

# Peace Education Partnership Consultation

23 March 2004

See **Annexure 1**: List of participants and **Annexure 2** for the members of the Working Committee

## **Session 1: Summary of current peace education initiatives**

### **Ministry of Education**

**Lorna McPherson**

The 3 Programmes:

1. Health & Family Life Education (HFLE) which develops student's capacity for problem solving.
2. Child Friendly Schools which aims to create a good learning environment, which must be peaceful.
3. Facilitation of groups who wish to work in the school system to do Peace Education activities – it is recognised by the Ministry that partners are needed to achieve objectives in this area due to restricted resources.

### **Ministry of Culture Youth & Sport**

**Mr Scott**

Non-violent communication (NVC) courses have been taught at all the training centres, including the New Opportunity Corps. Unfortunately the Ministry has no specific funds for this type of activity but has benefited from overseas volunteers such as Ms Howell who teaches NVC.

### **Ministry of Health**

**Lucy Anderson**

The health schools initiative is a joint project with PAHO focussed on creating health and safe environments in schools. This is intended to lead into Health Community initiatives but work is currently focussed on schools.

The 2 main activities are:

1. Forming health clubs in schools. These are formed by the students who are provided with information and are responsible for their own behavioural change and determining club activities. Activities are planned every school term and for example in Laluni, the health club has built its own water filter system with support from the UNICEF WES officer and the WUN Team.
2. Involving Parent and Teacher Associations (this activity is still in early stages).

### **Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security**

**Ann Greene**

The Children & Violence Project is a joint initiative with UNICEF to establish a comprehensive child protection system. Two key areas for education have been identified:

1. Parenting skills – alternative disciplinary methods to corporal punishment
2. Schools - alternative disciplinary methods to corporal punishment

### **Committee for Empowerment of Women**

**Pauline Bassier**

Mandated to lead activities for the international day against violence against women. Aim to promote health home environments which would help protect children.

### **Police Force**

**Seelall Persaud**

Own ranks are trained in human rights and police run programmes in schools on drug abuse resistance and violence avoidance.

### **University of Guyana**

**Geetangeli Geer**

1. Peace Clubs in Schools. The initiative by the Social Work students to start Peace Clubs in 2 schools involved the UG students meeting pupils to counsel and teach peace education. A club was set up in School of the Nation and some progress was made in Vryman's Erven Community High School, despite problems of scheduling times for students and pupils to meet.
2. Conflict Resolution course. Taught in the 'summer' period since 2002.
3. Role as education of future Social Workers, Teachers, & other professionals. There is a need to strengthen UG's capacity in this area. There could be a training centre for mediation or programmes for conflict resolution established. UG could also take a role in training media in sensitive reporting.

## **UNICEF**

## **Violet Speek-Warnery**

UNICEF is focussed on creating child friendly homes, schools and communities. There are 2 main projects:

1. Children & Violence – a joint project with MLHS&SS and shortly to pilot Peace Education initiatives in 3 communities in Region 4, working with schools, health workers, police and all sectors of the community.
2. Child friendly schools to create safe health environments for children.

## **PAHO**

## **Lucy Anderson**

1. Health Schools. In the joint project with the Ministry of Health, PAHO is focussed on getting the PTA involved. A workshop with the PTA of Enterprise Primary in Lodge is planned. 20 Health clubs have been formed so far in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, with one to be launch in Region 9 shortly. An important element of the clubs is that they have to work together with the other clubs in the school.
2. Healthy Schools Database. PAHO is also compiling a database of all the health promoting activities in school.
3. Non-Violent Communication. Training in NVC is done at the start of the PTA groups for healthy schools to form a guide to healthy communications.

