Paths and Vehicles to Peace Building
Conflict:

Conflict – pursuit of clashing goals

Violence:

damaging actions, words, attitudes, structures or systems that prevent full human development
Sources of Violence: Attitudes, Feelings and Values

Direct Physical Violence: Behavior

Visible violence

Less visible violence

Sources of Violence:
Attitudes, Feelings, Values

Structural or Institutional Violence:
Context, Systems, Structures

Source: Fisher, 2005: 10
Sources of Conflict: Greed

Scarce resources + Taking unfair share
= Material/rational dimension of conflict
Imbalanced and/or Unequal social structures + Deciding for others
= Social Conflict
Clashing values, perceptions or worldviews + Promoting discriminatory cultures and religions
= Symbolic or cultural conflict

Source: Adapted from Schirch 2005.
Sources of Conflict: Imbalances in Human Relations

- Unequal social status, unequal wealth and access to resources and unequal power imbalances
Common Sources of Conflict: 
“Power over”

“A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.”
-Mahatma Gandhi
Peace building: Vision and Goal

Vision:
- Equal relations of power supported by economic, political, cultural and social structures

Goal:
- Accessible power to everyone used for constructive tasks

(Source: Schirch, 2005: 37)
Peace Building: Categories of Approach

- Waging conflict nonviolently
- Reducing direct violence
- Transforming relationships
- Building capacity
Peace building: Actions Needed

Direct Physical Violence: Behavior

Visible violence

Action: Violence reduction to promote 'negative peace'

Less visible violence

Action: Work to change attitudes and context, as well as violence reduction, to promote 'positive peace'

Sources of Violence:
Attitudes, Feelings, Values

Structural or Institutional Violence:
Context, Systems, Structures

Source: Fisher, 2005: 10
Paths to Peace Building: Transforming Relationships

“Power Within”

- Individual Potentials
- Information
- Personal Qualities

“...being less powerful is clearly not the same as being powerless.”

- Agbaria and Cohen
Paths to Peace Building: Transforming Relationships

“Power With”

- Egalitarian and democratic decision making, fostering respect
- Non-dominating and shared power because of genuine regard for other people’s human rights and needs
Paths to Peace Building: Waging Conflict Nonviolently

Nonviolence

Actions that do not increase violence or increase new forms of violence into the situation

“...seeks to reach out and awaken the common humanity of all involved, while also working actively to stop or prevent destructive behaviour (Fisher, 2000:96).”
Vehicles of Peace Building: Art and Moral Imagination

“Moral imagination is the capacity to give birth to something new that in its very birthing changes our world and the way we see things (Lederach, 2005: 29).”
Vehicles of Peace Building: Art and Moral Imagination

“Knowledge and, perhaps more important, understanding and deep insight are achieved through aesthetics and ways of knowing that see the whole rather than the parts, a capacity and pathway that rely on intuition more than cognition (Lederach, 2005:71).”
Vehicles of Peace Building: Ritual

- Uses symbolic actions to communicate a forming or transforming message in a unique social space (Schirch, 2005: 17).

- Seeks transformation of world views, identities, relationships and structures (Schirch, 2005: 59).
Vehicles of Peace Building: Ritual
Vehicles of Peace Building: Ritual and Art

Challenges

• Converting heightened awareness into action

• Sustaining gains of open and deep communications thru action – reflection – action

• Complementing rituals and art with direct actions
Paths and Vehicles to Peace Building

Conflict
"Power over"
Attitudes, Beliefs, Greed

Attitudes, Beliefs, Non-violence
"Power Within/With"
Peace

Transformative Functions of Rituals and Arts
Prepared by: Rosella Camte-Bahni
Instructor: Cynthia Cohen, Ph.D.
In COEX 250: The Arts of Building Peace
Spring, 2007

References


Thank you!