

*Contact, Connection, and Community:  
Religion and Peacemaking*

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Abstract

The United Nations (2002) noted that increasingly, war is “being fought in homes, communities, and on women’s bodies.” Alarming, torture is used as a tool of war, and victims of torture may be targeted by virtue of belonging to a particular religion. Torture shatters the body, mind, spirit, and the community ([www.healtorture.org](http://www.healtorture.org)). In the aftermath of torture, survivors struggle to rebuild a sense of safe contact and connection with themselves and others. Religion can serve as a powerful healing force as survivors strive to create meaning from their suffering. Based on clinical work with survivors of torture, this paper examines the role of religion in coming to peace with one’s suffering and using one’s suffering to build peace in one’s community.