## **UNDP**

## **Chris Spies**

The Social Cohesion project aims to support all initiatives promoting Peace Education and Social Cohesion. There are a number of activities:

1. Technical Assistance and IT equipment parliament
2. Facilitation assistance to the Stakeholder Group that is tasked to monitoring the implementation of the communique as well as the Thematic Working Group on Governance
3. Support for NGO initiatives, such as the proposed inner healing programme that will soon be launched, and the recently established Partners in Conflict Resolution initiative.
4. Capacity Building of political parties, especially the youth arms of the two main political parties with a focus on conflict resolution and transferable skills
5. Support to the Ethnic Relations Commission, who is keen to get involve in peace education
6. Support to the SDNP initiative to launch a website with information on Peace Education and other networking initiatives
7. Working with and in support of the University of Guyana to build capacity in the field of conflict transformation
8. Opening up of safe spaces for dialogue.
9. Working towards greater coordination within the UN country team.
10. Functioning as the focal point of donor – government coordination.

## **The Heartland Project**

## **Julie Hando (UN volunteer at the Georgetown Public Hospital)**

Centre for Inner Harmony Project with links to UNICEF and UNDP. This project focussed on inner healing to address larger social process such as ethnic conflict. It is a 12 month programme focussed on communities, organisations & civil society to enable people to reach level a inner peace and resolve issues so as to attain peace and community development. It is a holistic programme incorporating social and environmental aspects as well.

## **SESSION 2**

1. What and who is/are the focus of Peace Education?
2. How can we work and coordinate activities together?
  - Who does what?
  - When?
  - How?

## **Group 1**

- ***Focus of peace education: Who?***

The focus is on individuals who make up the society by providing them with the basic skills and moral values that will speak to the individual's peaceful existence

- **Focus of peace education: What?**  
Working together. The Ministry of Education is committed to providing basic life skills, moral values and willing to collaborate with other agencies ( MoH, UNICEF, etc.)
- **Coordination- How?**  
A source if easily accessible information is needed by all groups. There is a need to inform the higher authorities to allow dissemination of relevant information to the economic sector

## Group 2

- **Peace Education involves:**
  - Self awareness
  - Inner harmony and peace
  - Non-confrontational state of mind which will be reflected in our actions
  - Holistic approach: health; financial; spiritual, peace of mind. Focus on the youth. Leaders must lead by example.
    - i. Individuals
    - ii. Family
    - iii. Community
  - Empathy
  - Tolerance
  - Problem-solving
  - Conflict resolution and mediation skills
  - Teaching to love
  - Change in attitude, knowledge and skills
  - Understanding past and current behaviour and development of skills to change that for the better
- **Focus of peace education: Who?**
  - The youth through a focus on
    - i. Parents
    - ii. Early childhood educators
    - iii. Teachers
    - iv. Peers
    - v. Leaders (religious, community and political)
    - vi. Media, especially TV, as a *client* as well as a *resource*
- **Focus of peace education: What?**
  - Providing knowledge and skills to change attitudes
  - Elimination of violence
  - Changing of perceptions
  - Changing the way conflict is expressed
  - Resolving inner conflicts/issues for *victims* and *perpetrators*
  - Respect for human rights, dignity and justice
  - Letting go of the past and healing
- **Coordination- How?**
  - Establish an funded independent coordinating body with CSO, government and donor representatives
  - Establish networks
  - Establish working group
  - Evaluative actions
  - Newsletter/online notice board
  - An up-to-date contact list
  - Make peace education a criteria for donor agencies working in Guyana
- **Terms of reference for coordinating body**

- Oversee activities
- Monitor evaluation
- Develop proposals/resources
- Sharing of information
- Sharing of resources

