

Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre Committee

A fundraising committee of Central England Quakers



APRIL 2016

Newsletter No. 54

Positive parenting

In 2013 the South African government adopted a White Paper setting out its policies for strengthening families and supporting parents. With financial support from the provincial government's Department of Social Development, the Quaker Peace Centre contributes to programmes to build parenting skills amongst disadvantaged families in the city.

QPC works with two groups of parents in six of the poorest townships: parents of teenagers and young men and women who are already parents, even though many of them are still in school.



Participating in a workshop for parents

Search for a new convenor/treasurer(s)

Following six years under the care of Central England Quakers, our search for a new convenor/treasurer(s) to take over in 2017 has not been successful. In May, the Area Meeting will again be considering the way forward. The Board and staff of the Quaker Peace Centre are being kept informed.

Suggestions and offers of help are welcome. Meanwhile, our fundraising efforts continue as usual. More details on the back page.

Positive parenting

Workshops with young mothers and fathers explore topics such as keeping children safe, building healthy parent-child relationships and expressing affection.

Workshops with parents of teenagers focus on building parents' self-esteem, identifying parenting styles, understanding child development, improving communication between caregivers and their sons and daughters, and dealing with difficulties and setbacks. Interactive

approaches are used, including those of the Alternatives to Violence Project.

In 2016, the programme will work with six groups of young parents in different areas (40 young men and 40 young women). Ten workshops will be run for each group, as well as 12 workshops for 80 parents of teenagers in the same areas. It is also hoped to bring programme participants together in a day meeting to share their experience and learning.

Young men's attitudes to gender

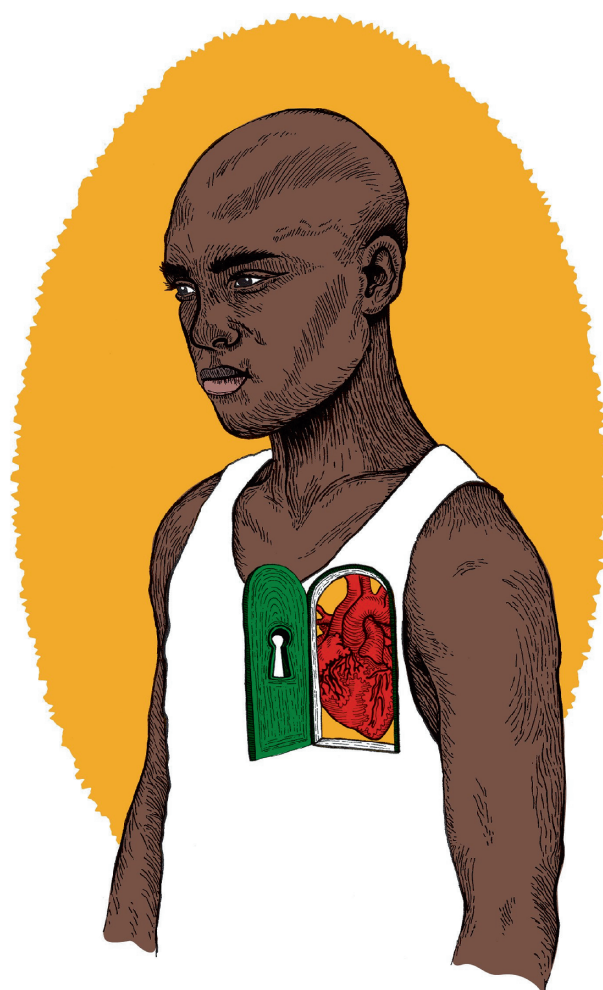
Following a pilot programme in 2013, with the assistance of funds raised by Friends in Britain and Ireland, Athalie Crawford of QPC has developed materials for working with young men to address entrenched gender attitudes.

The Promise of a Man, a comic book that explores the difficulties and dilemmas faced by young men in South Africa was printed in late 2015 with the assistance of a grant from Misereor, which is associated with the Catholic Church in Germany.

Athalie Crawford has also written a guide for facilitators, ***Going In***.

At the end of 2015, an Irish trust with Quaker links agreed a substantial 2-year grant, which will enable QPC to

- provide training for 30 facilitators
- contact the young men who participated in the pilot programme in 2013 to assess its impact on them
- work with a group of 15 young men
- launch and publicise the materials
- use the materials in workshops with members of the Peace Clubs in the high schools where QPC is working.



*Image from the cover of **Going In**, which is being printed with the assistance of a trust with Quaker connections in England.*

The Non-Violent Schools Campaign

The largest part of the NVSC is the Pupils' Advisory Forums on Violence (PAFOV) project, which has been developed in consultation with the provincial government's Metro South Education Department with the aim of improving the learning environment in high schools by reducing conflict and violence.



Students participating in a PAFOV workshop

PAFOVs have been established in the six participating schools to identify the main causes of conflict and violence, develop proposals for tackling them that are presented to the school principals and representative councils, and establish peer mediation programmes. PAFOV members are trained in Alternatives to Violence Project methods and peer mediation. QPC also trains teachers from the schools as

trainers, so that they can train successive cohorts of learners and the programme can be sustained from year to year. This project is mostly funded by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.), which gave a grant in 2015 and has just approved one for 2016. A Quaker Peace and Social Witness Relief Grant played a vital role in getting the work under way in 2015, before the ifa grant was approved in March.



Training teachers in behaviour management

In addition, the Metro South Education Department pays for an annual training course in behaviour management for teachers. These courses use ***The 80/20 Discipline Rule*** manual that the Centre produced in 2013.

It is also assisting MSED with the development of an anti-bullying policy and its annual anti-bullying campaign week in May. These draw on ideas for tackling bullying taken from the manual the Centre produced, based on its own experience, in 2012.

Alternatives to Violence Project

In 2016, Quäker-Hilfe e.V. is supporting, for the third year, a programme of activities to develop and refresh the Alternatives to Violence Project knowledge

and skills of teachers and learners in schools (three secondary and one primary) where QPC has been working for some time.

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

Search for a new convenor/ treasurer(s)

As announced in the last newsletter, after six years under the care of Central England Quakers, the Committee launched a search for one or two new convenor/treasurer(s) to take over responsibility for fundraising amongst Friends in Britain and Ireland with effect from 2017.

The search included letters to all our individual supporters, and advertisements in a Quaker Life bulletin and *The Friend*. A few responses were received, but none of those who made initial enquiries have confirmed their expression of interest.

This lack of progress was reported to Area Meeting in March and Central England Quakers will be considering the way forward again in May.

The Board and staff of the Peace Centre have been kept informed of these developments, so that they can start to formulate alternative strategies as part of their forward planning.



Students in a PAFOV workshop

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 this year, we have sent £14,000 to Cape Town – we hope to send at least £40,000 in 2016. 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 meet core costs and undertake activities not funded by others.

How to give

- Donations can be made by online transfer or cheque. For one-off donations by cheque, please use the appropriate side of the enclosed form and sign the Gift Aid declaration if you are eligible. Meetings, please notify us if you are sending a BACS transfer.
- 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 or 02920 514701

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