

PEACE?

Approaches to peacebuilding





Contents

FOREWORDS	4
PREFACE	5
Introduction to Springboard Opportunities Limited and Global Peacebuilders	5
Catalogue vision and process	5
APPROACHES TO PEACEBUILDING	6
Africa	6
Asia	8
Australia and Pacific	16
Europe, featuring special section on Northern Ireland	18
Latin America	28
North America	32
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	36
INDEX	38

Forewords

Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland

**Foreword by Margaret Ritchie MLA
Minister for Social Development
for Northern Ireland**

I welcome the publication of Springboard's Peacebuilding Approaches Catalogue as the latest initiative in its Global Peacebuilders project. This document highlights practice in both a local and international dimension and will provide a valuable resource for those involved in conflict resolution.

My Department has a key role in supporting and developing the work of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. Much of this work focuses on creating and building genuine and sustainable community relations and I respect and acknowledge the Sector's role in meeting this challenge, often in very difficult circumstances.

I will continue to ensure that all of the Department's funding programmes reflect the principles of a Shared Future. These programmes focus on developing good relations through increasing community capacity; promoting shared space; positive engagement between communities regardless of culture, race, religion or sexual orientation and building social capital.

Building meaningful capacity and developing community infrastructure remains an essential element of our work in disadvantaged communities. The positive examples in this publication reflect the real need for this work and I would commend Springboard for bringing these to the attention of a global audience.

**Foreword by Jackie Redpath
Chair of Springboard Opportunities Limited**

This publication brings together eighteen examples of peacebuilding efforts from across the globe. The experiences are diverse but they also contain many common lessons.

One commonality is that there are no quick fixes, to quote W.B. Yeats, 'peace comes dropping slow'. Furthermore, real peace is not simply the absence of conflict, it is about rebuilding society. While politicians and political solutions are critical, sustainable peacebuilding must also effectively engage all levels of society.

In the grandiose, headline-grabbing solutions we must always recognise the small steps taken by ordinary people who show their greatness and courage not 'by being at one extremity but rather by touching both at once.'

Preface

Introduction to Springboard and Global Peacebuilders

Springboard is committed within a spirit of partnership, to building the capacity of disadvantaged people and their communities and contributing to a society that is at ease with itself and its diversity.

Global Peacebuilders is managed by Springboard, a non-profit organisation with charitable status operating in Belfast since 1992. During the last 15+ years, Springboard has offered integrated programmes promoting mutual understanding and enhancing capacity. Springboard's work is rooted in building understanding across divides and encouraging cross-community opportunities, and it is out of this desire to contribute to social change and a society at ease with itself that Global Peacebuilders has grown.

As we move away from decades of violence towards building together the institutions, structures and opportunities necessary for sustainable peace and the maintenance of stable and peaceful communities, the practice and experience of peacebuilding in Northern Ireland has never been more significant. Within this context, Global Peacebuilders shines a spotlight on community-level activities contributing to sustainable peace, by creating opportunities for individuals and peacebuilding groups to strengthen relationships and share practice.

By accessing the Globalpeacebuilders.org online database, groups draw attention to their work and access new partnerships in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish-speaking regions by creating a profile of their work for peace. Above all, the project is about creating new opportunities for peacebuilders across the world to enhance their networks and exchange practice, and this catalogue represents one such opportunity to share, network and learn.

To learn more about Springboard, visit www.springboard-ops.org
To view the Global Peacebuilders database of peacebuilding organisations, visit www.globalpeacebuilders.org

Our vision and process

We wanted to create a publication that might offer peacebuilders working in areas of conflict across the world an opportunity to learn and inform their own work, building up their international networks along the way.

This catalogue is not an all-encompassing listing of the 'key' international peacebuilding approaches or an exhaustive evaluation of the 'best' of peacebuilding practice from across the world. It is a brief glimpse of the peacebuilding activity currently taking place, and offers an insight into just some of the many important approaches to peacebuilding currently being implemented locally and worldwide, at a grassroots, community, national or international level.

With the approaches published here, we aim to highlight some of the challenges, difficulties and strategies that have gone into the design and delivery of peacebuilding practice across the world, with a particular look at peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. Above all, it is our hope that this catalogue would not only inform, but also offer a unique glimpse into some of the innovative strategies currently being employed for peace.

How to use the catalogue

Each of the approaches to peacebuilding have been categorised by continent as well as cross-referenced according to their area of focus within peacebuilding and which group of beneficiaries they target. At the back of the catalogue you will find an at-a-glance index of these areas of focus and target groups, with page numbers illustrating their corresponding peacebuilding approaches. It is our hope that this selection will offer readers new opportunities, new insights and, above all, new perspectives on their own approaches to peacebuilding.



CRY's vision is of a peaceful and non-violent culture, and aims to promote peaceful conflict transformation through youth by working towards building an environment that is suitable for sustainable development.

Specifically, CRY works to:

- Build the capacity of youth in Uganda to improve their livelihood
- Build the capacity of youth to manage conflicts peacefully
- Advocate for the issues affecting young people

Youth to Youth Conflict Transformation Project
The Project in Karamoja, Lango and Teso (KaLaTe Region) is primarily about mobilising, organising and engaging youth in peacebuilding. On a general level, exchange has been facilitated among youth in conflict areas, as well as the formation and strengthening of youth groups in conflict areas. Young people have then been able to reach out to communities engaging them in peacebuilding activities.

Specifically, the Project utilises theatre, debates, music and conflict resolution training and carries out a range of activities aimed at building capacity and engaging youth in peacebuilding, including: human rights education; youth centres; competitions; cultural festivals ; creating and strengthening smaller groups e.g village banks in Karamoja; youth cafes; peace clubs; research on issues affecting youth; mobilising youth to identify and agree on issues affecting them and to carry out advocacy campaigns.

The programme contributes to peacebuilding through:

- **Advocacy:** An advocacy strategy to voice the issues affecting youth and to mobilise them to be involved in the strategy
- **Empowerment:** At least two community-based monitoring and evaluation meetings to discuss and document decisions
- **Institutional Development:** Attain QUAM standards for NGO certification

The Project utilises 'Peace Theatre' to respect indigenous cultural values while at the same time providing youth-friendly tools and methods for community-level peacebuilding and human rights promotion. Indeed, the main aim of the Project is to creatively revitalise and strengthen the fabric of the Ugandan youth and community, with an emphasis on the broad range of cultural diversity. This in turn lays a solid foundation for engagement of the population in the promotion and defence of human rights, peacebuilding, arts and peaceful coexistence.

Theatre is an important medium for education, information, entertainment and development, highlighting societal needs and providing voices for the voiceless, and also encourages young people to identify with it easily.

In essence, the Project, and its focus on Peace Theatre, provide 'food for the soul' for traumatised internally displaced persons as well as host families, and this aspect is essential to enrich and empower communities to address the needs for youth to learn, work and improve lives.

CEDH fights social injustice and defends human rights through activities promoting and defending women and assistance to victims of human rights violations. CEDH also fosters tolerance and promotes peace for social change and non-violent justice, and empowers community members to support mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.

Peace Embassy

CEDH's Peace Embassy programmes develop a culture of peace and effective leadership delivered within the framework of a peace-based worldview. CEDH envisages conflict as leading to change; although conflict is not often viewed as a source of dynamism and transformational tool, CEDH works to help people to understand that 'difference' and how tensions are part of societies, and could be a factor for change.

CEDH contributes to peacebuilding through:

- Promoting active participation of civil society as well as local government leaders in promotion of peacebuilding activities, prevention of violence, and peaceful resolution of conflicts
- Involvement of community leaders in all programmes
- Increasing trust and integration between leaders and their communities
- Building capacity and developing skills that will facilitate and form the future leadership within the region
- Encouraging transparency in leadership
- Involving youth in activities that are conducive to peacebuilding and rejection of violence

Specifically, the Peace Embassy programmes include a youth peacebuilders network, where participants lead their peers in exploring the fundamental ideas, worldviews and actions which characterise a civilisation of peace. The network creates a substantive dialogue about violence prevention and peacebuilding among youth in participating communities in DRC, and formulates creative modes of action which support violence prevention and peacebuilding activities for youth in the same communities. It also places youth at the forefront of teaching and engaging other youth in conflict transformation, violence prevention and peacebuilding.

CEDH also focuses on leadership training for peace, through the training of peace artisans, and in particular, youth members of civil society and community representatives. CEDH's Chambers for Peace, meanwhile, are a permanent structure for conflict resolution established in different villages where youth have been trained as peacebuilders. The Chambers hold seminars, workshops and conferences on positive conflict management for the surrounding community, and manage the peace public library where people can access materials on peace, good governance, democracy and human rights. Such a permanent structure means CEDH's programmes can be close to the community.