### Group 3

\* "Peace" = Contentment  
 = Harmony  
 = Absence of conflict

- **Peace Education involves:**

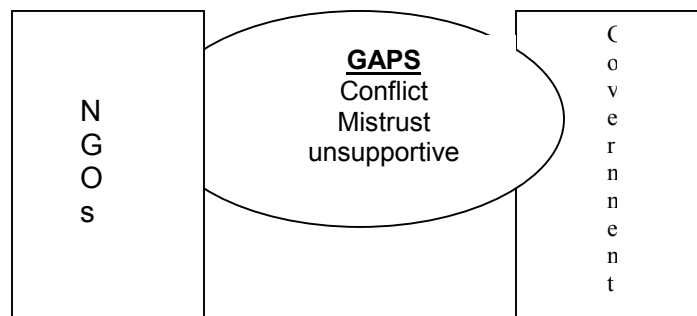
1. Non-violent communication
2. Both mental and physical inner peace
3. The ability to deal with and solve conflict in a non-violent manner
4. The ability to respect differences in our interactions with others
5. Consulting with one and other

- **What agencies are doing and planning to do with regards to Peace Education?**

1. Help and Shelter: Counseling, In-Court Support, training and Public Education on Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Parenting, Neglect
2. Guyana Youth Network: Educating children and parents on HIV/AIDS to eliminate stigma and discrimination
3. Volunteer Youth Corps: Big Brother/Big Sister Project - provide support and a good role model for children at risk. Encouraging mentorship and enabling the ability to make proper choices.
4. Women's Affairs Bureau: Empowers women to stop violence through workshops on inner peace, dealing with violence and conflict.
5. Friends of Peace building: Sets up Peace posts and plans to go into schools and prison to provide counseling services
6. Police: Does in-house training on human rights and conflict resolution. It also does drug education with NGOs, schools and Ministries.
7. CIOG: started "Tasawuf" Education which is a form of Muslim teaching which changes people's character and provides ways of peaceful interactions. Also involved with HIV/AIDS Education and work in Prison and schools
8. United Nations Association of Guyana in Enmore: the group brings conflicting partners together to deal with solutions and compromises.
9. UNICEF: Promotes the rights of women and children and works on creating healthy, peaceful environments for children and their families. "Children and Violence" Project and Peace Education through health Promoting/Child-Friendly Schools
10. Bahai: "Wings of Word" Programme", "Youth can Move the World" (teaching problem-solving skills with youths) – consultation process.

- **Coordination- How?**

- a. There is little collaboration between NGOs and between government agencies respectively. However the largest GAP is the one between the Government and NGOs. Yet there is a great need to support each other as both NGOs and government agencies are weak and need strengthening. They need to work together and support each other
- b. There is a need to respect each others differences, weaknesses, financial situations and consult with each other and to have the greatest result



- c. Need to work together, but with different focus and harmonize activities.
- d. Need to build own capacities in Peace Education
- e. Need to network for referral, share resources and have equal gains
- f. Need to disseminate information and for proper communication
- g. For all these needs fund are needed.

❖ **Establish a Guyanese Indigenous Group on Peace Education** that will help in the dissemination of information and form a platform for communication and networking.

#### **Group 4**

- **Focus of peace education: What?**  
Changing values, attitudes and behaviours to promote healthy and peaceful responses to conflict, and respect for everybody's rights.
- **Focus of peace education: Who?**
  1. All types of family
  2. Schools
  3. Media
- **Coordination- How?**
  1. *All types of family*
    - Ministry of Social Services... work with family education
    - Churches
    - NGOs
    - Ministry of Health through the clinics
  2. *Schools*
    - Ministry of Education (CPCE; schools)
    - Police
  3. *Media*
    - UN Agencies
- **When?**
  1. The Ministry of Social Services started and will continue with their programme
  2. Churches are working continuously, but need to focus more on the education of family members.
  3. UG is working with schools
  4. NGOs:
    - Love Outreach International has established Ethnic Relations Committees
    - YWCA is doing student and parent counselling
- **How?**
  1. More education and counselling is fundamental.
  2. Advocacy and workshops
  3. CB programmes need to be strengthened: Village life, community life
  4. Social events
  5. Nation-wide programmes
  6. Volunteers

- ***What is needed:***
  1. Financial, technical and human resources
  2. Collaboration

## Annexure 1

### Peace Education Consultation Meeting on 23 March 2004 Invitees. Those who attended are marked in bold

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## Annexure 2

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