



SEAN-CSO

NEWSLETTER

November 2024

Creative Media as an Approach to Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration





Opening Remarks

Dear esteemed colleagues and members of our network,

Welcome to the November 2024 Edition of the SEAN-CSO Newsletter. In this edition, we explore how to leverage creative content to make Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration (CB-RR) more accessible, engaging, and impactful. From interactive e-learning platforms to emotionally resonant film screenings, SEAN-CSO demonstrates how innovative media strategies can transform ideas into concrete solutions that inspire real change.

The challenge of turning ideas into action lies at the core of Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration (CB-RR) efforts. Despite its critical role in preventing and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE), the theoretical and intangible nature often hinders engagement with communities and stakeholders effectively. Without relatable tools and creative approaches, its message and efforts risk being misunderstood or overlooked.

This edition underscores the importance of integrating creative media as a tool for deradicalisation and disengagement, encouraging civil society organisations to explore these methods to address extremism prevention and promote peace. Additionally, we feature a thought-provoking contributor article examining the indispensable role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, emphasising that rehabilitation and reintegration demand empathy, compassion, and a deep understanding of social dynamics at play.

We hope this newsletter provides valuable insights and inspires continued dialogue and action within your communities. Let us continue to work together towards a future defined by peace and resilience.





Creative Media as an Approach to Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Bridging the Gap Between Concept and Practice

Community-based rehabilitation and Reintegration (CB-RR) is a vital tool in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). However, for many, the concept of CB-RR lacks tangible, relatable examples that connect it to real-life impact. This poses a challenge, especially when it comes to engaging stakeholders, communities, and individuals who are crucial to its success. Without concrete, relatable examples, CB-RR risks being seen as just another program, limiting its potential to bring about real change.

Problem With Abstract Ideas

When CB-RR lacks clarity, the people who matter most—those at the grassroots level—struggle to connect with its goals. This could hinder initiatives aimed at deradicalisation and disengagement, two processes central to CB-RR. For these processes to succeed, it requires more than lectures or theoretical frameworks. It demands creative and tangible approaches that resonate with communities and a broader audience to encourage involvement and participation.

A Creative Solution

Based on that understanding and assumption, creative content could be utilised to create programs that encourage participants to be involved and work together playfully. However, only few Southeast Asian CSOs have applied this method of using interactive approach and cultural activities.

SEAN-CSO has adopted creative media as a bridge between abstract concepts and tangible action through **E-Learning platforms** and **Community Film Screenings** to address this challenge.

- **E-Learning Platforms:**

Interactive online modules have been developed to provide practical insights into deradicalisation and disengagement. These modules identify the drivers of radicalisation and present engaging scenarios to help participants connect theory to real-world applications. The e-learning experience ensures participants understand CB-RR and see its relevance to their daily lives.

• Film Screenings:

Films that narrate the journey of individuals who have successfully reintegrated into society serve as powerful emotional tools. These screenings foster discussions, build empathy, and inspire communities to support CB-RR initiatives actively.

Using creative media, SEAN-CSO transforms ideas into compelling narratives, bridging the gap between understanding and action.

Creative media approaches like these do more than just inform—they inspire. They foster emotional connections, break down barriers, and invite people to see the possibilities of CB-RR in a new light. Whether through a thought-provoking film or an engaging online course, these tools ensure that the promise of CB-RR becomes a shared vision of progress and peace.



The Invisible Wall, A SEAN-CSO Documentary on Community-Based Approach in Rehabilitation and Reintegration

We are thrilled to share another compelling story captured in the documentary *The Invisible Wall*. This film provides an intimate look at the lives of women who were deeply affected by their husbands' involvement in acts of extreme violence.

Struggling with the stigma of being associated with terrorism, these women faced isolation and judgement from their communities. They were grappling with the loss of their livelihoods and battling the societal perception that branded them as part of the problem. The weight of these prejudices created an invisible wall that threatened to keep them forever on the margins of society.

However, their story is one of perseverance and hope. Their journey highlights the importance of societal collaboration in reintegration efforts.

Their story shows that meaningful reintegration requires the collective support of various stakeholders—neighbours, religious leaders, local governments, and action groups—working together to foster understanding and compassion.

This film reminds us that addressing prejudice and rebuilding lives after conflict requires more than individual effort—it demands collective action and empathy.

