



The Network for Peace through Dialogue Why Dialogue? (and when, and how, and where?)

Women's Peace Circle Empathic Conversations: Models from Kenya and the U.S.

[The Public Conversations Project](#) Women's Peace Circle is a group of women who are using their friendship as a supportive model for creating change through grassroots organization. In this session, they discussed their collaboration with the Rural Women's Peace Link (RWPL), a group seeking to bring peace to areas affected by armed conflict in Kenya. RWPL came together to address a local conflict made more violent by globalization (guns, environmental changes, and increased violence against women). The women involved worked tirelessly to understand the needs of both sides, devise solutions that would honor all needs and concerns, and establish patterns and practices that continue to foster dialogue. This session presented the work of the Rural Women's Peace Link in Kenya as a visual model and focal point, to explore the process and uses of dialogue, and to make connections with the experiences of the Peace Circle Women. Time was also allowed for an exercise in empathy and a discussion of how this model might be applied in future work as this group works to formulate its next steps.

[American Values Are, LLC](#)

Teaches values & traditions-civic classes

- Weed & watch

Day to day activities involved with peace. Patterns of communication

- Harvest

How to increase communication, tolerance, peace, compassion, safety. Close gap between values and actions.

- Define words accurately (e.g. *democracy* or *sprawl*)

Purpose: 1). Educate 2). Engage 3). Preserve & Restore

- "We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts." – John Dewey
- Why people don't engage: 1). Not motivated 2). Overwhelmed
- 3). Uninvited 4). Fearful or anger
- What gets people engaged? 1). Purpose 2). Passion 3). Invitation 4). Information 5). Ability &

capital (social)

- Key concepts: 1). Words matter 2). History teaches
- 3). Relevance is required 4). Citizenship requires critical thought
- Dialogue based learning meets fundamental needs: 1). Attention 2). Acknowledgement 3). Affection 4). Acceptance
- Conflicts arise from differences: 1). Structure 2). Values
- 3). Interest 4). Information 5). Relationship
- Dialogue allows exploration of differences
- Dialogue allows for real engagement
- You cannot sustain dialogue if people don't see progress being made.