

Dialogue

Newsletter of the Network for Peace through Dialogue

Network for Peace through Dialogue (originally CIL) was founded in 1985 by people from the Philippines, the USA and Germany.



Dialogue
Newsletter of the NPD

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Conference to Showcase Dialogue Varieties (Easy Registration Form Inside!)

Come to NPD's June conference on dialogue and sample a variety of dialogue styles and methods. Called "Why Dialogue? (and when, and how, and where?)," the conference has attracted an impressive group of presenters from student groups to organizations with a long history of promoting public conversation.

NPD is partnering for this event with Marymount Manhattan College and the conference will take place in New York at the college on Friday evening, June 15 and all day Saturday, June 16. You can register for it at our website (www.networkforpeace.com) using PayPal or by completing the registration form inside this newsletter.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, a co-sponsor of the conference, provides resources, programs, and networking opportunities for a community of practitioners dedicated to solving group and societal problems through honest talk, quality thinking, and collaborative action.

The Public Conversations Project has been helping people prepare for constructive conversations about potentially divisive issues for over 17 years.

Karen Henden and Muna Aghawani, an Israeli and a Palestinian, have worked for several years in Jewish-Palestinian peace camps.

American Values Are, LLC promotes non-partisan dialogue on the values that shape democracy (e.g., accountability, tolerance, free speech, public education).

Rural Women's Peace Link, a network of grassroots women's organizations in areas affected by violence in Kenya, came together to address a local conflict.

The International Institute for Sustained Dialogue has used a process called "Sustained Dialogue" to proactively improve race relations on college campuses.

The Dialogue Development Group, a student-led group at American University, has its roots in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program there.

Soliya uses videoconferencing technology to facilitate on-line dialogue between college students in the U.S. and Middle East.

The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding has devised a curriculum around a study of Muslim and Christian students in Nigeria.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Director

In December Kathleen Kanet and I finished a training program in Outcomes Management sponsored by the Rensselaerville Institute. A result of that workshop was NPD's description of High Quality Dialogue.

We used that description in our Living Room Dialogues and as a guideline in our on-line dialogue.

An evaluation of the on-line dialogue over the last two months, which involved 10 active participants from 4 countries, was completed by Courtney Smith. It indicated that we used all of the indicators of High Quality Dialogue. The most frequently used was "participants express their own opinion rather than talking about 'them' or in universal truths." The least frequently used was: "participants do not try to convince others to change their point of view."

Confronting Concerns

Other programs are also progressing nicely. Confronting Concerns II is on the way to interviewing 100 Harlem youth about their concerns for themselves, their neighborhood and their world. Tené Howard, a new staff person who also works for Global Kids, will facilitate the forums and help three young leaders to organize this project. These leaders have already demonstrated excellence in one principle of High Quality Dialogue, "Responses which show an honest expression of one's own opinion," when they announced clearly the program and its purpose to an entire church assembly.

Conference

By reading this newsletter you can see how exciting and rich the June conference, "Why Dialogue? (and when and how and where?)" promises to be.

Thanks

One reason that we are able to do all of this work is because of our contributors. The Recognition Night of last October, when we recognized Marymount School of NY and Alice Rivlin, was the most lucrative yet. Thanks to all of our donors.

And you can see pictures of our smart, dedicated, committed staff members on our website.

—Virginia Dorgan

Coming Up

Sat., May 5 from 7 to 10 pm
Celebrate Spring Benefit for NPD
Sponsored by Laura Fernandez
Home of Leslyn Rigoni
73 Fifth Avenue #4 (at 15th St.)
Call 212-426-5818 to reserve your place.
Donation: \$50.00 (more if you can)

Tuesday May 15 6:30 pm
Living Room Dialogue: "What Legislation is Needed to Stop Human Trafficking"
Presented by Taina Bien-Aime, Executive Director of Equality Now
For location call 212-426-5818

June 15 Evening and 16 All Day
2007 NPD Conference on Dialogue:
Why Dialogue? (and when, and how, and where?)
Location: Marymount Manhattan College, New York City
Register now on through this Newsletter or on the NPD website:

(Continued from page 1)

The Compassionate Listening Project has developed a model which emphasizes deep listening and mutual empathy as keys to lasting reconciliation and transformation.

The InterRelations Collaborative, using the power of art to build and celebrate diverse student populations in New York, worked with youth to create a Peace Quilt.

