

WHY DIALOGUE?

“The Network creates and provides opportunities for people of differing experiences, backgrounds and cultures to communicate with each other on issues that affect them. This promotes understanding, insight, and creates an environment that nurtures creative problem solving strategies for the benefit of all. It is always more productive when people can talk to each other rather than at or about each other. It feels better too.” -bobi keenan, Santa Ana, CA



Participants at a Network sponsored conference entitled “Neighborhood by Neighborhood: How Can We Build a More Sustainable World?”



“Dialogue is a bridge. Difference can lead to walls in which you keep safe; walls which hold others out. Dialogue, on the contrary, is a bridge. Through dialogue you can chink away at walls; dialogue is an effort to meet another person. Consider the neighbor to whom you don’t talk; consider the nations with which we are in conflict. Efforts at, and skills in dialogue are necessary to achieve greater unity and more peace.”



-Virginia Dorgan, RSHM
Executive Director

Peace is Possible!



Contact Us

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Join Us

240 E. 93rd St. #14B
New York, NY 10128
(212) 426-5818

See our current activities on our website!
www.networkforpeace.com



MAKING PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE

Network for Peace through Dialogue increases the skills and practice of dialogue, thereby expanding the respect for difference necessary for peace among people. Such exchanges contribute to a broader and deeper understanding of others and the acquisition of non-violent patterns of behavior.

The Network promotes dialogue locally and globally: locally through its youth and Living Room Dialogue programs and globally through its on-line dialogues. In all these, the Network assists participants in sharing and analyzing information as well as identifying solutions to perplexing problems.

Because individuals and groups have different perspectives and experiences that they bring into any dialogue, the Network for Peace through Dialogue encourages "High Quality Dialogue" that demonstrates:

- Honest expression of one's own opinion
- Empathetic and attentive listening
- An effort to understand others
- Willingness to be transformed by the experience



PROGRAMS



LIVING ROOM DIALOGUES

Living Room Dialogues are based on a popular education process that aims to be inclusive, accessible, and participatory. A group of seven to 20 people gather in a living room to consider various topics related to their community or to the world. Usually a special guest is invited to describe an experience abroad or to offer some special expertise. Recent topics have included:

- aspects of human trafficking for sex and work, both locally and globally;
- the development of an African Peace Institute in Cameroon;
- organized efforts to prevent warfare;
- using the experience of hurricane Katrina to question underlying social structures.

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Our hope is for a peaceful world where people work out their differences and grow more unified through dialogue.

COMMUNITIES IN DIALOGUE

For Adults

In on-line dialogues, individuals from around the world engage in an on-line dialogue for a period of eight to 12 weeks. The aim is to expand awareness of the varying social, cultural and economic dimensions of critical issues confronting people everywhere. The Network reports on the issues, questions and suggestions that emerge in these dialogues in its newsletter and on its website. Its expectation is that participants and readers will bring new awareness from the dialogue to their families and communities. Recent dialogues have focused on whether people have a need to designate others as "enemies," and migration as participants have experienced it.



For Youth

The Confronting Concerns program in New York City's Harlem community engages youth in a series of Saturday activities focusing on the United Nation's Covenant on the Rights of the Child. The young



people consider their own concerns for themselves and their world and design ways to address these concerns. These sessions conclude with presentations by the youth to their parents/guardians or to local governmental bodies. This local program is an outgrowth of the Network's Crossing Boundaries:

Youth in Dialogue about the Rights of the Child project which linked eight youth groups internationally in an online dialogue from 2003-2006.

