



## Step #9: Humanizing & Integrating Persons with Physical Handicaps in Cote d'Ivoire May, 2015

### The Urgent Need

In Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) and across Africa and the planet, physically challenged youth and adults are generally stigmatized, shunned, abused, dehumanized, and excluded from family, school, business, and community life. The remedy and preventive is to meet, hear, understand, humanize, respect, and dignify one another. **No organization has yet enacted such "re-socialisation" in Cote d'Ivoire.**

### [The Stigmatization of Disabilities in Africa and the Developmental Effects \(2013\)](#)

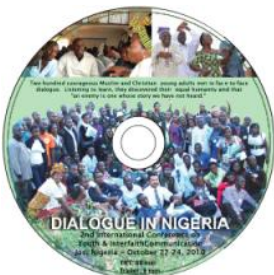
confirms that "stigmatization still exists in large scale and leads to exclusion and continued poverty and poor standard of life for persons with disabilities, especially for those living in Africa. The main cause of stigmatization in Africa is a lack of education about disabilities and the needs of persons with disabilities. The unknown creates fear in society and exclusion for persons with disabilities, prohibiting them from obtaining decent education, proper health care and having access to jobs and financial support. [Disability in Africa \(2012\)](#) supports that "the vast majority of Africans with disabilities are excluded from schools and opportunities for work, virtually guaranteeing that they live as the poorest of the poor. School enrolment for the disabled is estimated at no more than 5-10 percent and as many as 70-80 percent of working age people with disabilities are unemployed. The social stigma associated with disability results in marginalization and isolation, often leading to begging as the sole means of survival."



### The Response

The Ivorean citizens of **United for Peace Against Conflict (UFPACI)** -- <http://ufpacidialogue.net> -- contributed their skills from recent experiences facilitating reconciliation between alienated villages, tribes, and Albino and non-Albino women, men, and youth of Cote d'Ivoire described at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast.htm> Skills had been adopted from time-tested examples in the 2012 documentary, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future.](#)

[VIEW RTI-TV  
national news](#)



**Planning first required unprecedented trust-building** in four, step-by-step sessions that also emboldened the newly formed Physically Handicapped Persons Association of Cote d'Ivoire.

They confided: "We have never been offered such a public opportunity to speak out and be heard about our suffering, exclusion, and humiliations. When we try, nobody receives us. Doors are closed. You are the first to open your arms, hearts, and ears to us."



A priority was established to include students and school administrators, to promote inclusive education -- true social justice -- in school campus learning environments. This step will enrich student moral, psychological, spiritual, and intellectual development. Invitations were delivered to 11 disabled persons' care centers and to UNICEF, Save the Children, Children of Africa, UNESCO, and MENET, and the Ministry of Employment & Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior & Security, traditional rulers, and Physically Handicapped Persons Association of Cote d'Ivoire.



Planning meeting of representatives from the Physically Handicapped Persons Association of Cote d'Ivoire and initiators from United for Peace Against Conflict, International in Abidjan.

## **All-Day Dialogue Among Physically Handicapped People (PHP) and Non-Physically Handicapped People (NPHP)**

Saturday, 09 May 2015 — Adama Sanogo College — Plateau Dokui, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire



College campus entrance



Inside the campus



Physically handicapped participants arriving at the venue







PHP participants sit only with their usual, familiar group.



NPHP participants sit separate from the PHP group.



Representatives of the council of traditional chiefs of Cote d'Ivoire



Graphics of the principles of Dialogue communication



Gnamien Louis Patrice, Executive Secretary of UPPACI welcomes participants and introduces the day's theme: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: TO PREVENT PREJUDICE AND PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE



Honourable Gue Pascal Chief Tonkui offers his ceremonial blessing.







Offuh James Offuh, UFPACI Director, stands in respect as a college student sings the national anthem.



Mr. Itouaatipo Antoine, Director of Adama Sanogo, offers his ceremonial blessing.