Some of the main challenges relate to a lack of cooperation among local leaders due to conflict over power and ownership and denial of ethnic diversities. To overcome these, CEDH regularly holds open and direct dialogue with local leaders and communities in conflict, explaining the peace needs of the community and consequences of conflict and integrating all parties in conflict into education sessions and involves them in the leadership of the Peace Embassy programmes.

This has led to a greater understanding of the importance and place of conflict in the community; the community becomes engaged in conflict resolution and disseminates information on peace, and in time no longer supports the idea of war as the only solution for those in opposition.

CEDH views violence as taking place in the context of our own worldviews of our view of reality, human nature, purpose of life, culture and the nature of human relationships. Unless the majority of a population in a given community can adopt and adhere to a peace-based vision on how to move forward to tackle violence, all other remedies against violence become fundamentally ineffective. If there is ignorance about the positive principles of conflict management, it can appear that conflict is always negative in nature. CEDH works to create a culture of peace accompanied by a culture of healing, while at the same time, building the capacity of communities to manage conflicts and transform them into something positive.



BUSTAN is an Israeli NGO working in the Bedouin and Jewish communities in the Negev region of Israel. Through analysis, education and action, BUSTAN works for fair resource allocation and environmental and social justice.

BUSTAN, Israel
Rebecca Vilkomerson
P.O. Box 6955 Jerusalem Israel 91060
T +972 523 711 800 E rebecca@bustan.org W www.bustan.org

BUSTAN's strategic objectives are:

- To model the potential of transformative approaches to resolving the ethnic/ecological/political conflicts in the region by creating joint Jewish/Bedouin collaborations that build towards a peaceful, just future
- To build a community of like-minded Jews, Bedouins and internationals who work together towards environmental and social justice

Some of BUSTAN's accomplishments include:

- Mobilising several hundred Jewish and Arab volunteers to build an innovative medical clinic constructed entirely of renewable materials in the village of Wadi Na'am, located next to Ramat Hovav, Israel's largest toxic waste dump
- In partnership with Rabbis for Human Rights and Physicians for Human Rights BUSTAN brought a school and health clinic for the Bedouin Jahalin tribe that had been forcibly re-located above Jerusalem's regional waste dump

Children's Power Project

The Project addresses the needs of ill children lacking access to electricity by providing renewable energy powered equipment to those in need, and draws attention to the unequal provision of services and their health impacts in unrecognised Bedouin villages, and utilises volunteers to install and maintain the energy powered equipment for communities in need.

The Project began because a three year old child of a family that has worked with BUSTAN for a long time contracted cancer. She needed refrigerated medicine, but since she lives in an 'unrecognised' village not acknowledged by the Israeli government, and therefore without electric power, water, roads, sewage, health or education services, her medication could not be refrigerated. BUSTAN was able to provide her with a solar power refrigerator, and when her cancer went into remission, the equipment was passed to a new family who had a child who needed an oxygen machine. Thus the Children's Power Project was born.

BUSTAN's approach to peacebuilding is to build concrete collaborations between peoples. In Israel there is a prevailing sense of 'us.vs. them' between the Jewish and Bedouin residents and BUSTAN

consciously resists this dichotomy. By building trust through shared experience, common goals and projects, ongoing personal relationships and sharing resources, a vision can be built together without one group imposing their own vision on the other.

The Project contributes to peace by counteracting the prevailing myths about Jews and Bedouins in Israel, by showing through example the potential achievements of working together. Concrete solutions to acute problems facing the affected communities are offered and throughout, the kind of ideal society to exist in Israel is modelled, where everyone has equal rights, lives in a healthy, sustainable environment, and all cultures are honoured and respected.

One of the main challenges is how to ensure it does not become merely a humanitarian campaign that helps a few, but that it also achieves the wider objective of drawing public attention to the unequal conditions and lack of basic services in the Negev. The general public is quite resistant to hearing about the conditions in which the Bedouin live, so the strategy of focusing on ill children overcomes these mental barriers, as people can

easily relate to the struggle of a parent to provide for their sick child. Thus a window is opened for a wider discussion regarding the root causes that produce this situation, encouraging public awareness and discussion of these issues.

BUSTAN operates in the nexus of social and environmental justice, and its model of building collaboration and cooperation between two peoples in one nation can be transferred to other contexts where there is a national minority. Many organisations pursue political solutions for issues facing Bedouin communities, while BUSTAN focuses its work towards a clean and sustainable environment in the Negev. Envisaging the situation holistically (how social and environmental factors interact with and influence each other, how environmental justice is part of social justice and vice versa), BUSTAN prioritises concrete solutions and engages residents of all ethnic communities in developing and promoting these solutions together. In a region marked by conflict and mistrust, the very act of working together across communities for common goals builds the potential for peace.

National Peace Council (NPC) works to create more favourable attitudes and behaviour among target groups towards a non-violent conflict resolution for a just and sustainable peace in Sri Lanka.

NPC's mission is to focus its efforts on creating pro-peace attitudes and behaviour across a range of 'change agents' (direct target groups), impacting the attitudes of leading players and the population at large.

Key objectives and delivery mechanisms:

- Improve awareness of mass audiences, through peace messages to media channels, well-focused publications, immediate response in cases of democratic rights violations/peace-related issues, and maintenance of strong ties with media personnel
- Initiate work with new intermediary target groups, through corporate leaders, student bodies and academic staff, trade unions and senior government
- Improve insight in short-term results and long-term impact, through targeted, diversified, interactive and tailored peace education and awareness building to individual partner organisations/leaders at community level, building, enabling and sustaining peace networks and alliances at community level, strengthening international staff capacity to enhance quality of community-level work of NPC
- Enhance quality of community-level NPC efforts, through a performance monitoring system to measure immediate results of NPC intervention, and a performance system to monitor attitudinal change among target groups

NPC concentrates on:

- Provision of reliable non-partisan information, by collecting up-to-date, reliable, relevant and objective data concerning the conflict, and packaging it in such a way (press releases, bulletins, etc.) that it can be disseminated effectively and efficiently for other important players in the peace process (particularly journalists and the international community)
- Advocacy and awareness building, by developing effective and user-friendly peace education materials (brochures, posters, research papers, etc.) and disseminating these materials to target groups. This includes identifying the most appropriate delivery mechanisms for each specific target group

- Capacity building of intermediary change agents, by building the awareness of intermediary actors, providing capacity-building services (e.g. training of trainers, education on mass communication etc.) in order to empower direct target groups to spread the message of non-violent conflict resolution more effectively. For example, the People's Forum, Gender Unit and Mobilisation Unit have been developed for grassroots-level communities to build self-sustaining and autonomous networks

A primary difficulty in the delivery of these has been reversibility - despite training, educational and interface events for over ten years, NPC's reach is directly linked to the work of local leadership. It has also been challenging to measure success - how to measure attitudinal change, and evidence the work of NPC as the driver of this change. To solve the first problem, NPC focused directly on developing grassroots networks, creating and empowering community committees and organisations that would sustain themselves, drawing wider audiences, and enabling community leaders themselves to take on leadership roles.

To tackle the problem of how to measure efforts, NPC did two things. One, NPC joined with the Marga Institute - which keeps records and conducts statistical studies on the conflict - to administer a survey across the island on peace attitudes. Knowing popular views on the conflict and devolution gives the first dimension of areas that need to be targeted. Having a follow-up survey will help identify progress towards the attitudinal change. The second thing NPC did was contract a consultant to assist in the formation of the next strategic plan, to identify a number of indicators of success, including number of articles presented to magazines for publication, number of media campaigns implemented, number of programmes initiated by partner organisations and number of people actively participating in peace events organised by the networks, among others.

In essence, NPC's approach depends on the success of its networks, the first point of interface in some communities. NPC places an emphasis on its grassroots networks and local staff composition, and views as an important asset the mix of English, Tamil and Sinhalese-speaking staff, in order to enable community leaders to plan and fund activities and campaigns.

National Peace Council (NPC), Sri Lanka
Jehan Perera
National Peace Council of Sri Lanka 12/14 Purana Vihara Road Colombo 6 Sri Lanka
T +94 11 2818344 E jehanpc@sltnet.lk W www.peace-srilanka.org





PCI was founded to promote and contribute to a life of peace and equality between Arab and Jewish citizens in Israel, by focusing on youth from the two peoples and using theatre as the chief vehicle.

