Faculti Summary

This video video discusses the intersection of corruption and peace building, discussing how both the co-directors, who have 25 years of experience in peace building, noticed that corruption is prevalent in many areas they worked in and is often identified as a key driver of conflict. Despite the recognition of corruption's significance, peace building programs frequently neglect to address it, leading to ineffective anti-corruption efforts.

They highlight the role of social norms, which dictate appropriate behaviors within groups. Social norms can maintain compliance through rewards and punishments, which can foster corrupt behaviors under certain conditions. This video video provides examples of how corrupt practices can become normalized within official settings, such as court clerks demanding fees for services, despite these practices being illegal.

In fragile and conflict-affected situations, social norms play an even more crucial role as individuals rely on their social networks for survival amid challenges like violence, unemployment, and weak institutions. The pressures to conform to corrupt practices often stem from the need to support family or protect one's status within a community.

The narrative emphasizes that traditional anti-corruption approaches often fail because they treat corruption as an exception rather than a systemic issue. They conclude that effective anti-corruption strategies must address both the enabling conditions for corruption and the underlying drivers, including social norms, that compel individuals to engage in corrupt activities. Understanding these dynamics is critical for developing sustainable solutions to combat corruption.