Nigerian model of engagement and reconciliation applied in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

Beginning January 2012 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, Offuh James OFFUH and a small team of women and men began learning and time-testing a model of Sustained Dialogue communication illustrated in the documentary film, Dialogues in Nigeria: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future, that dignifies participants, heals relationships, and builds communities beginning with their small core team within the NGO, United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPACI) described at http://ufpacidialogue.net

Step-by-step progress included (1) Preparing Locally in Abidjan, (2) nearby Akouedo Ebrie Village Reconciliation, (3) far-away Duekoue Peacebuilding, (4) deeper First Dozos-Guerre Reconciliation in Duekoue, (5) the First Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation in southern Cote d'Ivoire, and (6) the First Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation Workshop in Bouake, northern Cote d'Ivoire, April 2014. Each step is described in depth at http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast.htm.

Step #7
3-Day TRAINING SEMINAR
for UNESCO and The Ministry of Education on strategies to overcome stigmatization and rejection of the "other" through Social Dialogue

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday — July 21, 22, 23, 2014

(The Seminar Outline is at end of this document)
Co-sponsors (1) Abidjan office of UNESCO and (2) Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Education invited Offuh James OFFUH of (3) United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPAC) to facilitate this 3-day training for participant-representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Security, Education, Family Planning and Handicaps, and Interior. Also included were the Teacher's Association and other NGOs.

The purpose was to begin popularising this module-approach of Sustained Dialogue for intercultural civic communication as remedy for prejudice and discrimination, and to insure just, safe, and equitable society.
In the **Perspective Squares Exercise** participants see 16, 17, 18, 40, and other numbers of squares then realize:
1) other people have surprisingly diverse perceptions and views of life.
2) there is more than one way, my way, to see a situation.

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**Masks and Culture Exercise**
1) Discover how one's culture shapes, influences, and conditions personal responses to life.
2) Increase self-awareness and closeness to one another by opening a window to oneself.
3) Awaken to common challenges universally faced in all cultures.

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Screening film of Dozos-Guerre Tribal Reconciliation in Duekoue, Cote d'Ivoire, facilitated by UFPACI
An Experience of Face-to-Face Dialogue

1) Each person shares her or his life's narrative and relate to others.
2) Participants 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."
3) Both listener and speaker are dignified.
After experiencing a new way of communicating, participants responded with what had personal meaning for them while listening and being heard between partners.

GHEHI LASSO FILBERT, President of the HIV/AIDS VICTIMS groups, says “NO” to stigmatization and discrimination preventing their socio-economic inclusion.

COULIBALY MAMIDOU, President of Albinos: "We suffer this stigmatization and discrimination. Let it stop. We are excluded economically and socially."

KONE Yacouba, President of the Physically Handicapped Association of Cote d’Ivoire, saying “NO” to stigmatization and discrimination, and asking for joint efforts to address the issues confronting the DIGNITY of those living with various handicaps. He pleads for education that sensitizes the public and creates many interactive platforms as UFPACI is doing for the Albinos. Such face-to-face engagements will indeed reduce exclusion and create community.
Closing Candle Lighting Ceremony symbolizing shared accomplishment and solidarity in purpose

After the victims of stigmatization and discrimination narrated their different, pathetic life stories, OFFUH James, President of ONG-UFPACI, encouraged the participants to join efforts creating a new Humane Community Society without stigmatization and discrimination. He proposed a place where Love will become the predominant human function and where every human will feel secure, respected, dignified, and honored. This can only be possible with the new culture of Sustained Dialogue, giving all citizens equal voices, and loving all without distinction of race, religion, culture, or social or political identification.
SEMINAIRE DE FORMATION sur les stratégies de lutte contre la stigmatisation ou le rejet de l’autre à travers le DIALOGUE SOCIAL


THEME : RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPERATION ET CONPREHENSION MUTUELLE INTERCULTURELLE

OBJECTIF : Former des médiateurs pour la résolution des conflits.

- a. Apprendre à se maîtriser à l’égard des autres dans des situations de conflits.
- b. Acquérir des techniques pour désarmer un ennemi dans une situation conflictuelle.
- c. Apprendre à éviter la discrimination au sein de la société et en milieu scolaire, transformer les ennemies en partenaires et les situations de confrontation en coopération.

1er JOUR

08h30-9h00 : accueil des participants

09h00- 9h30 : Cérémonie d’ouverture :
- Intervention du Représentant de l’UNESCO à Abidjan. (30mn)
- Intervention du Représentant du MENET -- Ministre de l'Education Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique (15mn)
  - Exposé de cadrage (15mn)

09h30-09h50 : Imprégnation des activités déjà menées par L’ONG-UFPACI

09h50- 10h10 : pause - café

10h10-11h00 : Premier cours : la Dynamique du dialogue interculturel dans la prévention de conflit violent et la consolidation de la paix.
  Sous-titre 1. : comprendre les attributs du dialogue social.