Du-Drama

PCI has grown from group of 20 children in Jaffa in 1988 to a nationwide operation. Over 5,000 Arab and Jewish teenagers have gone through the programme since its inception, with some returning as facilitators. It is the only organisation using the hybrid methodology of theatre as a tool for group facilitation in the formal education framework that includes partnerships between neighbouring Arab and Jewish schools. Its programme is recognised under the auspices of the Ministry of Education's 10th grade "Community Service Project".

PCI's Du Drama programme comprises:

- 20 Weekly Meetings: PCI partners with neighbouring Arab and Jewish schools. Groups are comprised of 20-30 Arab and Jewish teenagers from the 9th and 10th grades. Each group is co-facilitated by two professionals, Arab and Jew, one with a background in theatre and the other in group facilitation and social work. School liaisons are identified by each school to act as an interface between the programme, the school and the parents. Preparation for the multicultural encounter is facilitated by four

sessions of 2 hours, emphasising individual and cultural identity. A 3-day team-building seminar is provided after the first bilateral meeting. 15 more weekly meetings of 2 hours each take place before the group sets out on a second overnight outing for the purpose of choosing the concept for an original play. A 6-week period is set aside for writing and rehearsing. A nationwide fieldtrip, which convenes all the existing groups takes place at midway at one of the major theatres in Israel

- Cooperation in Creative Process - The Play: The original bi-lingual play that is developed by each PCI group, is derived from the experiences accumulated during the 8 months of meetings. It is performed for the entire class of students one year younger than the workshop participants from both participating schools or community centres in a noon-time dress-rehearsal. An evening 'gala' performance for family, friends and the community at large is addressed by representatives of the pairing municipalities and regional councils and by the school principals. An after-show celebration, in which authentic foods are brought by the families, takes place to salute the teenagers in their efforts. In a second year of activity, 'Leadership Troupes' continue their activity by performing their plays for student audiences once-a-month.



While there are signs that, when put together in a 'sterile' environment, Arab and Jewish teenagers would find common ground as a matter of course, it is clear that they have inherited unresolved historical grievances and distortions of perspective and they are encouraged to 'remember'. The repair work of honouring the other's roots is the first challenge of dialogue, while forgiveness is the next.

This is overcome through a great investment in staff to be able to facilitate and contain the painful moments between teens who learn to care about each other but who, nevertheless, have moments of deep anger. In the context of long-term conflict and unresolved political decisions, surmounting these two basic challenges is often experienced as nearly impossible, and it is this challenge that the Du-Drama approach works to address.



Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, India

Meenakshi Gopinath

Foundation for Universal Responsibility
Core 4A
Upper Ground Floor
India Habitat Centre
Lodi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India

T +91-11-24648450
E meenug11@gmail.com
W www.wiscomp.org

WISCOMP is an initiative of the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of HH The Dalai Lama, New Delhi, and provides a space for research, training, networking and advocacy on issues at the interface of gender, security and peacebuilding.

WISCOMP strives to:

- Enhance the role of women as peacebuilders and agents for social change
- Empower a new generation of women and men with the expertise and skills to engage in peace activism
- Contribute to an inclusive, people-oriented discourse on issues of security, which respects diversity and which foregrounds the perspectives of women and the marginalised
- Facilitate theory-building and innovative research to address the resolution and transformation of intra- and inter-state conflicts
- Build constituencies of peace through training and research

The work of WISCOMP is informed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognises that civilians - particularly women and children - are the worst affected by conflict, and that this is a threat to peace and security. The Resolution calls for their participation in conflict prevention and resolution initiatives and integration of gender perspectives into peacebuilding.

Women Building Constituencies of Peace: Jammu and Kashmir (The Athwaas initiative)

Athwaas (a Kashmiri word that invokes the idea of a 'handshake') comprises a group of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh women who work to expand constituencies of peace through active listening, trauma counselling, conflict transformation workshops, articulation of the concerns of women to policy makers and government interlocutors, and initiation of programmes that facilitate democratic participation and a just peace.

Specifically, the Athwaas approach to peacebuilding combines a variety of strands:

- Changing relationships and building new ones through trauma healing work, sustained dialogue and reconciliation workshops
- Capacity building and empowerment programmes, including training and skill enhancement on issues relating to livelihood, participatory rural appraisal, workshops on justice and legal rights, working with students and teachers
- Peace research

Athwaas is delivered through:

- A series of workshops to enhance skills in trauma counselling for health workers and teachers and economic empowerment for women displaced by the conflict
- Retreats and reflective workshops to introspect and strategise the road ahead

- Setting up of Samanbal centres (a Kashmiri word that represents coming together) as spaces for healing, reconciliation; plan collective action in key districts of the Kashmir valley as well as a migrant camp in Jammu, home to a minority population displaced due to the conflict

Some of the key challenges for Athwaas have been:

- To break the silence of women of Jammu and Kashmir on issues related to the conflict and the road ahead
- To respect ethnic, religious even political differences among members of the core Athwaas team and identify and work on commonalities
- To reach out to members of the 'other' community and understand that the pain of one community does not cancel the pain of the other and that all had suffered though in different ways
- To move from a feeling of victimhood to charting agentive moments in their lives even in the midst of the violence

In essence, the Athwaas approach brings together people across myriad fault lines - women and men across the 3 regions, different religious backgrounds, across class divisions, from different professional backgrounds and diverse political convictions to dialogue on how to proceed towards peaceful coexistence. They come to a realisation that it is possible to work with differences - not just identity differences but also political differences if there is a common understanding around fundamental areas. There is also a significant personal transformation of the Athwaas members as a result of their collective journey, and the link between personal and social transformation.



The Peace Foundation is committed to promoting harmonious relationships through education and research, and aims to promote a climate of peace in New Zealand, together with a public understanding and awareness of the mutual interdependence of all countries and people.

Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme
The Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme is a 'whole school' programme which teaches primary, intermediate and secondary school students the skills and processes to resolve conflict effectively and peacefully. This approach means that the whole school community has to develop the skills of mediation and conflict resolution in order to change the school culture positively and effectively.

The initial training begins with training all the staff and this includes not just the teaching staff but also the support staff like the receptionist, caretaker, bus driver etc.

The teachers then train their students in a seven part training course which covers relevant mediator skills e.g. active listening and communication. Students are then invited to apply to be mediators and once selected, are rostered to work in the playground and sometimes in the classroom as well. The mediators are identified by a special uniform, and children caught up in conflicts, including bullying, have the option of approaching a

mediator or a teacher for help. If both parties are willing a mediation session takes place with students agreeing to not interrupt, tell the truth, suggest a resolution etc. 90% of the time agreement is reached and a contract signed.

Once the programme is implemented in the school the parents and wider community are invited into the schools to take part in the 'Bring Cool Schools Home' programme. This programme involves the student mediators modelling the mediation skills to their parents/caregivers who are then also taught mediation and conflict resolution skills to resolve conflict at home and also in the community.

Key Objectives:

- Help individuals develop life-long mediation and conflict management skills
- Focus on building positive relationships with others
- Create win/win situations for students, teachers, parents, caregivers and the wider community
- Provide life skills for school, home and the workplace
- Empower students to help other students
- Be proactive, helping to prevent bullying and other levels of conflict
- Provide a better learning environment where schools are safe and violence-free
- Encourage students to develop the value of service leadership

Every Cool School is encouraged to receive an annual 'Revisit' from their regional Cool Schools trainer, to provide additional support and training to the staff and mediators to ensure effective implementation of the programme.

Coordinators from the region together with the Cool Schools National Manager and the Cool Schools Regional Trainer meet to discuss and share innovations, successes, needs, challenges, new resources, programme developments, etc. Coordinators leave these meetings recharged and feeling enthusiastic about how they can implement the programme more successfully in their school.

The Programme contributes to peacebuilding by teaching students, teachers, parents/caregivers and the wider community the skills and processes of mediation and conflict resolution.

Since 1991 over two-thirds of all the primary, intermediate and secondary schools in New Zealand have requested training.

What makes the programme stand out, and the key factor in its success is that is a 'whole school' programme that begins in the schools with teachers and students, and then engages with parents/caregivers and the wider community so that it has a powerful and widespread 'ripple' effect.

The Programme is cross-culturally effective, and has been introduced to ethnically diverse schools in New Zealand and also in full immersion Maori schools where only Maori language is used. The programme is currently being introduced in Fiji where schools are using the programme to suit their cultural customs and native language(s).

Essentially, the central philosophy of the Programme - to empower young people to resolve conflict effectively and peacefully and to share this expertise outwards - is one which can be integrated into any culture.



