

**YOUTH BUILDING PEACE WORKSHOP HELD FROM 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST TO 2<sup>ND</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2012 AT FOYER DE CHARITE**



JPIIJPC organized a residential workshop for 37 “Youth Building Peace” (18 males and 19 females) at Foyer de charite from Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 05:00 p.m. to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 at 9:00 a.m. with a theme **“Youth in Mediation”**. The youth were mobilized from Kampala, Kiyinda – Mityana, Jinja and Tororo.

In order to ensure that JPIIJPC’s “Youth Building Peace” sustainably and effectively contribute to the promotion of peace in their respective communities, a workshop on mediating conflicts was organized to equip them with more knowledge, skills and increase their capacity on mediation.

**Aim of workshop;** to empower the “youth building peace” with conflict mediation skills that will influence their positive behavioural change and enable them to engage in mediating conflicts among other community members to promotion of peace.

## **Objectives of the workshop**

- To increase the youth's awareness on mediation of conflict.
- To inculcate moral values of discipline and responsible citizenship among the youth.

**Methodology;** Participatory and interactive sessions were held throughout the workshop where all participants freely interacted with the facilitators and this ensured that the topics were well taught and understood.

Plenary sessions and Role plays were held to adequately engage and utilize the participants' individual efforts and contributions, guided by the facilitators. Illustrations and diagrams were also used to describe mediation, e.g. the mediation process stages, the role of a mediator, and characteristics of a good mediator were also given and the different styles of conflict handling mechanisms.

Materials used; Note books and pens, flip charts, hand outs. Participants were also given mediation case reporting sheets to write down their conflict cases handled, which will guide JPIIJPC's monitoring and evaluation of this particular workshops' outcomes.

## **Area of focus**

The first session was facilitated by the Senior Superintendent of Police Mr. Anatoli Muleterwa who shared with the youth about discipline, causes of indiscipline; Disadvantages of indiscipline, Benefits of being disciplined and way forward.

Poor leadership at home and in institutions, irresponsible parenthood, peer pressure (that influences dress code, smoking, drinking, and escapism), greed, routine torture, are some of the major causes of indiscipline discussed and some scenarios of irresponsible parenthood especially by the youth were also discussed.

Some of the results of indiscipline discussed were; it causes a lot of supervision both at organizational and individual level, portrays poor image to the organization, it destroys confidence, hinders innovation and creativity, leads to poor service delivery. The SSP added that discipline creates morale for work, motivates others, builds trust and confidence, it enlists guided attitude - able to respect others, thus advised the youth to value principles of discipline like self-control, distinguishing between good and bad, being revolutionary and having role models, exhibiting universally accepted behaviours, developing good administrative control, nurturing good relations with the community, avoiding lose and idle talks, being morally upright and always telling the truth.

Youths raised many issues among which included; youth's torture by police while participating in riots/demonstrations, the partiality and lack of fairness that police sometimes exhibits. They commended that police invests more in promoting "Peace making" than "peace keeping" so as to prevent/ reduce the crime rate through sensitization of communities and trying to address the root causes of the crimes. The SSP's discussion with the youth also improved the image of police (the major actor in peace promotion in communities). The youth appreciated the role of police after the discussions and promised to collaborate with

police to reduce violence and crime in communities especially among other youths. The youth were also informed about the Complaint form, which they can use to report any police official who may involve in any unlawful act.

The other sessions were facilitated by Kamila, a JPIIJC staff and Dr. Lioba from Gulu University Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS) who led the youths into a brainstorming session of defining mediation, when to use mediation, the principles of mediation, several illustrations were used to demonstrate the rationale of mediation. Apart from mediation, other conflict handling styles like dialogue/negotiation, force, law/judiciary adjudication, counselling, arbitration and reconciliation were also discussed.

Some of the major principles and qualities of a good mediator such as confidentiality, being unbiased, communication skills, impartiality, self-determination, voluntariness, informed consent between the mediator and the conflicting parties, open process and participation of all parties involved in the conflict were comprehensively discussed.

They availed all the participants with hand-outs on the topics covered for future reference and mastery of what was being taught. Nearly half of the workshop time was set aside to mainly reflect on more practical sessions, everybody had a chance to involve in conflict resolution due to many role play sessions that were held on land issues and major family misunderstandings that are some of the prominent issues that usually result into domestic violence. During the sessions, the participants strengthened the potential in effectively mediating conflicts to establish a win - win situation.

Also, a brief practical session of assessing individual behavioural character and conflict handling skills based on responses given in the individually filled questionnaires helped the participants to examine their characters and identify their weaknesses. They were then appropriately advised on how to improve to enhance positive behavioural change.

**Besides the workshop sessions, other activities included;**

- Recitation of the Peace prayers and Rosary for peace since it was the first Saturday of the month, when the “youth building peace” usually pray for peace.
- A film entitled “Bishop Romero” was shown.
- Eucharistic celebrations were said on a daily basis, the ‘youth building peace’ actively took part in readings and the liturgy.
- Interesting co-curricular activities like playing football and reading news was done.
- After the workshop, the “youth building Peace” were invited to share their Justice and Peace values with teachers and students in certain school located in Namugongo, owned by the Dominican Sisters. Further consultations with the civic education department and the director will take place in order to stream line this arrangement in the next quarter.

## **Lesson learnt**

- Though the impact of the training would not be immediately assessed, the workshop did not only contribute to the shaping of the youth into good mediators in conflicts but also impacted their own behavioural change to be responsible citizens.

## **Challenges**

- Despite the earlier on agreed upon 30 or less participants to be mobilized for the workshop, very many youth were eager to attend thus could not be left out, a sign that many more youth were interested and willing to participate.
- Youth building peace activities are facing the problem of sustainability.

## **Recommendations**

- If possible, an opportunity to consider building the capacity of other “youth building peace” even outside Kampala Archdiocese so that many more youth can benefit from these workshops.
- The youth leaders requested that an appointment be booked for them with the director of JPIIJPC in late September or early October when they can share with her more about their development plans and a strategy for developing a stronger link between the Youth Building Peace” with JPIIJPC.
- JPIIJPC should make follow up on the “Youth Building Peace” activities to measure impact on their activities (during their monthly meeting and prayer). This will also help in identifying the number of youth committed to the activities.

**Conclusion;** since the youth are the majority of the population and still the ones usually involved in conflicts and acts of violence, the greatest opportunity available is their eagerness to be continuously empowered to build a constructive community. The workshop was successful since the targeted 30 youth was achieved and the sessions covered appropriately. According to the evaluation, the majority of participants were happy with the workshop content and facilitators.