

# *Peace Counts on tour*



*Peace Counts project*



Institut für Friedenspädagogik  
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The media show us every day how to make war. But how do we make peace? The search for answers has led reporters sponsored by the Peace Counts Foundation into 30 conflict zones to take a closer look at the work of **successful peacebuilders**. Their achievements teach us how to overcome the barriers between people.

The documentations have been spread in **multimedial ways** in the past three years to reach the broad public throughout Europe: print media, broadcasting, internet, forum events, photo exhibitions, a book and educational material for schools.

In the years to come, Peace Counts brings the stories back to the conflict zones. A **photo-exhibit** shows a best of-selection. The Institute for Peace Education Tübingen has developed **workshops** which offer teachers, journalists, politicians and mediators a deeper understanding of motivations and methods of these peacebuilders.

Peace Counts looks in each country for local partners to implement workshops, exhibit and opening event and offers all its material in exchange.

# *Exhibit: A journey around the world*

## **How does the exhibit work?**

- An informational panel at the beginning gives an overview of Peace Counts
- Each module corresponds to one of the ten countries
- the captions are in English. Translations can be provided on separate sheets
- the modules can be moved freely in the room
- a permanent beamer presentation of pictures which are animated like a movie displays a broader selection of pictures

## **Requirements:**

- 100 to 300 qm
- no hanging system needed
- if available: TV-screen or wide-screen for beamer presentation
- some chairs/sofas/banks/mattresses for having a rest
- the exhibit is delivered in three flight cases
- one person to help the Peace Counts coordinator who helps to install the exhibition

## **Time frame:**

- half a day to fix the exhibition
- preferred time frame for the exhibition: two weeks
- inauguration conference on the first day of the exhibition with participation of a peacebuilder



*Michael Gleich, coordinator of Peace Counts, shows visitors around the exhibit in the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo, February 2007.*

*Each panel has a large picture on the front and four smaller pictures plus text on the back.*



*The exhibit is the scenery for a discussion between a group of young Sri Lankan journalists and Michael Gleich, coordinator of Peace Counts.*

# *Peace Counts: Peace Education in Conflict Regions*

The Institute for Peace Education has developed workshops, which try to build on and elaborate the content of the exhibit „Peacebuilders Around the World“. The workshops offer the participants a platform for discussing the topic of “how individuals can make peace.” The participants also find out more about conflict regions in the exhibition and about the motives, the methods and success stories of peacebuilders. Are there typical steps of a conflict’s escalation or deescalation? Which paths lead to violence and how can people escape from the spiral of violence? Using the reports and photos from Peace Counts as well as other materials from the Institute for Peace Education, the participants get to know creative methods for conflict management. In the workshops, they can also discuss how they can apply these methods to the situation in their own country.

The workshops aim at multipliers who themselves work on conflict prevention, such as facilitators, mediators, NGO-employees, teachers or politicians. Journalists are invited to have workshops separately with the Peace Counts’ photographers and writers.

The materials used include: the photos of the exhibit in A-4 format, the complete stories from the Peace Counts reports in English and if possible, the stories from the exhibit in the language of the country. In addition, the CD-ROM “Success Stories from Peacebuilders Worldwide” is used as well as other visual materials published by the Institute for Peace Education (the picture box “The Culture of Conflict” and the picture box “Stories of Conflict”).

The workshops are designed to last one day. The individual sessions can be adjusted according to how much time is available and the interests of the participants.



*Photographers from Colombo tell about their difficult working conditions during times of conflict.*



*Workshop-participants edit a story using the pictures*



*Uli Jäger and Ana Mijic from the Institute for Peace Education, Tübingen, train Sri Lankan teachers, mediators and social workers using the pictures of Peace Counts. Colombo, March 2007*

# Opening Event: *Peace Counts Forum*

To open the exhibit and workshops, a panel discussion with the featured peacebuilder of the particular country can be organized. Their stories convey the motives, modes of operation, frustrations, and progress of their vibrant current projects. Photographic projections illustrate their work (beamer and screen). A moderator from the local partner organization encourages conversation between the peacebuilder, the Peace Counts-coordinator and invited guests from NGOs, media, schools, universities, government officials and ex-combatants. The opening event substitutes a press conference. Translated texts, radio-features and pictures will be provided to local media, facilitating a broad coverage.



*Michael Gleich (r.), coordinator of Peace Counts, discusses with two Sri Lankan Peacebuilders (middle) and moderator Shamiri from YA TV at the opening event in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 19th March 2007*

# *Local Partners:*

## *Helping hand and brain*

Peace Counts needs local partners who are interested in implementing exhibit, workshops and opening event together with us. The start of our tour in March 2007 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, has shown how crucial the support of an organization like the German Gtz and their Sri Lankan partner FLICT was.