Press Now offers media training to media workers in regions experiencing conflict, and promotes the development of open and democratic societies by supporting independent media in regions of conflict and countries in transition from conflict, including the Balkans, Central Asia, Caucasus and Africa.

Press Now, Netherlands
Wilco de Jonge
Linnaeusstraat 35-F 1093 EE Amsterdam Postbank 7676 The Netherlands
T +31 20 568 20 20 E dejonge@pressnow.nl W www.pressnow.nl

Specifically, Press Now promotes the development of a varied and sustainable media landscape in regions of conflict and transitional countries. Press Now's mission is to enable independent media outlets to function as well-managed businesses, whose editorial independence is secured, so that citizens are provided with reliable and objective information from multiple news sources. Press Now's aim is to increase their independence, quality, effectiveness, professionalism and self-sustainability.

Independent Media Support

- Key objectives of the Independent Media Support:
- Help independent media organisations (such as radio, TV, internet and print outlets; journalistic broadcasting companies; press agencies and journalists' associations) to become financially sustainable contributors to human rights values and democracy in their countries by providing expert training
 - Improve journalistic quality
 - Improve interaction with their audience/members/beneficiaries
 - Improve the audience/number of members
 - Improve advertisement revenue and/or sales and/or beneficiaries' financial contributions

- The Independent Media Support contributes to peacebuilding by:
- Strengthening financially independent media outlets, training centres and media institutions that are trained in high-quality journalism
 - Contributing to free accessibility of unbiased, balanced information, essential in countering propaganda
 - Enabling the free exchange of views and discussion on equal terms between various communities in order to prevent them from using violence when trying to make themselves heard
 - Enabling more open coverage of sensitive political issues, which in turn strengthens the transition towards a liberal democratic system that is supportive of peace at home and abroad

Press Now's challenges relate to:

- The danger of producing/continuing donor dependency. Sometimes organisations are more focused on pleasing donors than the potential audience/members in their own country. Solution: communicating maximum of 5 years' financial support very clearly to our partner organisations, and at the same time providing them with tools to address their potential audience effectively
- The danger of intercultural communication difficulties during project development and project implementation. Solution: employing coordinators from the targeted region itself, and having local trainers work alongside the Press Now international trainers

The Independent Media Support trains financially independent media outlets, training centres and media institutions in high-quality journalism, in turn, contributing to free accessibility of unbiased, balanced information. The focus is placed firmly on promoting financial sustainability, and matching high-quality experts with first-hand experience in development and management of high-quality media organisations to demand in target countries.

If the development of a diverse and democratic media is a prerequisite for the development of democracy and civil society, then so often, conflicts are fuelled by the manipulation of information. A strong and open civil society can develop when supported by a pluralistic, independent media that voices different opinions, reflects multiple views, stimulates public debate, acts as a watchdog on society, and holds authorities to account. It is this need that Press Now works to meet.



The GCSP is an international foundation established in 1995 under Swiss law to promote the building and maintenance of peace, security and stability.

Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Switzerland
Raj Rana
7 bis, Avenue de la Paix P.O. Box 1295 1211 Geneva 1 Switzerland
T +41 22 906 1600 E r.rana@gcsp.ch W www.gcsp.ch/peacebuilding

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
The Platform is a joint initiative between the GCSP, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva.

Following the establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, a clear mandate for Geneva in relation to the Commission needed to be established. With a wealth of organisations, research resources, and field experience based around the city, 'International Geneva' can become an important partner for the Peacebuilding Commission, and can offer a significant contribution to its peacebuilding mandate.

International Geneva has significant expertise in niche sectors of peacebuilding, yet networking between organisations with activities in peacebuilding was underdeveloped, thus diminishing the overall effectiveness of Geneva for the international community and countries in crisis.

The Peacebuilding Platform aims to provide practical understanding of peacebuilding issues, without the inherent constraints of the UN system and with the ability to break down institutional barriers by working from 'outside the system'.

It is meant to be an action-oriented forum, driven by its stakeholders, serving the needs they determine, and working to showcase their policy, problems and successes. It takes as its model the Geneva Forum, a similar structure that addresses the needs of the specialised disarmament community for which Geneva is well known.

- Key objectives:
- Draw from the expertise and relevance of International Geneva and explore contributions Geneva can make to the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Support Office and other peacebuilding agencies
 - Support the specific work of the Commission and the Support Office, and link initiatives, capacity and expertise between New York, Geneva and countries emerging from conflict
 - Complement field efforts of these agencies through coordination and implementation of consolidation strategies, by bringing together concepts and actors to discuss the issues faced

Delivery mechanisms to achieve these aims include:

- Issuing publications dedicated to practice-based aspects of peacebuilding within International Geneva organisations, catering to needs of all stakeholders and advancing the peacebuilding debate at large
- Country-specific research and events, bringing academic, policy and operational perspectives on existing, new or potential focus countries of the Peacebuilding Commission
- Ongoing mapping of global peacebuilding capacity and expertise
- Promoting Geneva-based expertise and advisory services, mainstreaming peacebuilding into operational thinking and practice of Geneva-based organisations, and supporting the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Support Office/countries under consideration
- Public discussions promoting awareness of peacebuilding, as well as efforts to bridge the New York-Geneva peacebuilding gap

One of the greatest concerns while the Platform is being implemented in Geneva is the low level of awareness of peacebuilding, even among UN organisations. In response, the Platform involves conducting outreach and awareness raising, and will also focus on developing teaching tools to support the mainstreaming of peacebuilding thinking into the policy and practice of operational agencies, with a particular focus on developing the capacity of key decision-makers.

Rather than an academic endeavour, or another space for dialogue, the Platform is above all about providing practical understanding of peacebuilding issues for its stakeholders, and is driven fully by their needs.

War Child Holland Sierra Leone (WCH-SL), Netherlands and Sierra Leone
Brechtje Kalksma - van Lith
Postbus 10018 1001 AE Amsterdam The Netherlands
20B Thailand Drive Barbadorie (Lumley) Freetown
T +31 020 422 77 77 (Netherlands) E brechtje.kalksma@warchild.nl W www.warchild.org/projects/ WC_Holland/Sierra_Leone/ sierra_leone

War Child Holland is an independent international NGO investing in a peaceful future for children affected by armed conflict, and has programmes throughout Europe, Asia and Africa, applying the power of creative arts and sports to reinforce the psychological and social development and welfare of children in (former) war zones, and raising public awareness of their situation.

Community-based Psychosocial Programme
Sierra Leone (CBPS)

The war in Sierra Leone broke down the social fabric in communities, resulting in negative interactions between community members, and in particular between parents and children. Rebuilding peaceful communities of support and peaceful engagement is one of the major post-war challenges.

Key objectives:

- Foster sustainable community structures to involve children and youth through community action
- Raise awareness of child rights and psychological and social development through implementation of a tailor-made community action plan and bottom-up and participatory approach involving local people in exploring local solutions
- Contribute to community cohesion through participative support activities and encouragement of cultural events not practised since the conflict; community meetings to increase interaction
- Help children and youth gain life skills
- Enlarge educational opportunities through training of trainers

The programme contributes to peacebuilding on two levels:

- Personal level: strengthening resilience, the potential for personal growth is maximised. Children, youth and community members gain conflict resolution skills
- Collective level: community cohesion is promoted by joint activities and cultural engagement, building trust between community members (and between communities) maximising understanding and results in reconciliation and forgiveness

WCH-SL identifies key groups within the community, consulting and engaging with them through a needs assessment. Following this, a joint action planning session is conducted, resulting in the development of a programme that meets the needs and circumstances of particular people in a community.

WCH-SL partners with existing structures actively involved in all stages of the programme, from the assessment and design, to the implementation and evaluation of activities. In each community a structure is put into place for the coordination and monitoring of project activities. This ensures the project is tailor-made, and guarantees a level of ownership and support for the programme. This element is instrumental to its sustainability after WCH-SL phases out of target communities after a two-year cycle, when the existing community platforms take over complete responsibility.

One of the key factors for successful delivery is true commitment from community members to the essence of the programme. As a result, one of the major challenges is to ensure and maintain a high level of motivation and commitment towards the overall programme. The programme depends on the initiatives and efforts of the community. To meet this challenge, an assessment is conducted when entering a community, raising awareness of child-rights and peacebuilding. During this process, the motivation and commitment of key stakeholders (chiefs, community leaders, etc.) towards the proposed involvement of WCH-SL can be both gauged and fostered, through a process of engagement.

