefore seeks to examine factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is a country that has experienced various forms of conflicts, ranging from ethnic, religious, political, economic, and social. These conflicts have resulted in violence, insecurity, displacement,

human rights violations, and underdevelopment. Some researchers have examined different factors that could be the main cause of the conflicts such as the historical legacy of colonialism (Kolas, 2014), military rule (Osisioma, 2016), and regionalism that have shaped the political and social landscape of Nigeria (Abbas, 2018), while some investigated the diversity of Nigeria's population in terms of ethnicity, religion, culture, and language, which can be a source of strength or division (Akinwale, 2010); the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities among different regions and groups, which can create grievances and resentment; the weak governance and institutional capacity to manage conflicts and deliver public goods and services; the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that fuel violence and insecurity; the emergence of violent extremist groups such as Boko Haram that pose a threat to national and regional stability (Albert, 2011); the role of women and youth in peace building and conflict resolution, which is often marginalized or overlooked

Meanwhile, the factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria are crucial for addressing the various sources of violence and instability in the country. Conflict resolution involves the application of techniques to regulate and resolve conflicts in a constructive way, while peace building aims to develop positive relationships across ethnic and national boundaries to transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. Some of the factors that contribute to conflict in Nigeria include inequality, corruption, injustice, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, crime, overpopulation and underdevelopment. There has been dearth of research as regards the aforementioned factors among researchers in Nigeria (Alao, *et al.*, 1999; Albert, 2011 and Peace Learner, 2019). It is against this background that this paper seeks to examine the factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to examine the factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria.

Specifically, the study seeks to:

- examine the causes and effects of conflict in Nigeria
- identify the existing mechanisms and actors for conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria;

- assess the challenges and opportunities for enhancing peace and stability in Nigeria; and
- propose policy recommendations for effective conflict management and peace building in Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the causes and effects of conflict in Nigeria?
2. What are the existing mechanisms and actors for conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges and opportunities for enhancing peace and stability in Nigeria?
4. What are the policy recommendations for effective conflict management and peace building in Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW-

Concept of Conflict Resolution and Peace Building

Conflict resolution and peace building are two interrelated fields of study that aim to understand and address the causes and consequences of violence and conflict in the world. Conflict resolution refers to the methods and processes of finding peaceful solutions to disputes, while peace building involves the long-term efforts of transforming the structures and relationships that underlie conflict. Both fields draw on various disciplines, such as political science, sociology, psychology, law, and religion, to explore the complex dynamics of human interaction and cooperation.

One of the key concepts in conflict resolution and peace building is the notion of conflict transformation, which was developed by John Paul Lederach, a prominent scholar and practitioner in the field (Lederach, 1997 and Lederach, 2003). Conflict transformation goes beyond the traditional approaches of conflict management and settlement, which focus on reducing or resolving the immediate issues of contention (Abang, 2018). Instead, conflict transformation seeks to address the deeper causes and effects of conflict, such as identity, culture, power, trauma, and justice, and to foster positive change at personal, relational, structural, and cultural levels. Conflict transformation recognizes that conflict is not necessarily negative or destructive, but rather an opportunity for learning, growth, and innovation (Lederach & Schirch, 2015).

Another important concept is protracted social conflict, which was coined by Edward Azar to describe the persistent and violent conflicts that

occur in many parts of the world (Azar, 1990) Protracted social conflicts are characterized by their complexity, intractability, and multi-dimensionality. They involve not only material interests, but also psychological needs, such as security, recognition, participation, and identity. They are rooted in historical grievances, social injustices, and cultural differences. They are influenced by internal and external factors, such as political elites, civil society actors, regional dynamics, and international interventions (Ramsbotham, *et al.*, 2016).

Conflict resolution and peace building require a comprehensive and holistic approach that takes into account the various dimensions and levels of conflict. Some of the common methods and techniques used in this field include negotiation, mediation, dialogue, facilitation, arbitration, adjudication, reconciliation, restorative justice, nonviolent action, peace education, peace journalism, and peacekeeping. These methods aim to create a constructive environment for communication and cooperation among the parties involved in conflict. They also seek to promote human rights, democracy, gender equality, poverty reduction, and good governance as essential elements for sustainable peace.