11h20-12h30 : 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
12h30-13h30 : DEJEUNER
13h30-14h30 : Troisième cours : Les Cinq étapes du processus de paix social.
14h30-16h00 : Projection de film

2ème jour :
8h30-10h00 : DEBUT DES ATELIERS- étude de cas
Quatrième cours : Démonstration du dialogue rationnel à travers des exemples pratiques et des illustrations graphiques.
10h-10h20 : pause- café
10h20-11h30 : exercices pratiques en communication civique interculturelle
11h30-12h30 : comprendre les traumatismes causés par la discrimination
Les outils pour la guérison des douleurs émotionnelles
12h30-13h30 : DEJEUNER
13h30-14h30 : soutien psychologique et social comme thérapie psychosociale
14h30-16h00 : exemples pratiques

3ème jour
8h30-9h30 : communication personnes vulnérables
9h30-10h30 : communication personnes vulnérables
10h30-10h50 : Pause café
10h50-11h50 : communication personnes vulnérables
11H50-12h30 : Evaluation et assimilation
12H30-13h30 : Déjeuner
13H30-15h00 : Projection de film
15h00-16h00 : Clôture et Pause Photo

Réalisateur : OFFUH James
Président Fondateur ONG-UFPACI
Spécialiste en Gestion de conflits, Dialogue et consolidation de la Paix
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
http://www.ufpacidialogue.net
ufpaci@gmail.com
TRAINING SEMINAR on strategies to overcome stigmatization and rejection of the "other" through Social Dialogue

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday — July 21, 22, 23, 2014

THEME: Strengthening mutual intercultural cooperation and understanding

OBJECTIVE: Training mediators for the resolution of conflicts

1. Learn to master respect for others in conflict situations.
2. Learn techniques to disarm an enemy in a conflict situation.
3. Learn to avoid discrimination in one's society and in schools, and to transform enemies into partners, and confrontational situations into cooperative ones.

DAY ONE

8:30 - 9:00 Welcome participants

9:00 - 9:30 Opening ceremony:

1. Welcome by the UNESCO representative in Abidjan (30 min)
2. Statement by the representative of MENET -- Ministry of National and Technical Education (15 min)
3. Meeting overview (15 min)

9:30 - 9:50 Introduction of activities already carried out by the NGO UFPACI

9:50 - 10:10 Coffee break

10:10 - 11:00 First Course:

1. Dynamics of intercultural dialogue in the prevention of violent conflict and in dependable peace building
2. Understanding the attributes of social dialogue

11:20 - 12:30 Second course: Dialogue Guidelines -- Replacing the word Confrontation with the word Cooperation

1. Why Dialogue?
2. Communication
3. Engagement
4. The difference between Dialogue and Debate
12:30 - 1:30  LUNCH

1:30 - 2:30  **Third Course:** The Five Stages of the Public Peace Process

2:30 - 4:00  Film:  *Dozos-Guere Dialogue-Reconciliation Encounter in Duekoue*

**DAY TWO**

8:30 - 10:00  START OF WORKSHOPS - Case study

  **Fourth Course:** Demonstration of dialogue rationale with practical examples and graphic illustrations

10:00 - 10:20  Coffee break

10:20 - 11:30  Practical exercises in civil intercultural communication

11:30 - 12:30  Understanding the traumas caused by discrimination

Tools to heal emotional wounds include (1) empathic listening, (2) patience, (3) equal inclusiveness, and (4) other acts that dignify everyone.

12:30 - 1:30  LUNCH

1:30 - 2:30  Psychological and social support as psychosocial therapy

2:30 - 4:00  Practical examples

Successful experiences include (1) a safe place for deep heart-to-heart communication, (2) meal sharing, (3) conscious listening to learn from the victim's personal story narratives, and (4) indoor and outdoor theatrical, dance, and sports events.

**DAY THREE**

8:30 - 9:30  Communicating with vulnerable (at risk) individuals

HIV-positive victim-educator exemplar narrates her or his personal life experience and how those living with HIV/AIDS are stigmatized and rejected unnecessarily.

9:30 -10:30  Communicating with vulnerable (at risk) individuals

Another physically handicapped victim-educator communicates about one's personal experiences living with a physical disability and being shunned and excluded.

10:30 - 10:50  Coffee break

10:50 - 11:50  Communicating with vulnerable (at risk) individuals
A third Albino victim-educator talks about the personal life of people with albinism being daily humiliated, assaulted, and rejected.

11:50 - 12:30 Evaluation and assimilation

12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH

1:30 - 3:00 Example film excerpts (if time permits): (1) DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future, or (2) Albino ~ Non-Albino Dialogue Encounters.

3:00 - 4:00 Closing and Group Photo

Organizer:
Offuh James OFFUH
President and Founder, ONG-UFPACI
Specialist in Conflict Management, Dialogue, and Peacebuilding.
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
ufpaci@gmail.com

United for Peace Against Conflict International
http://www.ufpacidialogue.net

in cooperation with the

Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group
San Mateo, California USA
http://traubman.igc.org/dg-prog.htm

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