

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored circular diagrams. These include concentric circles, some with dashed lines, and others with solid lines. Some of these circles have degree markings around their perimeters, ranging from 40 to 260. Small arrows are also visible, pointing in various directions, suggesting a sense of movement or rotation.

WORKING WITH CONFLICT 2

SIMON FISHER, VESNA MATOVIC, BRIDGET WALKER

WITH EDITOR DYLAN MATHEWS, ON THE SHOULDERS OF MANY BRAVE
PRACTITIONERS AND SCHOLARS

WHY ANOTHER WWC?

- Research and Learning since WWC1
- Changed context
- Gaps: Power, Healing, Learning,
- Dialogue, Mobilising for change.
- Ourselves as reflective practitioners



INVITATION TO A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

- Pathways, Signposts, Reflective Questions to guide you to find your own direction
- Frameworks, Tools and Techniques to help you forge your own path
- Bringing academic and practitioner-based research and experience to bear
- In every day language
- For people everywhere working for change
- Professionalised peacebuilders



THE CONTEXT HAS CHANGED

- Pandemic
- Environmental collapse
- Increased inequality and exclusion
- Populism and fake news
- Migration and protectionism
- Network wars
- Mass movements meet repression



HOPEFUL SIGNS

- Social media
- Stronger global movements especially climate change
- Increased size and diversity of civil society, even as political space declines
- Evidence based research into peace building leads to wider acceptance.
- CDA, Berghof, Applied Conflict Transformation Studies
- Peacebuilders have become more skilled - but are we more technical than transformative?

