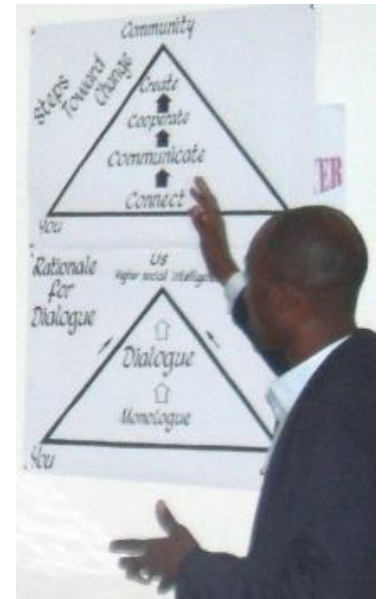


DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA ~ Model of engagement replicated in Ivory Coast

Offuh James Offuh is a responsible citizen of Ivory Coast -- French-speaking Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.



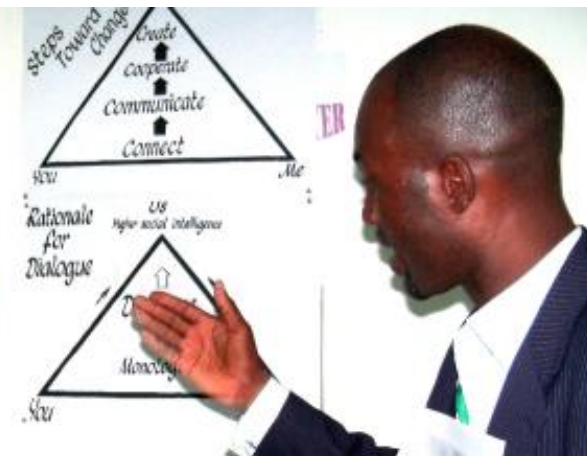
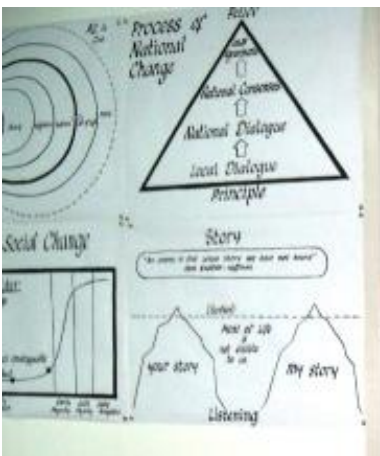
January 2012, distressed by post-election violence and North-South ethnic tribalism, Offuh created **United for Peace Against Conflict International (UFPACI)** to build inter-community cohesion and respect for life and cultural differences with citizen-to-citizen communication and human relationships. May 2012 on the Internet, Offuh found the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue in California and requested by airmail the DVD of their 2012 documentary film, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#).

By August 2012, Offuh planned and replicated in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, his first small workshop modeled after DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA and presented in French at the [Splar Institute](#) in Abidjan.



Offuh e-mailed: "We thank you for the awareness you are offering to us via moral materials – texts, charts, DVDs – in fact, a new awakened, unprecedented creativity and wisdom needed to build a future that benefits all the public communities within our reach." He was referring to:

1. **Facilitators Guidelines** for face-to-face experiences – <http://traubman.igc.org/campacts.pdf>
2. **Process of Change** described in graphics and text – <http://traubman.igc.org/changechartsall.pdf>



August 2012 young adults gathered from different political, religious, and ethnic communities, including Yopougon and Abobo women and men from the Abidjan District. They experienced **tools for face-to-face engagement**, from safe icebreakers to deeper exploration of one another's life experiences and humanity to discover that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard."



The day began by clarifying the elements and Dynamics of Dialogue – communication excellence as the entry point to conflict prevention and transformation.

Cote d'Ivoire Radio & Television filmed, as participants engaged the facilitators -- Sociologist Dago Atcho Albert, and Peace Studies Specialist & Conflict Resolution Specialist Offuh James Offuh, initiator and coordinator of the day.



Youth As Artisans of Communication and Peace was the vision offered by Mr. Ochee Ogwa, a professional journalist with the Nigerian News Agency's mission to Cote d'Ivoire .