The Dialogue Project creates bonds between neighbors of different backgrounds, particularly Diaspora Palestinians, Israelis, and Jewish, Muslim and Christian Americans.

Network for Peace through Dialogue is a 501(c)3 organization and depends on individual contributions. Any contribution you can make in cash, stock, or a bequest will help to further our work. The address and phone number are on the cover of this newsletter. Thank you.

Conference Registration — Why Dialogue?

Friday evening June 15 and all day Saturday June 16, 2007

Complete this form and return it by mail to 240 E. 93rd Street #14B, New York, N.Y., 10128

NAME: _____
 ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION (if applicable): _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Make check payable to Network for Peace Through Dialogue
 I am paying: \$175 Early Bird (before June 1), \$50 student,
 (select one) \$195 (June 1 and later), other (approval required)

WHAT ARE YOUR WORKSHOP PREFERENCES? (To help us plan, please choose 1st & 2nd workshop preferences from each of the three concurrent sessions listed)

**9:00 - 10:30 AM
 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- A: *Fateful Questions: The Power of Inquiry to Influence Dialogue***
 The Public Conversations Project (Double session)
- B: *Dialogue Practices in Jewish-Palestinian Youth Peace Camps***
 Keren Hendin and Muna Aghawani
- C: *How and Why Dialogue in a University-Based Setting?: Creating Dialogue Programs in Schools, Clubs, and Communities***
 American University Dialogue Development Group
- D: *Online Intercultural Dialogue and Facilitation***
 Soliya and the Network for Peace through Dialogue
- E: *The COEXIST Curriculum and Dialogue in Religious-Peacemaking***
 The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding

**10:45 - 12:45 PM
 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- A: *Fateful Questions: The Power of Inquiry to Influence Dialogue***
 The Public Conversations Project (Continued)
- B: *Listening as the Foundation of Dialogue***
 Compassionate Listening
- C: *Civic Engagement: Helping make the Connections Needed for Meaningful Dialogue***
 American Values Are
- D: *Local to Global: Grassroots Dialogue***
 Rural Women's Peace Link, Kenya
- E: *Sustained Dialogue: "It's not just talk . . . it's a social movement"***
 The International Institute for Sustained Dialogue

**2:30 - 4:30 PM
 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- A: *Cultivating Readiness: Preparing Participants for Constructive Conversations***
 The Public Conversations Project
- B: *A Living Room Dialogue: Migration***
 The Network for Peace through Dialogue
- C: *The Peace Story Quilt: Dialogue and Unity through the Power of Art***
 InterRelations Collaborative
- D: *Speaking Across Differences: Transformative Dialogue in NYC***
 The Dialogue Project
- E: *Which Method Should I Use?: Navigating the Continuum of Dialogue and Deliberation***
 National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation

ANY QUESTIONS? Call us
 At 212-426-5818

Human Trafficking: A New Form of Slavery?

Last November, Sharon Tiongco, a visitor from the Philippines, talked to us about human trafficking of young women in her country for sex and domestic labor. She called this a new form of slavery. At the closing of her talk, she urged us not to think of this problem as something that is happening “over there,” but to find out what is going on in New York and possibly take some action.

Following up on that, NPD invited Carol Smolenski of ECPAT-USA to talk to us at a Living Room Dialogue about the trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and to tell us what concerned people could do about it.

In Bangkok, In New York

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism) was created in 1991 by people horrified at the way the young were being exploited sexually in places like Bangkok. ECPAT-USA was formed in 1996 and has expanded its mission to ending sexual exploitation of young people here in the U.S. as well.

Some things we learned from Carol: According to a CIA report issued in 2000, New York is a main port of entry and a transit area for traffickers either depositing victims in the metropolitan area or circulating them to other cities across the country. Some victims enter legally, some only after being drugged, kidnapped, or physically restrained in some way. Sometimes they don't know they are being trafficked until they get here, having been told only that they would be given employment.

Some 600-800,000 people every year are trafficked across the globe, 80% of them women, 50% under 18, with 14,000-18,000 of them ending up in the U.S. Often victims are afraid to seek help. Traffickers tell them that the U.S. authorities are in on the deal and will not help, or they threaten to harm the victims' families back at home.