Cherif Mamadou, representing the Physically Handicapped Persons tells stories about how PHP citizens are stigmatized, humiliated, and rejected socially and economically. He pleads for such prejudice and injustice to stop.



Exhibited art creations of talented Physically Handicapped People (PHP), illustrating some of their many potential gifts to enrich the community if given opportunities.





OFFUH James presenting graphics about effective communication with conscious listening-to-learn, to transform relationships, reconcile conflicts, and re-direct history. "Your own listening position determines the level of mutual understanding in the relationship."



**Vous & moi**  
Ecoutons en dialoguant  
**You and me**  
Listening in dialogue



**Un ennemi, c'est quelqu'un**  
dont on ignore l'histoire  
**An enemy is one whose**  
story you don't know



PHP and NPHP participants begin sitting together, side by side.



*"I am glad to learn and understand what Sustained Dialogue is all about the "other" person and me listening from the heart."*

*"As a handicapped person, I often feel hurt when the public stigmatises and humiliate us. This day is a new experience of being heard and part of the community."*

*"I am glad to learn and understand that sustained dialogue is all about the other person, with me listening from the heart."*





OFFUH James illustrating dialogue communication to include, understand, and dignify everyone in the circle.



"The dialogue graphics help me understand how listening has been missing."



"I thank UFPACI for helping us take this big step to be in the same room together, socializing us, and explaining the intelligence of actually meeting to humanize and understand ourselves."

### Perspective Squares Experience

- Participants realize that others have diverse perceptions of life, even of the same geometric figure.
  - There is more than one way -- my way -- to see and experience a situation.
    - People see 16, 17, 18, 40 and other numbers of squares.

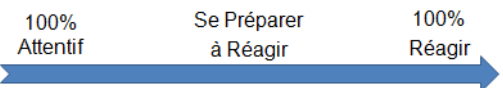


## Face-to-Face Dialogue: A Personal Story-Sharing Experience of Communication

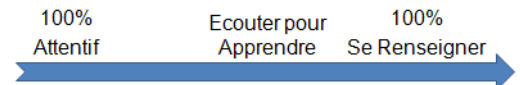
- Allows each person to share her or his life's narrative and relate to others.
- Each person experiences a new quality of listening-to-learn as well as being heard, while discovering that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard."



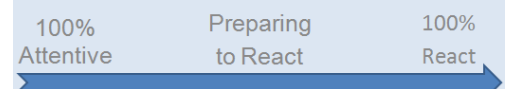
### Communication Habituelle



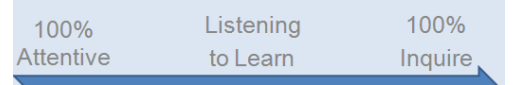
### Dialogue



### Usual Communication



### Dialogue





After experiencing a new way of communicating -- listening and being heard -- participants assimilate what had meaning and about the quality of listening in their twosome.



*Chef GUE PASCAL: "I am touched by his stories. I have giving him my contact information so they can contact me."*

*PHP: "I was glad, to listen, learn, and feel his concern about my stories."*



*NPHP: "He told me a story how his parent wanted to throw him away because he is handicapped. I am touched."*



*"I am a teacher in sociology in this college. I am inspired by the quality of the training in sustained dialogue with careful listening to the 'OTHERS'. It is so inspiring, I wish to join this organization to learn more about dialogue."*



*PHP: "I am happy the way we are honored today, I am very happy, and God bless UFPACI."*

### EXHIBIT: Creative Art of Physically Handicapped People (PHP)







**Chef Gue Pascal:** *"It is amazing to see and learn about their great potential" I think this event should continue for many schools to learn from your initiatives and about the hidden potential and talent of a physical handicapped person. They can create job opportunities and add to economic development. So I am inspired. Stigmatization and discrimination of physical handicap persons must stop in all the human sphere."*



Chef Gue Pascal rewards the physically handicapped artisans with symbolic gifts of 5000 FCFA (Central African Francs) for each. He is thanked by OFFUH James.