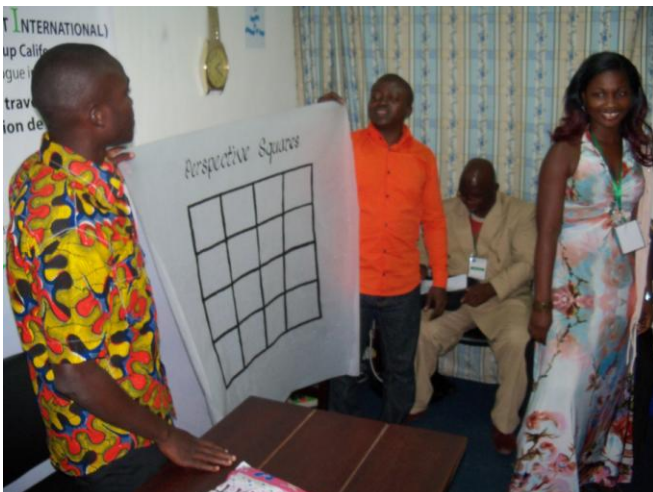


PERSPECTIVE SQUARES: Participants realize that others have diverse perceptions and views of life, and there is more than one way – my way – to perceive a situation. People see 16, 17, 18, 40 and other numbers of squares.

Both Yopougon youth (above) and Abobo participants (below) contributed their insights, as Offuh James Offuh facilitated.



Participants (below) included staff members of the sponsoring group – United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPACI).





HAND OUTLINES: This introductory ice-breaker helps participants to know one another in a safe way. Two people trace the other's hand, making them partly overlap. Each person then writes words that describe one's personal qualities and values. Then they discover what unites them in shared meaning. This allows people to become aware of their uniqueness and also similarities. It helps to overcome judgment and stereotypes.

Two diverse participants joined their thumbs with a shared vision of one nation – Cote d'Ivoire. The hand on the left describes his uniqueness: Northern Senoufo ethnicity. The right hand describes: Southern Attie ethnicity.

~ ~ ~ ~

MASKS & CULTURE: An art experience to journey inward and discover how one's culture shapes and influences personal responses to life. This increases self-awareness and closeness to one another by opening a window to oneself and common challenges universally faced in all cultures.



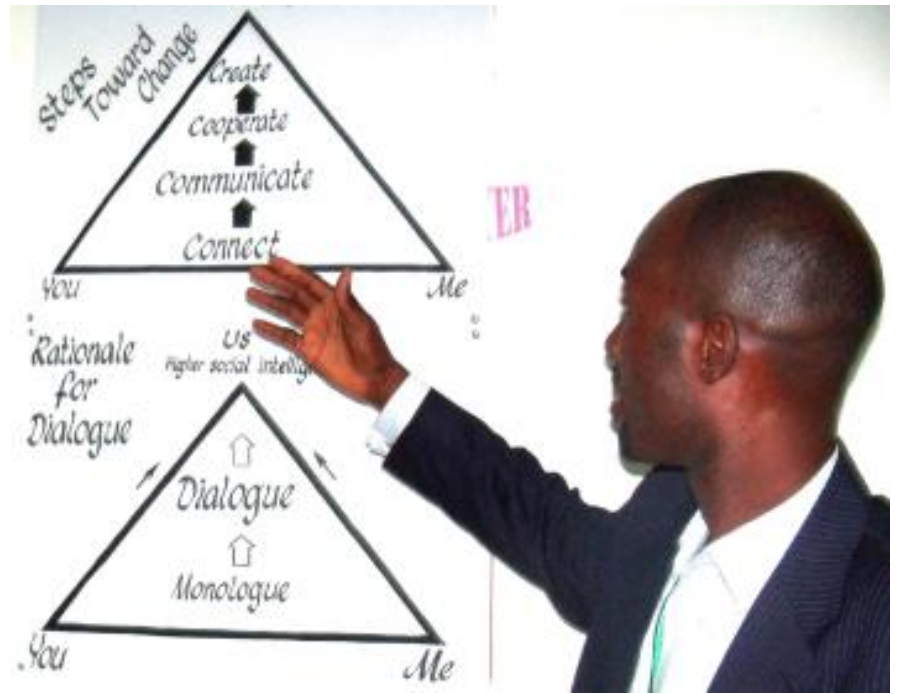
(Above) the Abobo commune youth member, also member of RDR political youth group, honestly displayed on the mask some introspective parts of his life.



The Yopougon and Abobo youth sat together and became closer as they took part in MASKS & CULTURE.



Offuh James Offuh concluded the day and inspired the diverse youth to continue taking the steps toward Change -- from monologue to Dialogue, from isolation to Community for themselves, Cote d'Ivoire, Africa, and humankind.





This August 2012 experience was presented by **United for Peace Against Conflict International (UFPACI) - Cote d'Ivoire** in partnership with the **Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue - California USA**

