

*DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA ~ Models of engagement replicated in Ivory Coast*  
**Step #8: Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation Workshop**  
**in Yamoussoukro-Toumodi, northern Cote d'Ivoire**  
**September 2014**

### **The Need**

**Adults and children with albinism suffer exclusion** and humiliation, and sometimes kidnapping and ritual sacrifice due to superstition and inherited cultural practices. Especially around the capital city of Yamoussoukro, traditional funerals have included burying live albinos with the bodies of deceased chiefs. Today citizens with albinism live in great fear and have fled to hide in the area of Toumodi 60 kilometers from Yamoussoukro. [Read more about albinism](#) — their crises, and hopeful, inclusive steps forward.

### **The Response**

**Unprecedented trust-building and education** is finally bringing albinos closer to traditional leaders while creating heart connections that help humanize and dignify everyone. They are listening to personal life stories and clarifying the medical condition and biological causes of albinism. This is increasing the probability of abandoning ancient superstitions of the shivisehs (chiefs) and some of their followers in the countryside, and creating a sustainable community and nation that includes everyone.

**Careful preparation** included the November 2013 [First All-Day Albino ~ Non-Albino Dialogue Conference](#) in Abidjan. Then in April 2014 Cote d'Ivoire television reported the [Second All-Day Albino ~ Non-Albino Dialogue](#) workshop 350 km. north in Bouake. They were part of a larger, citizen-driven peacebuilding wave in Cote d'Ivoire facilitated by the Abidjan-based **United for Peace Against Conflict International (UFPACI)** -- <http://ufpacidialogue.net> -- and documented in text, photos, and video at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast.htm>

[VIEW RTI-TV  
national news](#)

**The historic Third All-Day Albino ~ Non-Albino Dialogue** workshop was Saturday, 06 September 2014 in the Community Civic Hall within the Maire of Yamoussoukro -- the municipal administration headquarters. Fourteen days -- far more than expected -- of pre-conference, consent-building visits were required to overcome albinos' fears and moderate divided opinions among the traditional rulers of the Attiegouabo and Angodoa villages.

Laurene OURAGA AUDE of the UFPACI facilitation team greeted workshop participants at the headquarters of the Maire of Yamoussoukro.





Each participant received a dialogue t-shirt gift before entering the conference hall at the Maire of Yamoussoukro.



**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**

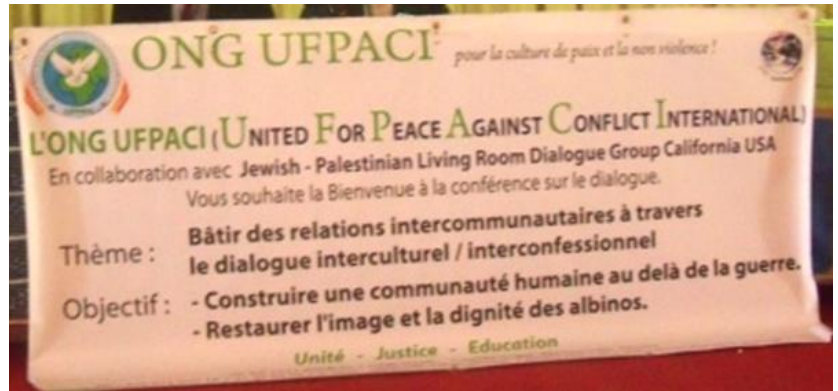


The traditional chiefs of Yamoussoukro sitting separately upon arrival into dialogue conference hall.



Representatives of the Ministry of Education and District Governor of Yamoussoukro sitting side by side.





OFFUH James, president of UFPACI and ATTOUNGBRE Kouassi Isaac, coordinator Albinos of Yamoussoukro and Toumodi



Gnamien Louis Patrice, executive secretary of UFPACI



Kouassi Frank, representing the Municipal Authority



Joseph N'GUESSAN representing a civil society group



Coulibaly Mamidou, president of the Albinos of Cote d'Ivoire



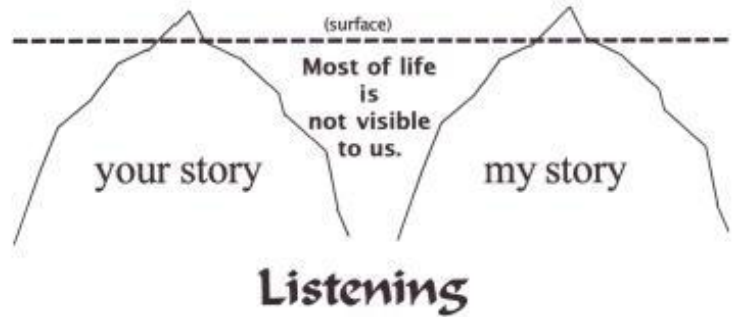
Nanan Konan N'GUESSAN, head of the Yamoussoukro chiefs' delegation





## Story

"An enemy is one whose story we have not heard."  
Gene Knudsen-Hoffman



UFPACI facilitator OFFUH James showing through graphics effective communication by improving conscious listening to transform relationships and re-direct history.



