



KCP FOR PEACEBUILDING, INC.

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PROGRAM UPDATE

Winter 2010

KCP for Peacebuilding (KCP) was founded in 1994 to address the growing global challenge of ethnic, religious, and political conflict. Karuna Center works by invitation and in collaboration with local and national organizations, including civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, government representatives, educational and religious institutions, and regional peacebuilders. Karuna Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

Current Programs

- **Grenada** – Through the auspices of St. George’s University, KCP is working with university and community stakeholder groups to address issues around conflict resolution, community relations, cultural differences, perceived injustices, and social inclusion.
- **Nepal** - KCP has worked intensively in Nepal since the fall of the monarchy in 2006. Programs have included: non violence training for human rights organizations; workshops on citizen participation in the new constitutional process; peace leadership programs; training seminars for government ministries, NGO leaders, and the private sector to promote public/private partnerships for sustainable peace; and peacebuilding workshops for women parliamentarians (in partnership with Nepali partner ICPD -Institute for Conflict, Peace and Development).
- **Pakistan:** Leading training for a Pashtun NGO’s working in conflict affected regions, including the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), funded by the US state Department.
- **Rwanda** – Developed a “Rescuers Project” with the Gisozi Memorial Museum in Kigali. Exhibit of genocide rescuers is traveling to high schools throughout Rwanda, accompanied by dialogues on tolerance and reconciliation with schools and communities.
- **Senegal** – *Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution with Key Constituencies in the Casamance.* KCP is completing its fourth year of partnership with AECOM on a USAID-funded training program for civil society, government leaders, and rebel groups to build their capacity to resolve a 25-year old insurgency in southern Senegal. KCP is also implementing *The Casamance Culture Project* to promote reconciliation and conflict transformation through the arts. In August 2009, KCP completed an Illicit Power Structures field test and regional conflict assessment for USAID.
- **Sri Lanka** – KCP has teamed with the Sri Lankan NGO, Association of War Affected Women, and gender expert, Sanam Anderlini, on workshops aimed at building women’s skills in conflict management and coalition-building to ensure women’s participation in the peace process. KCP has just received a USAID grant to work on a reconciliation program with religious leaders in northeast Sri Lanka.
- **United States** - The KCP continues to facilitate dialogues for community groups and university campuses on divisive issues. KCP staff each year lead the CONTACT (Conflict Transformation Across Cultures) summer peacebuilding institute at the SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont with over 60 participants from 25-30 conflict regions around the world.
- **Francophone West Africa Program-** KCP has developed a CONTACT program for French-speaking West African Countries in partnership with African Consultants International (ACI).
- **South Asia Regional Program-** KCP has launched a new regional CONTACT program for the SAARC countries of South Asia to be launched in February 2009.
- **The Rescuers Project-** KCP is developing a cross-cutting program to highlight the role of those who reach out across sectarian lines to rescue during mass violence, in partnership with Proof: Media for Social Justice. A traveling exhibit has been launched for Rwanda and a documentary film is in process, highlighting stories from Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, and Guatemala.

Recent Programs

- **Afghanistan** – In September 2007, KCP partnered with the Initiative for Inclusive Security on a multi-sector training seminar in Kabul for women parliamentarians, government officials, and civil society leaders, titled *Securing Afghanistan: Women's Vital Contributions*. The program focused on building broad-based coalitions to address security challenges and promote dialogue between Afghan women leaders and international policy makers.
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina** - *Project DiaKom (Project for Dialogue and Community Building)* was conducted with Bosnian Muslim and Serb educators in the Sanski Most and Prijedor regions of northern Bosnia between 1997-2002. Through this program, Serb and Bosnian Muslim DiaKom facilitators joined to create and register the only bi-communal NGO working in both entities in the region. Working in inter-communal teams, they promoted tolerance and understanding as the process of repatriation took place and remain determined to play leadership roles in building a peaceful civil society. (Funded in part by the United States Institute of Peace.)
- **Burundi** - In 2006, CARE International invited KCP to design and facilitate training to launch a two-year campaign to build grassroots advocacy against gender-based violence in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **India** – *Peacebuilding in India, 2004-05*. In partnership with World Vision/India, KCP led conflict transformation programs for conflict vulnerable regions of India. Programs included work on Hindu/Muslim tensions in Gujarat and tribal conflict in the Northeast region. In *Project with Tibetans-in-Exile: Leadership Training in Conflict Transformation, 2003-05*, KCP developed a training and mentoring project with the Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution in Dharamsala to address issues within the Tibetan community and with their Indian neighbors.
- **Israel-Palestine** - KCP led training programs in 2005-2006 for Palestinian NGO activists from the Ramallah area, focused on NGO skills development in conflict and change management, and seminars in Israel for Israelis Jews and Israeli Arabs on the issues that divide them. Before the last Intifada KCP led numerous dialogue groups that brought Israelis and Palestinians together. KCP hopes to continue that work when conditions permit.
- **Kosovo** - KCP was invited by Save the Children in December 2006 to train teachers to lead multi-ethnic, multi-lingual kindergartens. Building upon previous work in Kosovo, KCP's training focused on using the kindergartens to build cross-cultural tolerance and understanding for children, parents, and teachers.
- **Philippines** - In 2006, KCP partnered with the Department of Agrarian Reform of the Philippine government to deliver a training program for development workers in Mindanao on conflict sensitive development and natural resource management.
- **Macedonia** - *Macedonian Educators Project, 2002-05*. In this three-year project, KCP facilitated dialogues between Albanian and Macedonian teachers in Tetovo. Fifty educators were trained in dialogue skills and strategies that promote tolerance and co-existence. Twenty-five participants received advanced training as facilitators to continue dialogue work and peacebuilding projects with colleagues, youth, parents, and other community members.
- **Rwanda** - *Rwandan Women's Peace Leadership Project, 2003-05*. In partnership with Pro-femmes, an umbrella group of women's organizations in Rwanda, KCP led a two-year series of workshops for women leaders in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and facilitation skills with follow-on mentoring. In 2005, KCP led seminars for the Rwandan government's National Unity and Reconciliation Commission to help build the capacity of their commissioners, staff and partners to manage conflict and post-genocide reconciliation.
- **Sri Lanka** - *Preparing for Peace: Leadership Training for Dialogue and Reconciliation, Sri Lanka, 2003-05*. KCP led a two-year training-of-trainers program for 25 participants who were mentored in leading their own reconciliation projects for all sectors of society. Funded in part by the United States Institute of Peace, this program built upon a long history of KCP work in the country.