Conflict resolution and peace building are not only academic disciplines or professional practices. They are also ethical commitments and moral responsibilities for all people who aspire to live in a peaceful world. As Johan Galtung, a pioneer of peace research, stated: "Peace is not a state of affairs; it is a state of mind." (Galtung, 2012). Therefore, everyone can contribute to peace by cultivating a positive attitude towards oneself and others; by respecting diversity and embracing dialogue; by seeking justice and reconciliation; by promoting cooperation and solidarity; by preventing violence and resolving conflicts peacefully; by supporting peace initiatives and movements; by learning from peace examples and experiences; by creating a culture of peace in one's family, community, and society (Galtung, 2010).

Whichever concept is adopted, conflict resolution aims to reduce the level and impact of disruptive conflicts and to prevent their escalation or recurrence, while peace building also seeks to enhance the capacities of individuals, communities and institutions to manage conflicts peacefully and to foster a culture of peace.

What Are the Causes and Effects of Conflict in Nigeria?

Conflict in Nigeria is a serious and complex issue that affects millions of people. The main sources of conflict are the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency majorly in the North East, the farmer-herder violence in the North Central, and the regional divides in the South East. These conflicts are driven by various factors, such as hate speech, weak governance, sectarianism, land and resource competition, climate change, and human rights abuses. The most affected groups are women, children, and youth. The conflict has severe humanitarian, social, and economic impacts on the country.

According to Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Initiative (CPPBI). (2019). one of the causes of conflict in Nigeria is the legacy of colonialism, which created artificial boundaries and imposed a unitary system of government that ignored the ethnic and religious diversity of the country. The British colonial administration favoured some regions and groups over others, creating resentment and mistrust among the different communities. After independence in 1960, Nigeria experienced several coups and counter-coups, as well as a civil war from 1967 to 1970, when the eastern region of Biafra attempted to secede from the federation.

Another cause of conflict in Nigeria is the unequal distribution of oil wealth, which accounts for about 90% of the country's export earnings and 80% of its budget revenue. The oil-rich Niger Delta region in the South South has been plagued by environmental degradation, poverty, corruption, and marginalization by the federal government and multinational oil companies. This has led to the emergence of militant groups that demand a greater share of oil revenues and political autonomy for their region. The oil boom also contributed to the neglect of other sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, which used to be the mainstay of many rural communities.

A third cause of conflict in Nigeria is the rise of religious extremism and intolerance, especially in the North East, where the Islamist group Boko Haram has waged a violent campaign against the state and civilians since 2009. Boko Haram aims to establish an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria and opposes Western education, democracy, and secularism. The group has killed thousands of people and displaced millions more through its attacks on schools, churches, mosques, markets, military bases, and government buildings. Boko

Haram also exploits the grievances of many poor and unemployed youths who feel alienated by the political and economic system.

The effects of conflict in Nigeria are devastating for both individuals and society as a whole. Conflict undermines human security, dignity, and rights; destroys lives and livelihoods; erodes social cohesion and trust; fuels displacement and migration; disrupts education and health services; increases poverty and inequality; hampers development and growth; and threatens regional stability and peace. Conflict also creates opportunities for criminal activities, such as kidnapping, banditry, smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. To prevent inter-tribal conflicts in Nigeria, there is a need for a holistic approach that addresses both the root causes and the symptoms of violence (Building Blocks for Peace Foundation. (2021).

What Are the Existing Mechanisms and Actors for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Nigeria?

Conflict resolution and peace building are essential for achieving sustainable development and stability in Nigeria, a country that has experienced various forms of violence and insecurity in its history. According to Osisoma (2016), conflict management requires the application of resolution techniques to regulate the level and impact of disruptive conflicts; and peace building seeks to develop constructive relationships across ethnic and national boundaries to resolve injustice and transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. Some of the root causes of conflicts in Nigeria include inequality, corruption, injustice, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, hunger, disease, inflation, exploitation and overpopulation. These factors create grievances and frustrations among different groups and individuals, leading to violent expressions of discontent.

There are different mechanisms and actors for conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria, ranging from local to national and international levels. At the local level, some of the actors include traditional rulers, religious leaders, community elders, women's groups, youth groups and civil society organizations. These actors play important roles in mediating disputes, promoting dialogue, fostering social cohesion and providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations. For example, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Initiative (CPPBI), 2019, is a Nigerian-based non-governmental organization that is

committed to the prevention of violent conflicts in Nigeria and Africa through advocacy, research, training and capacity building.