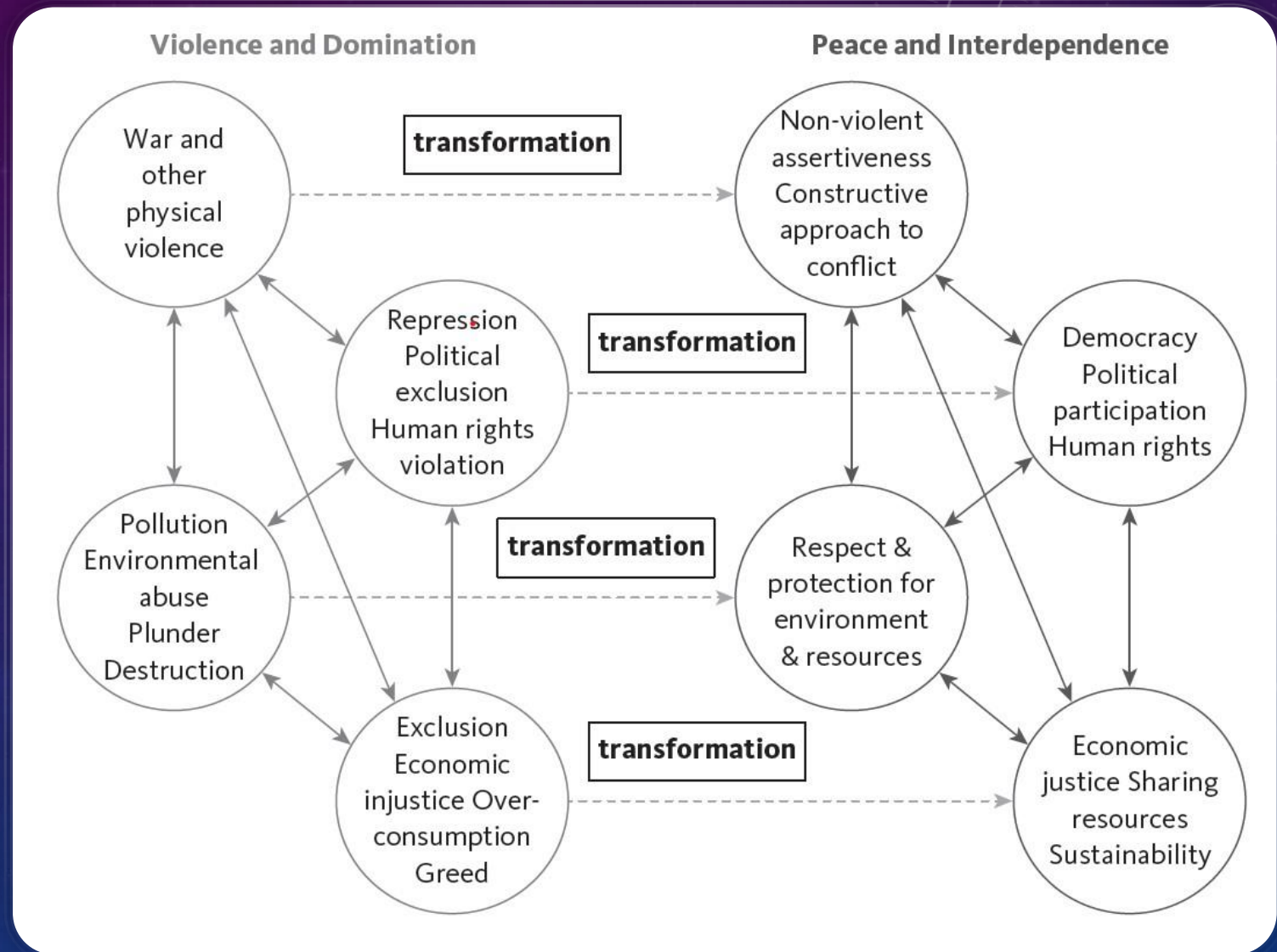


INTERDEPENDENCE V DOMINATION

Two key roles

Organized oppression and violence

Facilitating conflict transformation
across other fields



AND A FEW NEW CHAPTERS

- Healing – a vital component of peacebuilding
- Learning for change
- Dialogue: a space where meaning flows
- Mobilising for change





HEALING

– A VITAL COMPONENT OF PEACEBUILDING

- Healing is a vital component of peacebuilding
- It is important for their mental health that people can voice their needs and re-establish some control over their lives as soon as possible
- Solutions imported from different cultures and contexts may undermine rather than support healing processes
- Seeing the wider context, showing solidarity by listening and responding to the distress of others can be of real help
- In situations of continuing violence and conflict there can be no fully effective healing without social and political change



LEARNING FOR CHANGE

- Effective change agents are “reflexive practitioners”: self-aware and aware of others.
- Our failures are often our biggest neglected source of learning.
- Unlearning is important too and can be painful; we may need the help of others to do it well.
- Action learning is a highly effective tool for building capacity to plan, act and reflect.
- Evaluation is a huge opportunity for learning, as well as a way of meeting institutional requirements.

Training at its best is often an intervention as much as a preparation for action.

It can be highly effective and transformative.