### **How the local partner can support Peace Counts**

- organizing a location for the exhibition and workshops
- proposing an invitation list for opening event and workshops
- handling the invitations
- organizing the workshop schedule

### **What Peace Counts offers to the local partner**

- an internationally unique and well-known project which might fit well into the partner's program and increase his reputation
- materials for the own conflict prevention work such as workshop design and additional CD-ROM (in English), the exhibit as reproducible PDF-file on DVD, all pictures on DVD, all texts on DVD (in English and some of them translated)

*The stories - five examples*



*Joe Doherty (right) stands in front of the New Lodge Youth Center in Belfast. He has a problem: One boy constantly attacks other children. Now he wants to come inside*

Northern Ireland

## *From Prison to Youth Center*

**The conflict:** Catholic IRA, Protestant paramilitaries, British government

**The peacebuilders:** Ex-terrorists, Joe Doherty and Peter McGuire

**Their solution:** Interest young people in non-violent politics

There is a peace agreement between the British government and the IRA. But radical groups on both sides might continue the violence Joe Doherty and Peter McGuire grew up with: Joe joined the IRA at 17. He spent 22 years in prison for murder. On the other side, Peter McGuire joined pro-British paramilitaries. He spent 10 years in prison. His doubts began when his group asked him to kill another member. The two men were bitter enemies. Both were "heroes". Now they stop children in Northern Ireland from sharing the same fate. Joe and Peter talk critically with young people about the futility of underground resistance and their wasted lives in prison. They deliberately demystify the heroic stories that surround their lives.



*In the School for Peace, young women from Palestine (left) and Israel (right) lock themselves in a room for 3 days and share their opinions – open and sometimes cruel*

Israel

## *Talking Beats Fighting*

**The conflict:** Between Israelis and Palestinians

**The peacebuilders:** The School for Peace

**Their solution:** Conversations between the two camps

The School for Peace is halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In workshops every week, groups of Palestinians and Israelis lock themselves in a room to argue for 3 days. As with real politics, the talks often fail to reach an agreement. But that is not the school's goal. Neither is it important to gain the other's sympathies. The popular hypothesis goes that getting to know to the other side on a personal level changes attitudes towards the whole conflict. The School for Peace, on the contrary, wants to reveal everybody's group-identity and role in the conflict by focusing on politically hot topics. In response to a poll conducted one year after the course's completion, participants say they changed their opinions only after they had seen the fur fly.



*Violence is a reality at Pullsmore Prison in Cape Town. But the circle of hate can be broken with playful methods like dancing.*

South Africa

## *Gentle Words for Tough Guys*

**The conflict:** Gang war in Cape Town prisons

**The peacebuilders:** Victoria Maloka, Centre for Conflict Resolution

**Their solution:** Training in non-violence for prisoners and guards

Brutal status conflicts dominate the everyday life of prisoners in the crowded prisons of Cape Town. Every prisoner needs to maintain his rank – among his own gang and in opposition to rival groups. Victoria Maloka from the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) leads role-playing exercises, teaching prisoners and guards to respect each other – for many of them, a new experience. Even muggers and murderers learn that there are other ways to resolve issues than with razor blades or their fists. Since Victoria began her work, the number of murders has fallen significantly. The success allows her to hope that the men may resolve on peaceful coexistence even after they leave the prison grounds. Consequently, she makes clear to them that if they don't follow her suggestions, they could land right back in Vorberg.



*Tuaregs from different clans had been fighting over pasture land. They ate together, they talked, they found a solution – and now the agreement is sealed.*

Mali

## *Ambassador in Indigo*

**The conflict:** Nomadic Tuareg rebels against the government

**The peacebuilders:** Mediator Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali, with foreign help

**Their solution:** Development money comes only with peace

In the north of Mali, there is little rain. The people are poor. Desert peoples have been in conflict over water since the beginning of time. After two years of especially severe drought in the 1990s, civil war broke out. Corruption in the central government kept development aid from reaching the Tuareg in the dry north. With help from the German organization GTZ, the mediator Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali works to solve the problems with a simple principle: Only clans that stop fighting can receive money. Wherever there is peace, the money pays for new schools, hospitals, water wells, and irrigation. Mechanics learned to install and fix water pumps. The compulsion to cooperate and the economic stabilization hinder the outbreak of renewed violence.



*Policeman Ruberval Franca with weapons seized by the police of Rio de Janeiro. Over 40,000 people die of gunshot wounds every year in Brazil – more than in any other country.*

## Brazil

### *Viva Rio!*

**The conflict:** Gang war in poor parts of Rio de Janeiro

**The peacebuilders:** The organization “Viva Rio”

**Their solution:** Sports, education, conflict resolution and an internet newspaper

Viva Rio was founded by researchers, businesses, journalists, and social workers – a network that can reach anyone in Rio, from drug dealers to the mayor. Drug dealers will do anything to sell their product – even use children. Viva Rio takes children off the streets. It gives school dropouts an education and helps them find work. When neighbors in the crowded favelas disagree, they call the Viva Rio “Office for Conflict Resolution” instead of the local mafia. There is less killing. An internet newspaper, Vivafavela, tells stories of peace and harmony – not only of death and sorrow.

**Peace Counts *project***

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