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**Title**

Higher Education in Conflict Settings: Realities, Challenges and Possibilities of International Solidarity and Support

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ABSTRACT

This paper unpacks key issues, realities, challenges and possibilities linked to higher education in conflict settings. The focus is on the impact of violent conflict on higher education, and the neglect of the sector when it comes to recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of conflict. The paper touches on the externally driven initiatives aimed at capacity building and supporting local higher education in conflict settings, and highlights key challenges related to this. The paper further explores how to develop networks of solidarity and provide support to countries, institutions and colleagues in need despite the challenges and pressures linked to neoliberalism, geopolitics and dominant development policies and agendas which do not see the need to rebuild and strengthen higher education in fragile and conflict-ridden settings. Finally, the last part discusses what epistemic changes may be needed in the quest to tackle the failed and destructive development policies and hegemonies that are preventing us from approaching what needs to be done differently.

KEYWORDS

Higher education, conflict, development, recovery, solidarity, decolonisation