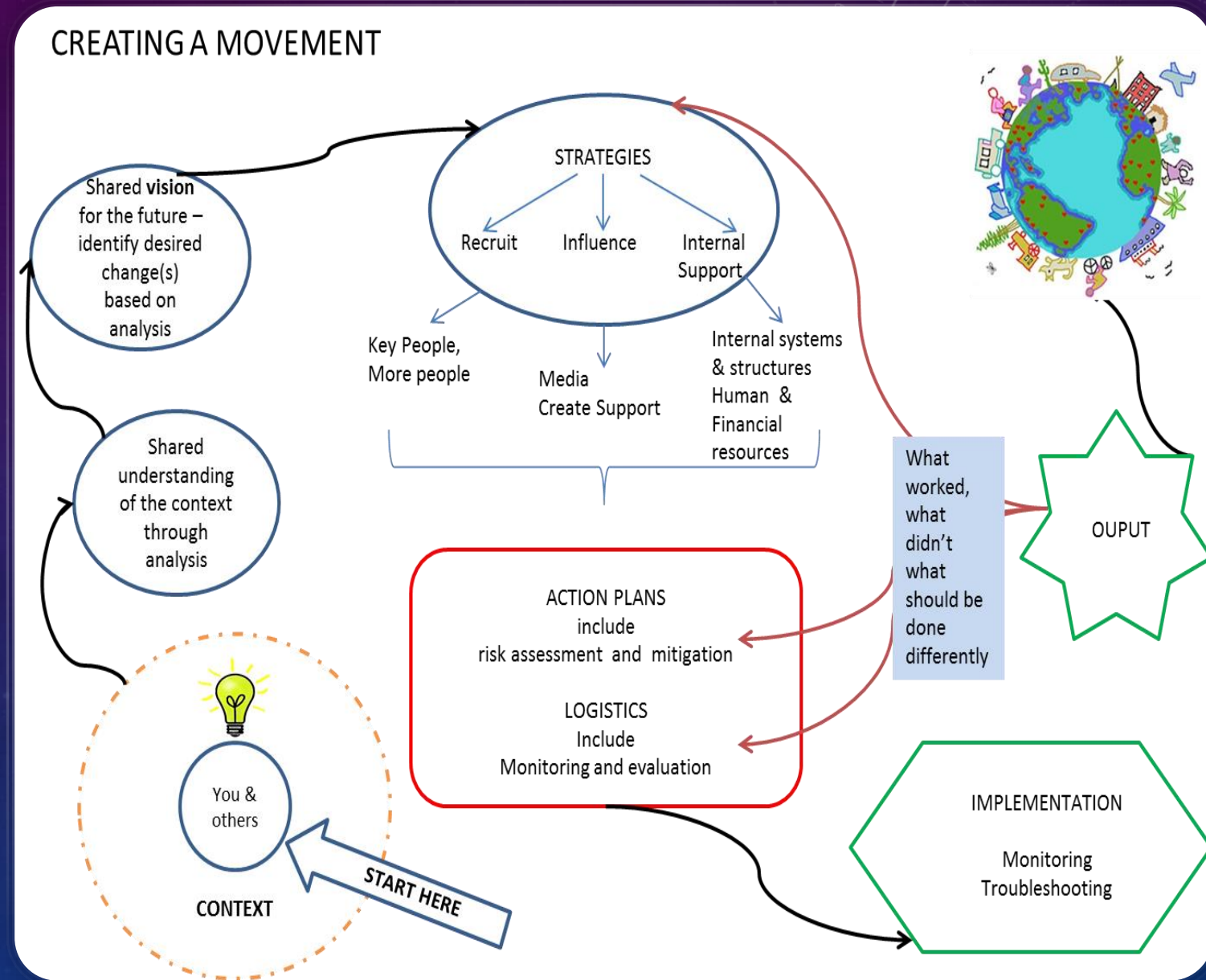
DIALOGUE: A SPACE WHERE MEANING FLOWS

- Dialogue – a way of talking about tension filled challenges; it has risks.
- Effective dialogue promotes good relationships, which continue after the process is over.
- Dialogue will be culturally specific: be aware of your own lens and those of other people.
- Structuring the dialogue will take it beyond the personal to the political.



MOBILISING FOR CHANGE

- When dialogue and negotiation fail, other approaches may be possible.
- Create space between opposing groups – expand the middle ground.
- Identify who is being overlooked – and also work with them.
- Be clear and focused in your goals.
- Mobilising for change involves context and structures, attitudes and values.
- Organisation is needed to maintain the momentum of the movement.
- Networking is key to movement building.
- Imagination and creativity can inspire and reach deeply.
- Movements can be powerful drivers of change.



POINTS TO PONDER

Unlearning

- How do we recognise what we need to unlearn?
- How do we do it?
- What have you unlearned? With what results?

Healing

- Is healing part of your peace practice?
- How does/can your work include concepts of healing?

And finally

Keep the Flame Burning