Globalization a Factor

The exploding sex market has been facilitated by globalization and the growth of the internet. Child pornography available on-line increasingly uses younger and younger children, many under six, and even three-year-olds. People are being sold on eBay (escort section). Child sex tours used to be freely promoted but now are underground because of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act passed in the U.S. in 2000.

In 1996, 120 countries participated in a World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children co-sponsored by ECPAT, UNICEF and the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Although the airlines and hotels are not directly involved in the sex industry, their infrastructure is employed by travelers in pursuit of sex with children. A Code of Conduct for the tourism industry was developed which has now been signed by 300 companies.

What to Do

Some suggestions for action: Write letters to airlines and hotel chains urging them to sign on to the Code of Conduct. A sample letter along with the names and addresses of airline and hotel executives plus a list of organizations which already have signed the code can be found on our website with the full report on this Living Room Dialogue (www.networkforpeace.com).

Talk about the problem. Twenty-five percent of the men engaging in sex tourism come from the U.S. Most of the others come from Germany, Australia, Sweden and Japan. Often they think they are doing children a favor because they are poor. Or they believe that the sexual use of children is OK in the countries they are visiting. The reality is that commercial exploitation of children for sex is illegal in all countries.

Write letters to legislators. Young people forced into prostitution are frequently treated as criminals rather than victims in need of help. For example, the NYPD arrests 12-year-olds as prostitutes but leaves pimps and johns alone.

Complete notes on this LRD as well as the November dialogue with Sharon Tiongco can be found on our website. For more information about ECPAT, go to www.ecpatusa.org.

—Peggy Ray

On-Line Dialogue Gets Up Close and Personal

Over the past two months, NPD has engaged an on-line community representing four continents in a lively dialogue on the topic of migration. We began with a simple prompt: *Tell us who you are and how migration touches your daily life.* The response was phenomenal. In place of the generalizations we hear in the news and in politicians' talking points, the diverse members of our online community shared real, intensely personal migration stories with one another.

Members from the Philippines told us what it's like to live in a country from which 1,000 people emigrate daily. Often children are left behind without their parents. From Cameroon we heard similar stories of "brain drain," the mass exodus of the country's educated population, which is crippling development there.

No One Untouched

We heard how immigration is forcing Germany to reevaluate its self-definition as a nation. One dialogue participant from the U.S. told us how her mother, a 30-year resident and green card holder, was threatened with deportation by the Department of Homeland Security. We heard from another participant whose ancestors were forced to migrate as slaves generations ago. We told each other how we ourselves are migrants, from small towns to big city, from one part of our countries to another.

As we told our stories and responded to those shared by others, we discussed the personal and emotional aspects of migration: What is it like to "not quite belong," to live between cultures or far from your country of origin, to make a choice between migrating in the hope of making a better or more interesting life and the inevitable loss of family and friends?

Political Aspects

We took note of laws, boundaries, and economies which encourage or impede migration. Though we were not able to go into such issues in detail within the time frame allotted to this dialogue, we acknowledged and lamented the fact that there is still significant involuntary migration by human trafficking victims and those displaced by war, extreme poverty, famine, and other humanitar-

ian crises. We discussed the many ways in which migration affects families, communities, and the environment.

High Quality Dialogue?

We believe these exchanges met the criteria we set for high quality dialogue. We responded with honest expressions of our personal opinions; our comments demonstrated empathetic and attentive listening; we responded to each other with insights, questions, and agreement or respectful disagreement; and in the end, we learned a great deal from each other and uncovered some hidden assumptions about migration (for example, that it is primarily a political issue). In reflecting on the experience, many of us found that our understanding of this important issue had been transformed and enriched by our dialogue with this online community.

—Courtney Smith,
On-line Dialogue Coordinator

Our on-line dialogues take place via e-mail, and we will be beginning a new one soon. If you would like to join, please send an e-mail to us at online.dialogue@google.com.

A Perspective from Africa



Tanyi Christian, a participant in our on-line dialogue, also spoke at a Living Room Dialogue while visiting New York. His NGO conducts conflict resolution work in Cameroon. See our website for a report.

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Planning Confronting Concerns next youth forums: NPD's new staff person Tene Howard (second left) works with (l to r) Erica Johnson, Jahmala Cornelius, and Roshelle Wickham. The young planners will interview 100 Harlem youth to find out what concerns them about their lives and world