**Mr. Germain Kprie**, Vice President of the United Nation Association (UNA) of Cote d'Ivoire, encourages publicizing PHP demands for needed economic and employment opportunities. He supports more UFPACI initiatives for citizen face-to-face meetings with equality, respect, and inclusive experiential education for all!





## Communion in Meal Sharing



**One humanity:  
Unity in diversity, equality in respect,  
by means of inclusiveness, experiential education for all!!!**



***"The only way to get it together — is together!"***

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi  
a Guiding Founder of [One World Lights](#)

***"The soul's oldest memory is of union.***

***The soul's deepest longing is for reunion."***

from [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#)





This May 2015 experience was sponsored and facilitated by  
**United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPACI) - Cote d'Ivoire**  
 in partnership with the  
**Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue - California USA**



**Facilitator Guidelines** for exercises seen above are at  
<http://traubman.igc.org/campacts.pdf>

**The larger Cote d'Ivoire peacebuilding story** is on the Web at  
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast.htm>  
 and  
<http://ufpacidialogue.net>

**This document** is on the Web at  
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoasthandicaps.pdf>



**For more information, communicate with:**

Offuh James Offuh  
**NGO United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPACI)**  
 Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE  
[UFPACI@gmail.com](mailto:UFPACI@gmail.com)  
 or  
 Libby and Len Traubman  
**Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group**  
 San Mateo, California, USA  
[LTraubman@igc.org](mailto:LTraubman@igc.org)



# **PROGRAMME DU SEMINAIRE DE FORMATION**

**Samedi le 09 mai 2015**

## **LA FORMATION EST BASEE SUR LE PROCESSUS DU DIALOGUE SOCIALE ET EDUCATION INCLUSIVE**

**THEME** : RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPERATION ET CONPREHENSION MUTUELLE  
INTERCULTURELLE

**OBJECTIF** : a. Former des médiateurs pour la résolution des conflits.

b. Apprendre à se maîtriser à l'égard des autres dans des situations de conflits.

c. Acquérir des techniques pour désarmer un ennemi dans une situation conflictuelle.

d. Apprendre à éviter la discrimination au sein de la société et en milieu scolaire, transformer les ennemis en partenaire et les situations de confrontation en coopération.

**08h30** : Mise en place et accueil des invités

**09h00** : Cérémonie d'ouverture, Salut aux couleurs.

**09h05-09h15** : Imprégnation des activités déjà menées par L'ONG-UFPACI

**09h-15-9h35** : Intervention du Président du comité d'organisation

- Intervention du Représentant de MENET. (5mn)

- Intervention du Représentant de l'UNESCO à Abidjan. (5mn)

- Intervention du Représentant de l'UNICEF à Abidjan. (5mn)

- Intervention du Représentant de Lycée moderne Adama Sanogo. (5mn)

- Intervention du Représentant de l'association de personne handicapé physique (10mns)

**10h05-10h35 : Premier cours** : la Dynamique du dialogue interculturelle et éducation Inclusive dans la prévention de préjugé.

**Sous-titre 1.** : comprendre les attributs du dialogue sociale et éducation Inclusive.

**10h35-11h25 : Deuxième cours** : Lignes Directrices du Dialogue: Substituer le mot Confrontation par le mot Coopération.

**Sous-titre 2** : a. Pourquoi le Dialogue ?

b. La Communication.

c. L'Engagement.

d. La différence entre le Dialogue et le Débat.

e. Écouter, parler, Découvrir

### **DEBUT DES ATELIERS**

**Troisième cours** : Démonstration du dialogue rationnelle à travers des exemples pratiques et des illustrations graphiques.

**11h25-12h00** : exercices pratiques en communication civique interculturelle

**12H05-12h35** : Evaluation et assimilation

**12h40-12H50**: Pause Photo et cocktail

**13h00** : FIN de la cérémonie

**Réalisateur : OFFUH James**

**Président Fondateur ONG-UFPA CI**

**Spécialiste en Gestion de conflits, Dialogue et consolidation de la Paix**

**<http://www.ufpacdialogue.net>**