Another challenge is the point at which WCH-SL phases out of communities. In the past, communities have found they are not ready to run activities by themselves. To tackle this problem, WCH-SL ensures it is clear and transparent with stakeholders about how long the process will take and what can and cannot be expected. The phasing-out process begins at the very point of going into the community. The focus, therefore, is on strongly involving community members in the initial needs assessments and at all times. From an early stage a sustainability plan, describing how the community will continue activities without external support, is designed and implemented.

WCH-SL pursues an integrated approach to peacebuilding, touching not only on children's direct environment and life skills, but on the community as a whole, supporting the way people interact with one another as well as with other communities.

In this sense, grassroots ownership and leadership are important from the outset. The process must be carried by the community itself, so that community members are not just 'participating', but also playing an active and promoting role throughout the process.





Beyond Skin, Northern Ireland	
Darren Ferguson	
5a Sandown Road Belfast BT5 6GT Northern Ireland United Kingdom	
T	+44 (0)2890 473695
E	info@beyondskin.net
W	www.beyondskin.net www.beyondskin.net/ themotionproject.htm

Beyond Skin was established in 2004 to use the arts to address sectarianism and the rise in racism. Since then, the cultural make-up of Northern Ireland has changed dramatically, which in turn has produced many problems. Beyond Skin works to tackle these problems and to use the arts as its main vehicle.

- Key objectives:
- To address racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland through multicultural arts
 - To promote positive attributes reflected from a society made up of different cultures
 - To promote multicultural arts for the benefit of the inhabitants of Northern Ireland
 - To promote racial harmony and the exchange of cultural ideas and relations through the medium of the arts
 - To contribute to maintaining a peaceful society in Northern Ireland
 - To increase social awareness of different cultures within Northern Ireland
 - To increase links between communities from different cultural backgrounds
 - To present, promote, organise, manage and produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value

From the start, Beyond Skin have always wished to move 'against the grain' in project development; and even though some very heavy issues are being addressed, the idea that its projects should reflect this 'heaviness' is something that Beyond Skin have always disagreed with.

From the development of the multi-cultural collective, The Motion Project, to the setting-up of a cultural music and educational radio broadcast, Homely Planet, Beyond Skin have always looked at constantly reinventing itself, ensuring that it is an organisation that is not comfortable to stay in one fixed format, not taking into account the changing times around it.

Beyond Skin's drive is to hit each of its aims and objectives, but as an organisation does not believe in attaining some 'high point', setting-up camp there and then remaining only on familiar ground. Beyond Skin will always be developing, with a strategy that is not a straight line to reach a destination, but rather a full circle to become sustainable and to maximise the capacity of projects. This in turn generates better results, promotes the issues along the way - and not the organisation.

The key element of project delivery is partnership and participation. Beyond Skin's approach is to give ownership of the projects to those involved. This is applied internally (employed staff and volunteers) and externally (groups, individuals, schools etc.). Partnership programmes are welcomed, and in turn Beyond Skin shares its ideas and projects.

Communication plays a massive part in this approach, building up good relationships with any of those worked with, such as education boards, council units, individuals, etc.

This in turn means a significant investment on the part of the project managers in building up and nurturing those relationships across Northern Ireland.

One outcome of Beyond Skin's approach that is not actually one its primary objectives is 'Confidence Building'. This realisation that out of its approach, greater confidence on the part of its project beneficiaries is gained, has enabled Beyond Skin to adapt its programming to ensure that this opportunity was not missed. A partnership has been developed with a life coaching group and has been built into some programmes. The success of this approach is not only that people learn and take part in something new, but that they develop their own self-confidence through it. By upholding this confidence-building approach, people become aware that promoting unity and peace does not just affect the wider community, but can have a massively positive impact on the self as well.

In essence, Beyond Skin's approach is to bring together a whole team of creative colleagues, from committee, staff and artists who deliver Beyond Skin's programmes. With such a team, possibilities, rather than barriers, can be seen. The approach is one where everyone has an input, and there is a positive and proactive target-audience focus, where the motto is: 'Don't organise something you wouldn't go to yourself'. In this sense, those who are benefiting from the programmes are those same people and groups who are brought into the process and inform its development along the way.

City Bridges is a trade union initiative which aims to tackle prejudice and discrimination in society and the workplace. Its strategic objectives are to:

- Develop anti-discriminatory programmes
- Develop a meaningful cross-border, cross-community partnership
- Develop the capacity of the trade union movement at grassroots level to address the issues and so effect change in society

The Moving On Project

Moving On is a unique project to equip trade union representatives with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to enable them to engage more effectively with and on behalf of their members on the issues of peace and reconciliation, good relations in the workplace, equity, diversity and interdependence. Moving On recruits and trains experienced representatives to become champions for change within their trade unions and workplace.

Key objectives of Moving On:

- Mainstream key themes relating to equality and reconciliation into the workplace thus contributing to better employment cultures and to a more peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland
- Develop meaningful and sustainable cross-border Moving On partnerships on a cross-community basis within and between trade unions to build peace and cooperation at the level of the workplace and in the community
- Encourage trade unions, individual members and their employers to acquire new skills and confidence to combat racism, sectarianism, discrimination, intimidation, bullying and oppression in the workplace and in the community

Moving On project activities include:

- Carry out research to ascertain the most up-to-date information, policy developments, best practice and thinking on the key themes of peace and reconciliation
- Commission a peace and reconciliation training programme for use in the workplace
- Deliver training sessions on the themes such as Peace and Reconciliation; Section 75 of Northern Ireland Act 1998; New Targeting Social Need and Social Inclusion; Good Relations

The project identified that the two main communities in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties come together regularly in the workplace. It therefore follows that representatives in the workplace are an important source of influence to train in the need for peace and reconciliation.

Evaluation of Moving On suggests improvements in the attitudes of participants as a result of challenging sessions in which they have been encouraged to address their own prejudices. Trainees have also reported feeling increasingly confident and more greatly equipped to deal with such issues themselves in the future and become 'champions for change' within their unions, workplaces and communities.

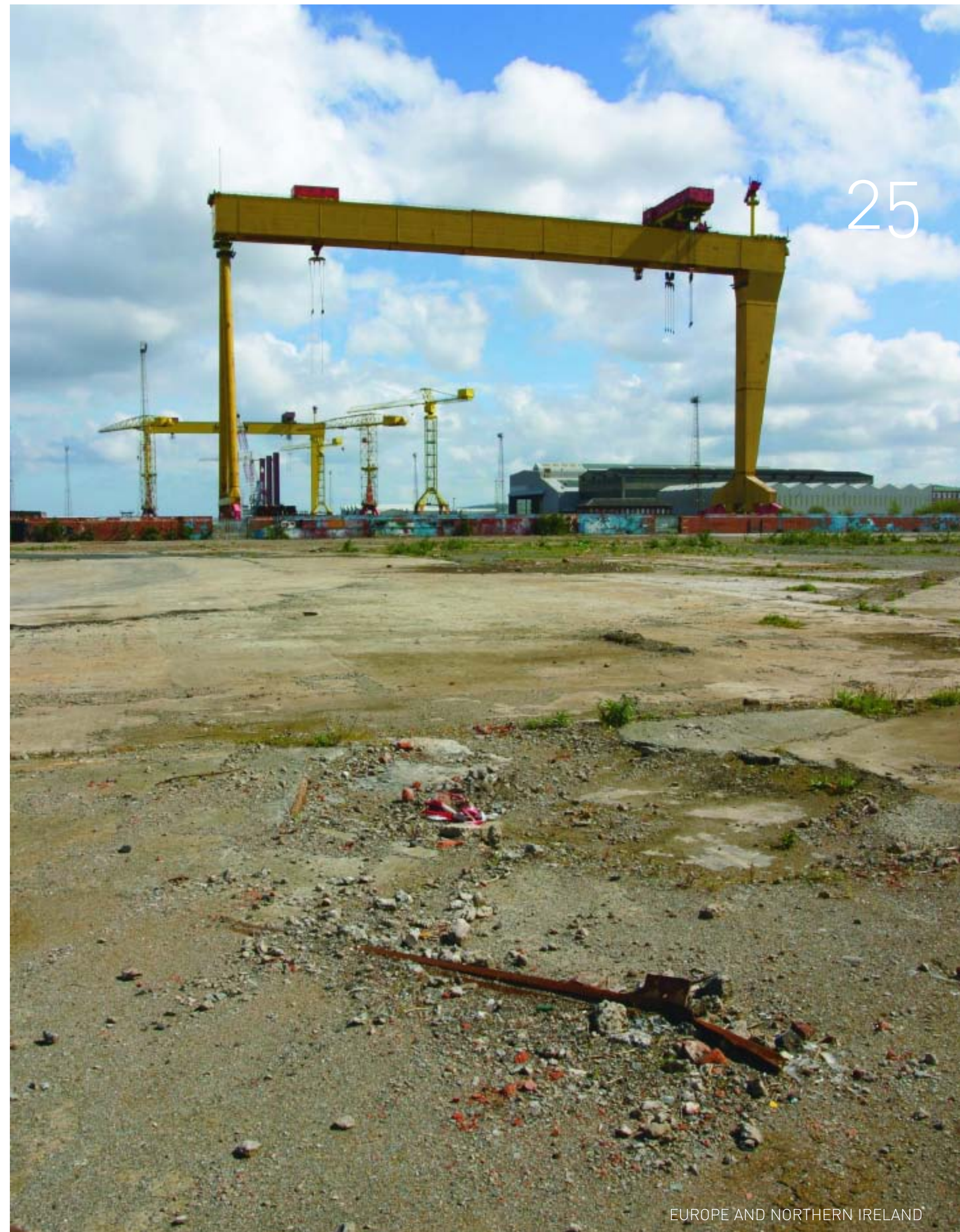
Moving On emphasises the partnership approach - within the workplace, between trade unions and between bodies on both sides of the border. This is increasingly visible through recent cross-border activities being developed by unions with representation north and south as well as trades councils and union-supported voluntary groups.

