

## Peace Survey – Lessons Learned from Northern Ireland to Southern Thailand

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### ABSTRACT

*The ongoing conflict in southern Thailand started in 2004 and has various deeply rooted causes. The Thai Government has tried many strategies to resolve the violent problem. However, it has been proven that physical and hardline measures alone cannot stop the conflict. Non-violent tools and public participation must be involved in any long-term solution. Peace polls and surveys are among the most popular tools for ascertaining local people's needs and perspectives. This article aims to describe the three peace survey projects conducted from 2016 to 2017, and to compare peace surveys in Thailand with peace polls in Northern Ireland where polling was successfully used as a peacebuilding tool. Active observation and in-depth interviews were employed in the research for this article. The results show that polling and surveying public opinion are very important for the peacebuilding process. Lessons learned from both Thailand and Northern Ireland show that people's participation and the involvement of the conflicting parties in peace surveys are very important for success.*

**Keywords:** Peace poll, Peace survey, Peacebuilding, Southern Thailand