

# Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre Committee

A fundraising committee of Central England Quakers



**OCTOBER 2015**

**Newsletter No. 53**

## Non-violent schools programme 2015-2018

QPC works in schools on the Cape Flats where learning and teaching are overshadowed by constant threats of violence spilling into the schools. In conjunction with the Metro South Education Department (MSED), the Centre is working with teachers and learners in six secondary schools to develop effective ways of dealing with violence, establish peer mediation services, improve classroom behaviour management and combat bullying.

### Behaviour management training for teachers



*Explaining an exercise during training for teachers*

From 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 13 teachers from eight high schools and six from four primary schools, five parents and 14 child care workers participated in the first of three annual 4-day training courses using the 80/20 Discipline Rule manual. Facilitated by Avril Knott-Craig and Stanford Jarvis from QPC and Gavin Kroutz (a teacher from one of the high schools in which QPC works), the course promoted a 3-pronged approach: clear policies and codes of conduct, healthy professional relationships and creative, dynamic teaching strategies.

### New convenor/treasurer(s) needed

After six years under the care of Central England Quakers, the Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre Committee is searching for one or two new convenor/treasurer(s) to take over responsibility for fundraising - more details on the back page.

## Peer mediation

Training in peer mediation was provided for 30 learners and six teachers from six high schools over the week-end of 24-26<sup>th</sup> July, facilitated by QPC staff and facilitators trained earlier in the year (see newsletter No. 52). Participants engaged in listening exercises, role-played situations that lead to violence in schools, practised mediation and, in school groups, prepared and presented their plans for setting up peer mediation services.



*Role-playing peer mediation during the peer mediation training camp*

Learners reported that, in their experience, conflict often arises out of misunderstanding and jealousy. They hope that peer mediation will help to resolve such disputes, preventing them from escalating into bigger fights.

Teachers and learners agreed that setting up peer mediation services in their schools will not be easy, given the hostile environment, but they are keen to take up the challenge.

## Other work

**Training:** QPC responds to requests from other organisations when it can:

- **Alternatives to Violence Project:** in June, seven counsellors working with Community Action for a Safer Environment joined eight teachers being trained to become AVP facilitators by more experienced teachers from schools in which QPC has worked for some time. Stanford Jarvis from QPC acted as a mentor.
- **Anti-bullying:** QPC was invited to run a session on tackling bullying for family members of children being treated for drug-induced psychosis in the adolescent unit of a psychiatric hospital.

- **Positive parenting:** social workers from the MSED's circuit 4 team asked Nokuthula Mbetse, leader of the parenting programme (see below), to give a talk on positive parenting strategies to 200 parents in Philippi.

**Parenting programme:** in six of the poorest areas of Cape Town, QPC is running monthly workshops for young men and women who are already parents, and for the parents of teenagers. This builds on QPC's experience with programmes to empower young women. It is part of the Services to Families Programme of the Western Cape Provincial Government's Department of Social Development, which provides financial support.



## Pupils' Advisory Forum on Violence Lekgotla

On 5th September, nearly 100 teachers and learners involved in the PAFOVs in the six schools where QPC is working came together to share their experience with each other and a record number of staff from the Metro South Education Department.



*Teacher-facilitator Elvida Smith with participants in group work*

Each lekgotla is the culmination of a year of discovery and learning new skills: newly trained peer mediators shared their experiences of setting up peer mediation services in their schools, using drama, role-play and poetry, giving personal accounts and sharing a film and their plans for the future.

One of the principals said with pride that the transformation of his school was being led by learners, his role being to provide the space and opportunities for them to do so.

A member of the MSED team described how the changes in participating schools were noticeable to him and the Director suggested that each of the secondary schools should help a nearby primary school to establish their own peer mediation service.

## AVP facilitators in their own words

Three experienced teachers from schools in which the Centre has worked for some time were interviewed by QPC's manager about what difference their use of AVP approaches has made in their schools and what their experience as AVP facilitators has meant for them in their own lives, as teachers and in their relationships with learners. A few excerpts are given here and the full interview can be found on <http://qpccommittee.wordpress.com>

*Before doing AVP I was another person... I now deal more calmly with any conflict situation, as opposed to previously when my actions were usually the petrol on the fire!* Lee-Anne Florence, Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology.

*As a child I grew up being shouted at all the time. This may be why I, as an adult, shouted at people to get my way...I find*

*that since I stopped shouting at people I get a better response from them...The more I treat people with respect, the more I am respected,* Elvida Smith, Oude Molen



*AVP learners...seem more focused, and more responsible...They also teach others how to resolve problems differently... They are actively involved in revising the school's outdated code of conduct,* Charles Naidoo, Maitland High School

# Supporting the work of the Quaker Peace Centre: the Committee's activities

## ***Search for a new convenor/ treasurer***

The Committee has been under the care of Central England Quakers since 2011 and the current convenor will be coming to the end of her second triennium of service next year. The Committee has launched a search for 1 or 2 convenor/treasurer(s) to take over this work.

Prospective volunteers should have a commitment to supporting peacebuilding work, some knowledge of South Africa (or be willing to visit) and familiarity with Quaker ways of working.

For more information or an informal chat, email Carole Rakodi, the current convenor, [rakodiqpc@talktalk.net](mailto:rakodiqpc@talktalk.net) or phone her on 029 2051 4701.

## ***Finding out more***

Our 6-monthly newsletter is sent to all Quaker meetings and individual supporters

- Ask to be added to the mailing list to receive newsletters by mail or e mail
- Use them to support an appeal or a fundraising event
- Contact us for more information or see the Peace Centre's own website <http://www.qpc.org.za>



## ***Fundraising***

So far in 2015, we have sent £34,000 to Cape Town for the work of the Centre – we still have a long way to go to match the £43,500 we sent in 2014, so please give generously.

Funds come from individual Friends, meetings and trusts with Quaker connections in Britain and Ireland. They are vital to supplement the grants QPC receives from the Western Cape Provincial Social Development Department in Cape Town and other donors in South Africa and overseas. The funds we send enable it to retain staff in between project grants, meet core costs and undertake activities not funded by others.

For example, our support is currently helping QPC to produce a comic book for **gender work with young men**, but £5,000 is still needed for a facilitators' manual and training a group of facilitators.

## ***How to give***

- Set up a standing order from your bank or CAF account. Please let us know you have done this by completing the enclosed form. We can reclaim tax if you are eligible for Gift Aid
- For one-off donations, please use the other side of the enclosed form and sign the Gift Aid declaration if you are eligible
- To give online, visit QPCC's website <http://qpcccommittee.wordpress.com> for a link to the CAF website, or go directly to the CAF site <http://www.cafonline.org> and search for the Cape Town QPC Committee

Contact the convenor, Carole Rakodi, at [rakodiqpc@talktalk.net](mailto:rakodiqpc@talktalk.net) or 02920 514701

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