At the national level, some of the mechanisms and actors include the federal government, the security agencies, the judiciary, the legislature, the media and political parties. These actors are responsible for creating and implementing policies and laws that address the causes and consequences of conflicts, ensuring security and justice for all citizens, providing oversight and accountability for public institutions, disseminating accurate and balanced information and facilitating peaceful political participation. For instance, Nigeria acknowledges the importance of Security Council Resolution 1325 in the implementation of peacekeeping and peace-building mandates and in conflict prevention efforts to give greater attention to gender perspectives.

At the international level, some of the mechanisms and actors include regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and its agencies, bilateral partners such as the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK), and other non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (United Nations Policy Committee, 2007). These actors provide diplomatic support, financial assistance, technical expertise, humanitarian aid and monitoring for conflict resolution and peace building initiatives in Nigeria. For example, ECOWAS has deployed peacekeeping forces and mediators to intervene in several conflicts in Nigeria such as the Niger Delta crisis and the Boko Haram insurgency.

In conclusion, conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria involve various mechanisms and actors at different levels of society. These mechanisms and actors have different roles and responsibilities in addressing the complex and multifaceted challenges of violence and insecurity in Nigeria. However, there is a need for more coordination, collaboration and communication among these mechanisms and actors to ensure effective and sustainable outcomes for peace building in Nigeria.

Peace Building in Nigeria (PBN), (Peace Learner, 2019) is a project that was initiated by Peace Learner, a platform that connects peace educators and learners around the world. The project aims to raise awareness and educate Nigerians on the

importance of peace building and conflict resolution. It also seeks to empower Nigerians with skills and tools to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully. The project uses various methods, such as online courses, workshops, seminars, webinars, podcasts, blogs, social media campaigns, and community outreach programs to reach its target audience.

Women's Involvement in Grassroots Peacebuilding in Nigeria (WIGPIN) is an initiative that was launched by Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE), a non-profit organization that works on peace building and conflict transformation in Nigeria. The initiative aims to increase the participation and leadership of women in grassroots peace building efforts in Nigeria. It also seeks to enhance the capacity of women to address the issues that affect them and their communities, such as gender-based violence, poverty, inequality, marginalization, and exclusion. The initiative uses various strategies, such as training, mentoring, networking, advocacy, dialogue, and mediation to empower women as agents of change (Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, 2021).

What Are the Challenges and Opportunities for Enhancing Peace and Stability in Nigeria?

Nigeria is a country with great potential and influence in Africa, but also faces many challenges and conflicts that threaten its peace and stability. According to Akinwale (2010), some of the key issues that Nigeria has to deal with are:

- The Boko Haram insurgency, which has caused widespread violence and displacement in the northeast of the country, as well as spillover effects in neighboring countries. According to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Boko Haram has killed over 37,000 people and displaced more than two million since 2009.
- The farmer-herder clashes, which have escalated in recent years due to environmental degradation, population growth, land disputes and ethnic tensions. The British Council reports that these clashes have resulted in over 10,000 deaths and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons between 2010 and 2015.
- The Niger Delta crisis, which involves armed groups fighting for a greater share of oil revenues and environmental justice in the oil-rich region. The USIP states that this crisis has

cost Nigeria an estimated \$100 billion in lost revenue since the late 1990s.

- The regional divides, which reflect historical, political, religious and cultural differences among Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups and regions. These divides have often led to violent conflicts, such as the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), the Sharia crisis (1999-2000) and the Jos crisis (2001-2010).

These conflicts have resulted in human rights violations, humanitarian crises, economic losses and social instability. They have also undermined public trust in the government and its institutions, which are often seen as corrupt, ineffective and unaccountable. However, Nigeria also has many opportunities and resources to enhance its peace and stability. According to Alao & Olonisakin (2010), some of the factors that can support Nigeria's peacebuilding efforts are:

- Its democratic system, which allows for peaceful transitions of power, political participation and representation of different interests. Nigeria has held six consecutive general elections since 1999, with two peaceful handovers of power from one party to another in 2015 and 2019.
- Its federal structure, which gives state governors significant responsibilities and autonomy in addressing local conflicts and governance issues. The USIP notes that some state governors have initiated innovative policies and programs to mitigate violence and promote security, such as the Zamfara State Dialogue and Reconciliation Initiative and the Kaduna State Peace Commission.
- Its civil society, which includes various actors and institutions that work for peace, justice and reconciliation at different levels. The British Council highlights the role of civil society organizations in providing mediation support, advocacy, research and capacity building for peacebuilding in Nigeria.
- Its regional leadership, which enables Nigeria to play an active role in peacekeeping and peacemaking in Africa, especially in West Africa. Nigeria has contributed immensely to the stability of the African continent by participating in numerous peace missions and initiatives, such as the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), the African Union Mission in

