

# Civil Society, Conflicts *and the* Politicization *of* Human Rights

EDITED BY **RAFFAELE MARCHETTI** AND **NATHALIE TOCCI**

*Civil Society, Conflicts and the Politicization of Human Rights* explores violent conflict and peace. The contributors examine how violence is generated, managed, exploited and eradicated in ethno-political conflicts, and how societies can be dragged out of conflict onto the transition towards peace. The usual take on these phenomena focuses on the role of governmental actors, both national and international. While official actors remain important, *Civil Society, Conflicts and the Politicization of Human Rights* examines the other side of the coin: the non-governmental component in ethno-political conflicts. Civil society actors, or as they are defined in this book, "conflict society organizations" (CoSOs), are increasingly central in view of the high degree of complexity of contemporary ethno-political conflicts. CoSOs have become key players in ethno-political conflicts, both as violators and as promoters of human rights. Nevertheless, the precise relationships underpinning the human rights–civil society–conflict nexus have not been fully examined. This volume analyses the impact of civil society on ethno-political conflicts through their human rights-related activities, and identifies the means to strengthen the complementarity between civil society and international governmental actors in promoting peace. These aims are addressed by examining four case studies in the European neighbourhood: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Turkey's Kurdish question and Israel–Palestine.

"An outstanding analysis of civil society's human rights-related activities and their impact on conflict in multi-ethnic societies."

**G. Shabbir Cheema**, Director, Asia-Pacific Governance and Democracy Initiative, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii

"In an era where the certainties of the liberal peacebuilding consensus are heavily contested, it is refreshing to see a selection of essays which offer such innovative interpretations of how civil society actors and human rights are developing in real post-conflict contexts."

**Oliver Richmond**, Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

"Students of social movements, human rights, and peace and conflict studies will profit significantly from this book's contributions."

**Sidney Tarrow**, Maxwell Upson Professor of Government, Department of Government, Cornell University

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