One of the main challenges was the lack of appropriate training material on Peace and Reconciliation for the workplace. This necessitated determining a specification for new materials as part of the project.

Another challenge was securing time off in order for participants to attend Moving On events. This was overcome by liaising closely with trade union officials who advocated on behalf of the project using facility agreements. A discussion of potential barriers to effective participation in the project was a useful exercise, and led to the understanding that greater numbers of participants, and more effective delivery of training could be achieved if the project were conducted on a residential basis. This proved to be effective in network-building.

By involving parties on both a cross-community AND cross-border basis, and by blending the participants from across different unions, greater sectoral experience within the groups and greater diversity was achieved.

By bringing together a range of participants under their wider relationship to the trade union movement, Moving On focused on building capacity to make personal contributions to the development of peace and reconciliation in the workplace and the community.





Messines Association, Northern Ireland
Harry Donaghy
T.T.R. & E. Project 45-47 Donegall Street Belfast BT1 2FG Northern Ireland
T +44 (0)28 90961111 E messines04@hotmail.com W www.messinesassociation.org

The Messines Association is dedicated to, and actively works for and promotes peace and reconciliation through the study and examination of the common and shared history of the people of the Island of Ireland.

The Association actively addresses peace and reconciliation through the provision of opportunities for participants from the divided traditions to engage in joint training programmes covering training in life and employability skills, and in particular, accredited and unaccredited courses to participants from single identity, interface and isolated communities in Northern Ireland and in the Border Counties.

The approach of the Association acknowledges that a large part of building peace is about directly addressing the received history that serves to underpin division. Its main challenge is persuading those who cherish this history the most, of the value of critically re-examining it.

The Association's approach addresses events in Northern Ireland's shared history, which are often embraced by one tradition and rejected by the other. The challenge was to bring both communities together around these issues. This was achieved by ongoing communication with individuals of influence and vision within both communities, who recognised the opportunity the programmes represented and championed them on the ground.

The joint training programmes directly address the attitudes and beliefs that sustain conflict, while simultaneously creating opportunities for broader dialogue between communities, ranging from those who have no direct experience of one another to those who live at the interface with each. The project emphasises the importance of the relationships which underpin the activities and quality of the learning and experience it provides.



The Wider Circle, Northern Ireland
Martina Mullin O'Hare
The Wider Circle 76-78 Hamill Street Belfast BT12 4AA Northern Ireland
T +44 (0)28 9024 5595 E info@widercircle.org W www.widercircle.org

The Wider Circle works to facilitate a process of self-healing, enabling people to heal themselves and others, and, in so doing, raise their self-esteem and confidence to a level that empowers them to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Structured Self-Help Trauma Programmes
Specifically, the Wider Circle offers trauma programmes and training to those who suffer from trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and to those caring for traumatised individuals.

- Key objectives:
- Meeting the needs of the traumatised at a local level
 - Programmes designed and implemented by local people
 - Increased awareness of trauma, the common symptoms and the effect on individuals, families and communities as a whole
 - Education on self-care and coping mechanisms for the traumatised
 - To deliver developmental group-based, structured, self-help therapeutic educational programmes that deal with the centrality of trauma, accessible to individuals from communities most affected by the impact of trauma
 - To structure the programmes to reflect needs and circumstances of participants
 - To ensure the programme facilitators are provided with adequate support and supervision to carry out their roles with the programme. This supervision ensures therapeutic support and heighten their awareness of group dynamics and to work through conflict and any difficulties (or potential) between the facilitators

The key element to success is a structured group-work approach that is well researched and proven to work with PTSD and Trauma (i.e. narrative and art/design therapy) in a group setting facilitated by volunteers who have already gone through the trauma programme themselves.

The overarching aim is to promote good practice in all work with victims/survivors through the programme and research that is aimed at the communities themselves. This professional programme has a primary aim to improve the individual's health and wellbeing. This is only the first step in developing awareness of the individual's own place in society and providing opportunities for them to re-engage in wider activities, including volunteering and employment.

One of the greatest difficulties in delivering the programmes was to reach out to the great majority of victims/survivors often isolated within their communities and in their homes. This was tackled by carrying out a series of community broadcasts about the work of the Wider Circle and its trauma publication *The Sky Before The Storm* on local broadcast media. The next step, once funding was secured, was to capitalise on the opportunities created through this publicity and publish and disseminate 10,000 copies of the publication to all the primary healthcare points in Northern Ireland. This has now taken place across two consecutive years, and the response from the public has been extremely encouraging.

By raising self-esteem on an individual and a collective basis, the Structured Self-Help Trauma Programmes enable people from different traditions in Northern Ireland to learn to respect one another and to see the hurt and healing others are going through, and in this sense, make an important contribution to peacebuilding.



**Alianza Educación para la
Construcción de Culturas de Paz**
[Education Alliance for Building
Cultures of Peace], Colombia

Gonzalo Rivera

Calle 72
No 10-71
Piso 11
AA 110416 de Bogotá
Colombia

E secretariatecnica@
educacionparalapaz.org.co
W www.educacionparalapaz.org.co

The Education Alliance for Building Cultures of Peace supports the strengthening of expertise, building cultures of peace through cooperation and technical assistance, building up the Alliance through the development of knowledge management programmes, and influencing public policy and communication.

The Alliance helps to make the contributions towards building cultures of peace more visible, better understood and more highly valued. The Alliance also works to increase its impact when it comes to transforming violent acts and interpersonal, domestic, organised and social conflict, in the search for peace in Colombia.

Key objectives:

- Increase the capability of institutions as builders of cultures of peace
- Make visible, recognise, strengthen, support, protect, expand and respond to expertise in building cultures of peace and living together
- Create spaces for sustained dialogue which allow communities to build frameworks for reference, which they can then use to understand and express their own reality
- Set up a knowledge management system for building cultures of peace, based on the analysis of experience, research and continual learning
- Contribute to increasing awareness, responsibility and the capabilities of institutions, associations, the economic sector and civil society as builders of cultures of peace
- Contribute to the development of public policy on education for peace

At present, the Alliance is made up of 16 national and international organisations, whose main aim is to contribute, through education, to building cultures of peace and democratic coexistence, at a national, regional and local level.

In 1999 a group of professionals from the World Bank met with representatives from the National Education Ministry and representatives of Antioquia and Bolívar, in Cartagena city. The aim: to share the 15 Educational Projects for Peace which have been developing very successfully in Colombia. The group of experts, gathered in Cartagena, recognised that this expertise was an example of peacebuilding worthy of support and promotion. This led to inviting different national and international bodies to join forces and pool resources with the aim of offering support for such expertise, an initiative which became a reality in November 2002 when the Alliance's Agreement on Cooperation and Technical Assistance was signed.

The Alliance supports the design and testing of educational programmes and formal and informal pedagogical models which aim to develop competence, emotional, communication and leadership skills, building an environment conducive to living together in peace, citizenship, participation in the democratic process, conflict resolution, cultural diversity and gender equality.