After our successful screening at the Peacetival by Peacegen, we are glad to share SEAN-CSO's documentary, now available and ready to watch on our website by clicking on this link below

<https://www.sean-cso.org/article/articles/theinvisiblewall>



In this month's Newsletter, we have accepted an article by our contributor, Elyzabeth Bonethe Nasution, from Universitas Pelita Harapan.

Toward Durable Peace:

What Women Can Do in Rehabilitation and Reintegration

By Elyzabeth B. Nasution



The discussion of women's roles in ending conflicts and achieving peace is not new. In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, catalysing women's activism for peace and security (Anderlini, 2007). Although emerging, the 'women and peace' theme has not found its heart within academia. Anderlini (2007) records that only a handful of academicians have put effort into the theme, and even fewer academic sources have focused on it.

Several best practices have then concluded that women have virtues that will be undeniably effective in the field. In this article, we will learn about those virtues and see how they are applied once they are well-applied.

What Women Bring to the Table

Rehabilitation and Reintegration of offenders are complex processes that require compassion, empathy, and a deep understanding of the social dynamics at play. Women who are most definitely present in the process bring unique virtues and qualities that can be incredibly effective in Rehabilitation and Reintegration. What are they?

- **Empathy and Compassion**

It is not like men do not have empathy or compassion, but studies have shown that women are more open to showing empathy and compassion to others compared to men. Unfortunately, this is perceived as being weak, whereas in reality, in Rehabilitation and Reintegration, being empathetic and compassionate may lead us to a strong understanding of the emotional and psychological struggles faced by the offenders. Moreover, offenders often find it difficult to express their feelings, doubts, and regrets without fear of judgment. Only compassion can help us with this (UN Women, 2022).

- **Nurturing and Caregiving Role**

Women often take up the central caregiving role in their families and communities. Their nurturing qualities foster the well-being of offenders, particularly children and vulnerable people. Within the Rehabilitation process, this role is essential in helping offenders rebuild their lives when they reintegrate into society. In addition, the maternal instinct protects the vulnerable from re-radicalisation (UN Women, 2022).

- **Mediation and Conflict Resolution Skills**

Years of experience navigating family and communities have trained women to possess a particular set of skills in addressing social tensions that may occur in Reintegration, especially in communities that may be hostile to offenders. Women are good at reading facial expressions and gestures and are culturally more sensitive. Their ability to bridge parties and ease tensions makes them excellent mediators (UN Women, 2022).

- **Social Cohesive**

Often, they take part as central figures in communities, such as mothers, teachers, and community organisers. Women are the ones that hold society together. Ensuring reintegration is successful depends on society's ability to accept offenders. Women are crucial in bringing society to a united front (Holmer & Shtuni, 2017).

- **Emotional Resilience and Strength**

We cannot deny that some women are offenders, and some must bear the consequences of radicalisation.





In both, women must go through hardship, trauma, or marginalisation. These equip women with strength that will assist them in the Reintegration process. Simultaneously, when others face similar experiences, women's reliance is reflected through their willingness to help those facing the Reintegration process (UNDP, 2016).

Concrete Evidence

Let's see what the academicians' prescriptions are all about.

- **In Somalia**, women in the UN Women Empowerment and Reintegration Program supported former female combatants and their families through **emotional and practical caregiving**, ensuring their successful reintegration into the community (UN Women, 2022).
- **In the Philippines**, women leaders played a vital role in the Mindanao Peace Process. They used their **mediation skills** to negotiate the reintegration of former fighters into their communities, preventing further violence and fostering peace (UN Women, 2022).

- **In Tunisia**, women ex-combatants and local female leaders played a crucial role in reintegrating other women and children associated with extremist groups by **rebuilding community** ties and creating opportunities for social interaction and mutual support (Holmer & Shtuni, 2017).
- **In Nigeria**, women ex-combatants who Boko Haram had radicalised became strong role models in the rehabilitation programs. Their **resilience** helped guide other women and youth away from radicalisation by showing that recovery was possible (UNDP, 2016).

So, to put Michelle K. Some's quote in context:

“Some women are lost in radicalisation. Some women are built from radicalisation.”

Read more of the article on our website at [SEAN-CSO.org](https://sean-cso.org) to learn more about Women's Role in Rehabilitation and Reintegration from Violent Extremism.



Thank you for staying connected with the SEAN-CSO through our Newsletter. We invite you to join the conversation and explore more insights on rehabilitation, reintegration, and combating violent extremism.

Visit our website at

sean-cso.org

and follow us on our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X for more up-to-date content about CB-RR, resources, and opportunities to collaborate in advancing peace and social cohesion across Southeast Asia.



