

Utilizing Non-violent Communication for Conflict Resolution in the Post-Amnesty Era of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The conflict in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria is a burning issue. In spite of the “efforts” of the Federal Government of Nigeria, there seems to be no practical approach to resolving the conflict. This discussion proposes the utilization of Non-Violent Communication (NVC) to resolve the conflict. Using explanation building and critical analysis based on non-violent canons, backed by Watzlawick’s Interactional View of Communication and Hearit’s Apologia theory, this discussion explains qualitatively how to use the canons of non-violent communication to resolve the conflict in the long run. These canons are: honest self-expression, honest self-expression longing for reconciliation and peace, honest self-expression devoid of violence and threat and empathy for another. Hence, this discussion recommends concretizing NVC language in all interaction with the Niger Deltans and synergizing NVC with political and economic resolutions/elixir.