

Violent interethnic conflict and human dignity: major issues in intercultural research and knowledge utilization.

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As a researcher and practitioner in intercultural relations, I am deeply concerned that violent interethnic conflicts currently engulf a large part of the world. Therefore, I would like to raise the following major issues:

A) ISSUES OF KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

1) What have we learned from theorizing and research that can contribute to the prevention of large man-made tragedies such as Darfur, to the amelioration of interethnic relations in such major conflicts, and to reconciliation after such tragedies?

2) What have we learned, and what do we still need to learn, from practitioners that focus on ethnic conflict, war, and prejudice reduction?

3) What further research about preventing or stopping violent ethnic conflict is needed?

B) IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

3) What can we learn from practitioners that focus on ethnic conflict, war, and prejudice reduction to make our research more likely to be used?

4) What are effective knowledge utilization strategies in this area?

5) How can knowledge we generate be brought to the attention of policy makers, the public, and other stakeholders to have a greater impact in situations involving ethnic cleaning, war, or other tragedies?

My hope is to bring together researchers and practitioners to explore possible collaborations, strategies, and research programs to address these issues.