Sudan (AMIS) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Therefore, Nigeria faces both challenges and opportunities for enhancing its peace and stability. To overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities, Nigeria needs to adopt a comprehensive, inclusive and conflict-sensitive approach that addresses the root causes and drivers of violence, improves the performance and accountability of security and governance institutions, empowers women and marginalized groups to participate in peace processes, and strengthens its collaboration with regional and international partners.

What Are the Policy Recommendations for Effective Conflict Management and Peace Building in Nigeria?

Conflict management and peace building are essential for achieving sustainable development and stability in Nigeria, a country that faces various sources of violence and insecurity. According to Osioma (2016), conflict management requires the application of resolution techniques to regulate the level and impact of disruptive conflicts; and peace building seeks to develop constructive relationships across ethnic and national boundaries to resolve injustice and transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. However, these processes are not easy or straightforward, as they involve addressing the root causes of conflicts, building a pluralist democratic state, reconciling authority with freedom, and establishing a robust peace infrastructure.

Some policy recommendations for effective conflict management and peace building in Nigeria are:

- Strengthening the state-level peace agencies or commissions that have been created in some states such as Plateau, Kaduna, and Adamawa since 2016. These institutions have the potential to foster dialogue, mediation, early warning and response, and grassroots conflict resolution mechanisms, but they need more financial and organizational support and independence from the governors' offices (Kew 2021).
- Enhancing the role of civil society organizations and traditional institutions in promoting peace education, interfaith dialogue, social cohesion, and reconciliation among the diverse communities in Nigeria. These actors have valuable networks, expertise, and legitimacy that can complement

the efforts of the government and international partners (Osioma 2016).

- Addressing the structural drivers of conflicts such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, environmental degradation, corruption, and human rights violations. These factors fuel grievances and resentment among marginalized groups and create opportunities for violent extremism, militancy, and criminality. The government should implement inclusive and equitable policies that improve the living conditions and opportunities of all Nigerians (Osioma 2016).
- Building regional and international cooperation to prevent and resolve cross-border conflicts such as the farmer-herder clashes that have escalated in recent years due to climate change, population growth, land scarcity, and insecurity. The government should engage with neighboring countries and regional organizations such as ECOWAS and AU to develop joint strategies and mechanisms for managing transnational threats and challenges (Kew 2021).
- Building a pluralist democratic state where the rights of all citizens are respected, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or political affiliations. This requires seeking to blend power with principle and reconcile authority with freedom; ensuring free and fair elections; promoting good governance and accountability; strengthening the rule of law and justice system; and addressing the historic wrongs and injustice that engender strife and conflicts.

SUMMARY

This paper examines the causes and consequences of various conflicts in Nigeria, such as ethnic, religious, political, and resource-based conflicts. It provides an overview of the main causes, actors, and dynamics of the various conflicts that have plagued the country for decades. It also outlines some of the key approaches and initiatives that have been taken by different stakeholders to address the root causes and consequences of violence, and to promote dialogue, reconciliation, and social cohesion. It also analyzes the roles and challenges of different actors and institutions involved in peace building efforts, such as the government, civil society, traditional leaders, and international organizations. The text concludes with some recommendations for enhancing the

effectiveness and sustainability of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This paper has examined the factors and strategies of conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria. It has argued that the root causes of conflicts in Nigeria are multifaceted and complex, ranging from ethnic, religious, political, economic, environmental, to historical factors. It has also discussed the various approaches and mechanisms that have been employed to address these conflicts, such as dialogue, mediation, arbitration, reconciliation, amnesty, and peace education. The paper has highlighted the challenges and opportunities for effective conflict resolution and peace building in Nigeria, such as the role of civil society, traditional institutions, women, youth, media, and external actors. The paper has concluded that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the conflicts in Nigeria, but rather a need for a holistic and inclusive approach that addresses the underlying issues and promotes a culture of peace and tolerance among the diverse groups in the country.

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Source of support: Nil; Conflict of interest: Nil.

Cite this article as:

Manuwa, T. "The Factors and Strategies of Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Nigeria." *Sarcouncil Journal of Multidisciplinary* 1.1 (2021): pp 23-31.