"Teach Respect for All."



"Your listening attitude determines the level of mutual understanding," explains OFFUH, and "All here, We are One Humanity One Spirit One Earth"

NGORAN Aristide engaging the participants with music.







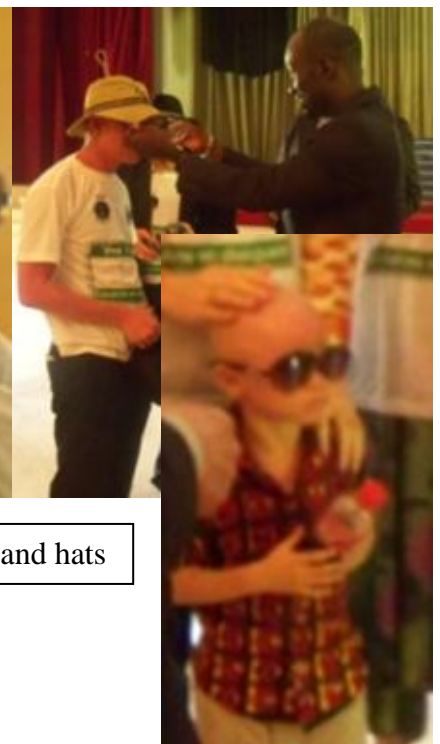
OFFUH interview by RTI national TV news



ATTOUNGBRE Kouassi Isaac explains in detail the general problems of the albinos and thanks UFPACI for organizing this event for the first time in the history of Yamoussoukro to dignify the albinos.



One after the other, citizens with albinism tell their individual stories of their pain of being stigmatized and excluded.



Albino recipients of gifted protective sunglasses and hats







Newly interconnected albino and non-albino citizens of Cote d'Ivoire.



Delegations of (from left) Bouake, Toumoudi, and Yamoussoukro



Chef of Yamoussoukro and Toumoudi with and COULIBALY Mamidou, President Association Albinos of Cote d'Ivoire and OFFUH James, President of UFPACI



### Perspective Squares Experience

- 1) Participants discover that others have diverse perceptions and views of life.
- 2) There is more than one way, my way, to see a situation.
- 3) People see 16. 17. 18. 40 and other numbers of squares.



### Masks and Culture Experience

- 1) See how one's culture shapes and influences — encourages and inhibits — personal responses to life.
- 2) Increase self-awareness and closeness to one another by opening a window to oneself and common challenges universally faced in all cultures.



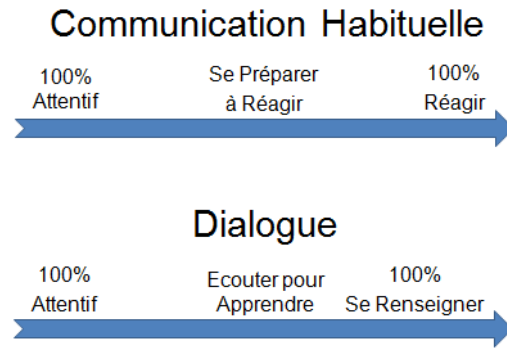
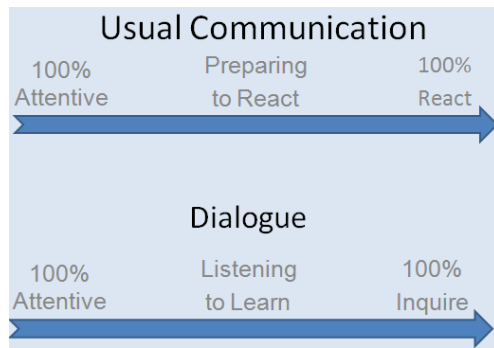
### Face-to-Face Sustained Dialogue:

#### An experience of communication excellence

- 1) Allows each person to share her or his life's narrative and relate to others.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Both listener and speaker are dignified.







**After experiencing a new way of communicating, participants respond to what had meaning during the quality listening with his or her partner.**



**Nanan Tan Okra** said: "Albinos are our children. We shall protect them. We are glad about the teachings and training on Sustained Dialogue."

**Miss Rosen Andre:** "I am glad about today. I believe we are free now. We can safely move around to wherever we wish."







Coming from Stories of Separation, they embark on a life of becoming artisans of communication and creating Stories of Reunion.



*"I have a dream that one day in Africa, people with albinism will take their rightful place throughout every level of society, and that the days of discrimination against persons with albinism will be a faint memory!"*

~ Peter Ash  
Founder, [Under The Same Sun](#)





This October 2014 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>

**This document** is on the Web at  
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast04.pdf>



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