The Alliance has brought about a particularly positive social and political impact in relation to a knowledge management strategy and the strengthening of the culture of evaluation within Colombia, an area that has until now remained largely untapped. The Alliance focuses on equipping peacebuilders to manage and lead successful discussions with policy makers by providing sufficient data and evaluation on which to base their arguments to government officials, financial backers, academics and other influential figures. The Alliance seeks to overcome such obstacles to evaluation and data-gathering in the peacebuilding sector through raising awareness among communities and organisations, and through the production and distribution of clear, relevant and effective monitoring and evaluation tools to train those involved at all levels.

Bringing together different influences, struggles, expertise and strategies for moving forward under one single identity is not necessarily a new process. However, the Alliance specialises in identifying good pedagogical practice in a conflict which at first appears hostile to a new process for moving forward. The Alliance takes on board good practice and raises awareness of it, through a series of different communication channels, so that new methods can serve as models for peacebuilding.

By bringing together local organisations, schools or neighbourhood groups around a common interest, the Alliance enables these groups to be their own agents for change, and gives a new sense of belonging as a result of the increased participation in community initiatives and the creation of new links with the local community.



PODION is a Colombian NGO working since 1990 in the promotion, cooperation and assessment of participative sustainable development programmes with NGOs, religious institutions, communities and social grassroots-level organisations.

Strategic objectives:

- To offer services to attract members, assessment and advice to help promote processes of regional and local development
- To promote actions that help provide a systematic approach to promoting exchanges and the coordination of local and regional efforts and strategies
- To emphasise analysis and reflection on development and peaceful co-existence through the defence and respect for human rights
- To work towards the construction of social citizenship capable of influencing national policies

School for Trainers in Democracy and Peace

The School is a training programme developed in conjunction with two international peace-workers, and brings together 32 social institutions and organisations from different parts of the country. These groups have realised the importance of training their members and communities in topics which allow them to approach conflict from a distinctive standpoint, as well as creating strategies which allow for the development of social and community work in a context of armed violence and conflict, as is the case in Colombia.

The School focuses on the following main lines of training:

- Democratic conflict management
- Human rights and international humanitarian law
- Psychosocial solidarity
- Methods of popular education

Following on from the training process, PODION undertakes a follow-up and works alongside trainers and offers two workshops each year to refresh topics as defined by them, thus responding to their needs and interests.

20 locations across the country now have 'Local Schools', where an average of 25 people have participated, all of them identified as leaders in their communities and therefore with important roles in their development.

The focus is on training for action, which means that the key aim is that those concerned at local and national level, will work towards peace, justice and democracy. To implement this proposal, agreements are sought with organisations and institutions for social development (NGOs and social groups) from different areas of the country, with the aim of attracting some of their members and/or officials to the School training programme.

PODION encourages a multiplier effect, and during the training process, trainers take the process to their local areas. Group meetings ensure that trainees exchange experiences, and share the advances and difficulties experienced.

Another way to encourage the positive benefits of the training outwards is the promotion and creation of a network of Schools with regional nodes. These regional nodes are recognised nationally for their work in the promotion of peace, through training in human rights, conflict transformation and psychosocial solidarity. The network is a mechanism through which the social fabric created by the training process is strengthened, with the aim of building and empowering the national peace movement.

One of the key challenges for the development of the Schools has been how to establish and maintain permanent, effective communication with and between the teams of trainers, given the issues with virtual/online communication in the country and the technical infrastructure in certain areas. This is an ongoing process, and one which entails augmenting PODION's systems for maintaining good physical, as well as virtual contact between teams, such as meetings and workshops.

The School approach contributes to peacebuilding in a number of ways. In the broadest sense, it offers training in the fundamental topics to create processes and strategies to tackle violence and transform and resolve conflicts peacefully. But it is also an approach that helps define community leaders, who emerge in many areas of the country due to necessity and vulnerability when faced with armed conflict and the diverse types of violence blighting society.

Through the Schools network, the people trained in the process constitute, empower and invite others to join the building of a national peace movement which, rooted in the defence of human rights, conflict transformation and psychosocial support, contributes to the promotion of participation and influences the planning of local and national government agendas.



Center for Mediation, Peace,
and Resolution of Conflict
(CEMPROC) International,
USA and Ecuador

Jeff Pugh

5110 Jekyll Road
Cumming
GA 30040
USA

T 443-286-9843
E info@cemproc.org
W <http://www.cemproc.org>

CEMPROC seeks to reduce destructive conflict and promote global peace, and aims to: promote mediation and other peaceful methods of conflict resolution on a grassroots level; to provide training and capacity building in conflict resolution skills, particularly in marginalised areas; to equip potential and actual leaders to become successful peacebuilders within their areas of influence; and to support an integrated process of community development.

Breaking Destructive Cycles Programme
CEMPROC, together with the UN High Commission on Refugees and UN Development Fund for Women offices in Ecuador, and a number of other partners initiated a training series and an open dialogue forum for Colombian and Ecuadorian women who are leaders in their communities.

In response to the conflict that is sometimes sparked between the two nationalities due to increased economic competition, crime, public health problems and xenophobia, the programme provided training in conflict resolution, leadership, human rights and violence reduction, and provided a safe space for honest and open dialogue.

The programme engaged the participants in active learning, empowering them with personal skills and understanding of peaceful conflict resolution techniques as well as providing them with a safe space to develop the leadership skills to enact peaceful and effective social change through their organisations, communities, families and social networks.

With the assistance of a psychologist, the participants on the training were also given a chance to talk about, understand and work through some of the traumas of the past in order to become better prepared as peacemakers to assist others in conflict.

The overall objectives of the programme were to transform relations between two sometimes conflictual populations by creating a core group with common experiences that is committed to building inter-communal bridges. In addition, the programme sought to strengthen the capacity of community leaders, and by extension, their networks and organisations to deal with destructive conflict within their areas of influence.

The model developed with the Breaking Destructive Cycles programme focuses on the inter-communal or inter-group conflict settings, where tensions are raised between two or more populations. Combining a training course with a dialogue series/forum, the programme builds trust and shares common experiences as participants learn and practice conflict resolution and peacebuilding skills. The confidence to share experiences and insights about relations between the two groups is built, and by hearing and understanding the stories and experiences of peers who participants grow to trust, participants re-examine their own assumptions and attitudes towards the other group as a whole.

A number of challenges faced the programme. Originally conceived as a course targeted at refugees, it soon became obvious that most refugees in Ibarra were unlikely to attend a long, in-depth training. In addition, often it was fear that impeded refugees from reaching out to others and forming the networks of influence necessary for the desired multiplier effects of the training. In order to deal with these challenges, CEMPROC shifted the target audience to community leaders, including established Colombian residents, Ecuadorian leaders in business, NGO and education sectors, as well as social service providers who work directly with refugees. In this way, a group of committed women was brought together who would be able to attend in-depth training and carry the skills, knowledge and changed attitudes that they gained through the programme into their existing networks and areas of influence.

With the combination of skill building and attitudinal change that came from combining a training with a dialogue process, as well as the follow up contacts that CEMPROC carried out to continue the sense of community among the participants, the women participating on the programme were able to make changes in their own lives and act as bridge-builders within their communities. This positive inter-group understanding emerging out of the programme paves the way for direct conflict resolution courses for refugees, as well as the diffusion of research results detailing the primary sources of conflict between Ecuadorian and Colombian populations and proposing recommendations for addressing these conflicts.



The International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience fights for every community's right to preserve places of past struggle for democracy, to talk openly about what happened there, and to confront the contemporary legacies associated with those events.

Sites of Conscience Museums (Site Museums)

Specifically, Site Museums:

- Interpret history through historic sites
- Engage in programmes that stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues and promote humanitarian and democratic values as a primary function
- Share opportunities for public involvement in issues arising from the site

Site Museums are continually evolving spaces that draw on the changes of the societies within which they find themselves. They have a common goal to:

- Draw explicit connections between past and present
- Foster dialogue among diverse stakeholders
- Open avenues for citizen participation in other human rights or transitional justice efforts

Site Museums contribute to peacebuilding:

- By catalysing democratic change: when thousands of homes in District Six in Cape Town were razed to the ground to make way for a whites-only district, residents covered the floor

of a remaining building with a map of their destroyed neighbourhood, inviting people to 'place' themselves back home. This site, charged with the energy of memory, became the District Six Museum, the centre of a resistance movement that stopped the construction of the whites-only district and fostered countless anti-apartheid actions

- Though broad and long-term impact: historic sites involve ordinary citizens in making change, not only leaders or experts, and represent a powerful vehicle for raising public awareness of current human rights issues
- They connect past to present and memory to action

Although the Coalition was founded first to develop and exchange programmatic models for fostering effective dialogue, it soon becomes clear that there were different kinds of political opposition to opening public discussion on sensitive questions from multiple perspectives. Memorialisation was too often seen as an instrument or vehicle of one particular political agenda, rather than as a catalyst for broad-based citizen participation in making change. The Coalition realised that it had a responsibility to advocate for the right of sites not only to exist, but to serve as places where their communities could engage with each other openly across difference on the most sensitive questions of their past and future.

