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Preface

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When individuals are asked to describe what conflict means to them, typically, they will use the words "argument, "dispute," or "misunderstanding" to describe a disagreement between people. However, when conflict reaches beyond a reasoned perspective and understanding, when it breaches the tapestry of a nation's culture, health, and communication infrastructure, the scale of disruption is extraordinary. Those who are directly engaged in experiencing, witnessing, or recording the impact of conflict in a country, also comprehend its reality with deep alacrity. Those involved in a conflict may be affected significantly on many levels, including emotionally, psychologically, physically, and socially. The long-standing effects of conflict become entrenched within individuals who have experienced trauma. To reduce the after-effects of conflict, the strength of a nation's people can be observed through the care and attention of physicians, psychiatrists, social workers, journalists, and volunteers. Overall, it takes national and international structures to support individuals, families, and groups affected by conflict.

The authors in this second issue of *Social, Health, and Communication Studies Journal: Conflict and the Social Body, Volume 2*, Number 1 2015 are cognizant of how conflict deeply affects individuals, families, and groups at many levels. These articles examine real conflict, providing deep insights into those who are affected and the actions that need to be taken to mitigate the harms of conflict. You are invited to read, contemplate, and consider the effects of conflict.

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