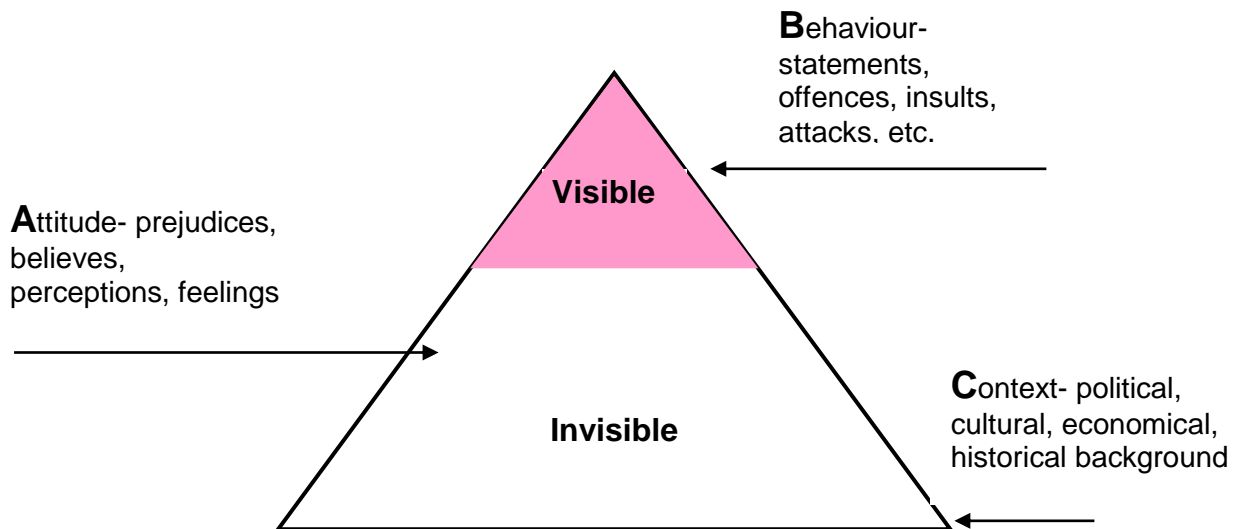


## The Conflict Triangle

The conflict triangle highlights all the aspects playing a role in a conflict situation.



This ABC (Attitude-Behaviour-Context) – Conflict Triangle was first developed by Prof. Johan Galtung and provides an excellent basic concept for the analysis of even very complex conflict situations:

**A** First, there are the **A**ttitudes (**A**) of the conflicting parties, which tend to become more defensive or even hostile as the conflict escalates. In order to finally reach settlement of the conflict, the parties must first become aware of their attitudes and perceptions towards each other.

**B** Attitude in conflict situations not only influences one's own **B**ehaviour (**B**), but is very much affected by the behaviour of others. Insults or provocations make it more difficult to see the mutual benefit of ending a conflict. Therefore it is essential to find ways of tackling the negative behaviour in order to defuse the situation.

**C** Finally, we need to consider the **C**ontext (**C**) within which the conflict is being waged. Context is the 'objective' reality to which the conflict relates and the environment in which it takes place. If we ignore the influence of the context, all changes in attitudes and behaviour will be in vain. Various factors in the context can either fuel or block a positive and transformative development of a conflict.