To meet this challenge, the Coalition is now developing a comprehensive communications and advocacy campaign. The campaign is designed to open the space for Site Museums to thrive in the long term by promoting the importance of historic sites for building lasting cultures of human rights to key publics and opinion leaders in government, social justice and arts and culture. Also important is creating a process that embraces and fosters debate around memorialisation in a productive and non-violent way.

Like transitional justice processes, many Site Museums seek to expose the truth about past human rights abuses and to provide a form of symbolic reparations to victims. But their goals go beyond uncovering evidence and publicly acknowledging past crimes. Instead, they seek to host and facilitate ongoing dialogue among all sectors of society about the implications of that evidence for how we live today - how should we move forward? What kind of society do we want to see in the future, and what is the role each of us can play in shaping it? How should we live with each other? Where do we see these abuses emerging again and how can we prevent them from happening?

Indeed, like conflict resolution and democracy-building/citizen engagement programmes, Site Museums seek to create ongoing spaces for dialogue across difference and inspire greater citizen involvement in establishing and shaping democratic processes and non-violent mechanisms for social change. In essence, by opening new conversations about contemporary issues in historical perspective, places of memory can become new centres for democracy in action, harnessed as a self-conscious tactic in the service of human rights and civic engagement.

Acknowledgements

This publication was made possible through the kind support of

The Global Peacebuilders project is funded by the European Union's Peace and Reconciliation Programme 2000-2006 under Measure 5.3 Developing Cross Border Reconciliation & Understanding and managed for the Special European Union Programmes Body by the Cross-border Consortium.

Friends of Global Peacebuilders

A number of individuals and organisations have offered their time, expertise and resources to help Global Peacebuilders shine a spotlight on the work individual people are doing to build peace in their communities across the world. To view a list of the friends of Global Peacebuilders, learn more about their contribution and access contact details, visit www.globalpeacebuilders.org/english/friends

Global Peacebuilders Selection Panel

From the pool of peacebuilding approaches received, the panel selected those approaches that illustrated the challenges, difficulties, successes, training and innovation involved in building peace in areas of conflict.

For more information on the selection process, and to read more about the Selection Panel, visit www.globalpeacebuilders.org/english/panel.html

Canice Hamill, Chair

Canice is proprietor of Canice Consulting, an international consultancy operating in the fields of local and regional development, enterprise and employment development and management and technical support to EU networks and programmes. He has in-depth knowledge of EU policies and programmes and considerable experience of working in Northern Ireland, other parts of the UK and in other Member States of the EU. Types of consultancy assignments undertaken include programme design as well as assistance on implementation, management, audit and evaluation of programmes and projects.

Angila Chada

Currently Springboard's Executive Director, Angila Chada has been responsible for innovative community-based interventions aimed at building peace and capacity within disadvantaged communities for over 16 years. Other activities have included participation in a wide range of community planning and evaluation processes and holding Directorships in Intercomm and Success Foundation. Prior to Springboard, she built her professional skills base as a Manager in a London consultancy house. During her student years Angila served as Queens University's Education Officer and was awarded honorary life membership.

Dr Neil Jarman

Neil is Director of the Institute for Conflict Research, an independent research centre specialising in policy related issues based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was a specialist adviser to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee for their inquiry into hate crime in Northern Ireland (2004-2005) and is currently working with ODI and OSCE in Warsaw as member of their expert panel on freedom of assembly.

Gráinne Kelly

A researcher and practitioner specialising in peacebuilding theory and practice in post-conflict societies, Gráinne is coordinating the Victim Empowerment Project, an initiative exploring the role of indigenous foundations in supporting victims' issues in conflict or post-conflict societies. She co-developed a two-year research project exploring the theory and practice of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and conducted a study visit to Cambodia to explore cross-cultural applicability of this research in a post-genocidal society.

Louise Little

Louise coordinates the cross-border, cross-community Community Outreach Reconciliation and Engagement Project, developed between community stakeholders from Finglas South, Dublin and Inner East Belfast, and Co-operation Ireland. She has worked with the Ex-Prisoners Interpretive Centre and Citywide Women's Consortium, coordinating the development of education and employability skills for women. She has also worked in Israel/Palestine and Serbia building confidence in the use of English and exploring conflict transformation and the role of women in communities living with, and beyond, conflict.

Linda McClelland

Linda is Director of War on Want NI, which was started by a small group of people concerned about a world where two thirds of its people were suffering. The aim of the group was to highlight the poverty in the world to the people of Northern Ireland and to raise funds to alleviate the suffering caused by poverty. Since its inception, War on Want NI has given support to hundreds of small-scale projects benefiting hundreds of thousands of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Brian Scott

Chief Executive of Oxfam Ireland since 1998, Brian has worked in educational publishing in Africa and South America, and agribusiness development in Ireland, USA and developing countries. He is a graduate of Harvard Business School, where he also worked as a research associate.

creativecommons.org

The photographers and works listed below have been used throughout this publication, and are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license. You may view the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons licenses at www.creativecommons.org/licenses

- Page 2 L. E. MacDonald
- Page 7 Genvessel
- Page 11 Billy Barkle
- Page 13 Pete Muller
- Page 14 Joy Banerjee
- Page 15 Brice Canonne / Elton Melo
- Page 16 Bryan
- Page 17 Bluyonder
- Page 29/30/31 Maria Cecita

Index

At-a-glance guide to approaches/projects
focusing on specific areas of peacebuilding
and target groups of beneficiaries

BY AREA OF FOCUS	Page No.
Advocacy/campaigning	6; 7; 8; 10; 19; 20; 22; 34
Civil society development	10; 14; 18; 19; 24; 26; 27; 28; 30; 34
Community-building and renewal	6; 7; 8; 10; 19; 20; 22; 27; 32; 34
Conflict resolution	6; 7; 10; 12; 14; 16; 19; 20; 26; 27; 28; 30; 32
Dialogue/Mediation/Negotiation	6; 7; 10; 12; 14; 16; 19; 20; 26; 27; 28; 32; 34
Democratisation/Governance	6; 18; 19; 28; 34
Interfaces/Inter-communal conflict/Urban conflict	10; 19; 20; 22; 26; 27; 28; 30; 32; 34
Justice/Human rights	6; 7; 8; 10; 18; 19; 20; 26; 28; 30; 32; 34
Peace research	6; 10; 14; 19; 26; 28
Reconciliation/Conflict transformation	6; 7; 10; 14; 18; 19; 20; 22; 24; 26; 27; 28; 30; 32; 34
Re-integration	12; 19; 22; 27; 28; 30
Truth/Memory/Trauma healing	27; 32; 34
BY TARGET GROUP	Page No.
Children/Youth/Young adults	6; 7; 8; 10; 12; 14; 16; 18; 19; 20; 22; 26; 28; 34
Community leaders	6; 7; 10; 14; 18; 19; 20; 26; 27; 28; 30; 32; 34
Ex-combatants/Ex-prisoners	6; 7; 10; 19; 20; 26; 27; 28
Government/Government agencies	6; 7; 10; 14; 18; 19; 27; 28
Local communities/Residents	6; 7; 8; 10; 14; 16; 18; 19; 20; 22; 26; 27; 28; 32; 34
Men	7; 20; 26; 27; 28
Minority groups	7; 8; 10; 18; 19; 20; 22; 26; 27; 28; 32; 34
NGOs/voluntary/community/civil society organisations	7; 10; 12; 14; 18; 19; 26; 27; 28; 30; 32; 34
Religious groups	7; 10; 14; 19; 26; 28
Women	6; 7; 10; 19; 20; 24; 26; 27; 28; 32



The Global Peacebuilders project is funded by the European Union's Peace and Reconciliation Programme 2000-2006 under Measure 5.3 Developing Cross Border Reconciliation & Understanding and managed for the Special European Union Programmes Body by the Cross-border Consortium.

Global Peacebuilders Project
Springboard Opportunities Limited
4th Floor
108-112 Royal Avenue
Belfast
BT1 1DL

T: +44 (0)28 9031 5111
F: +44 (0)28 9031 3171
E: sarah@globalpeacebuilders.org
W: www.globalpeacebuilders.org

