

# Friends Peace Teams Activity 2019

## Report to PYM Annual Session

*Contact Gay Howard, Central Coast Meeting, Friends Peace Team representative of Pacific Yearly Meeting, for more information.*

### Creating Cultures of Peace – Friends Peace Teams

Nadine Hoover has developed a program to help people bring peace, child development, sustainable work, and community decision making into violent, struggling, poor communities. The program is called Creating Cultures of Peace.

Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific plans to pay three people, one in Indonesia, one in the Philippines and one in Nepal to pilot test Creating Cultures of Peace. They will do this online. They will train facilitators using software Learndash. Each will translate it into their own language. Then in 2020 anyone who has taken the training and who wants to become a facilitator can gather a small group of 3-6 people locally and sign up for the online facilitators' training. Thus training more people. We have some money to do this, but we need more. By contributing hopefully you will be spreading peace and well being.

In Indonesia the training will go to inter-religious groups of young adults, citizen leaders, teachers and parents of young children (some deaf and some with normal hearing). In Nepal the training will be offered to the National Land Rights Forum, DSRC and citizen leaders. In the Philippines the training will be offered to Catholic Student Action, a Catholic Worker movement and to environmental and human rights activists and citizen leaders. In addition in Aotearoa/New Zealand it will be offered to Maori-speakers and students of varied backgrounds. These trainers will join Nadine Hoover in developing online training for facilitators, which, in combination with regular personal and local practice will hone their skills as they develop local training teams.

### Friends Peace Teams – Peace in Latin America (PLA)

Nelly DelCid has been working with Friends Peace Teams in Honduras for many years. She and her work are amazing. This is what Nelly says:

For me as a peace worker, I bet on the processes of healing .It is to go on discovering our own capacity to transform and learn how to listen to ourselves and bae able to name things, to learn to break down all of these systems of mistreatment that we have internalized.

1998 Hurricane Mitch left Honduras in ruins.

In 2002, violence got worse as gangs started to appear. The violence was directed at women.

In 2009 there was a military coup in Honduras. Corruption increased and democratic institutions were weakened. Violence against women increased.

In 2010 Val Liveoak of FPT brought the first Alternatives to Violence Workshop to Honduras.

All of AVP is healing because it touches our wounds and we begin to realize how the violence has profoundly damaged us. We begin to see how, without realizing it, we can reproduce this violence.

We need to retake the idea of healing because healing is political. Because for us, the women, healing means to reconstruct our lives and re-find and understand what our priorities are and what we actually want. To see what kind of country we dream about.

The principal obstacle today is the great level of judicial insecurity that we encounter. The State is a failed state. So, in the work that we do with people who are defending their territories or who receive aggressions in their bodies, we find access to justice is very difficult. Justice and peace go hand in hand.

In my own experience I have had this feeling of helplessness, that nothing changes. I have to remind myself that it is simply a broken square. That the solution is there, but I just can't see it at the moment. Just because I don't see it, doesn't mean that the solution is not there among us. So this gives me encouragement to help me get rid of my feelings of helplessness.

## Friends Peace Teams – African Great Lakes Initiative

There are five peace libraries for children in this area. They are a place for children to read and learn. Here imagination and curiosity are fed. In addition there are trainings in mediation and conflict resolution. Both children and adults participate in these.

AGLI has been giving Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC) workshops for many years. Day 1 covers an introduction to trauma. Day 2 is about loss, grief, and mourning including personal reflection, sharing stories, and dealing with anger. Day 3 is about building trust. HROC was developed by Quakers in Rwanda and Burundi in 2003 to help communities there suffering from trauma following the genocide in 1994.

## Friends Peace Teams – Asia West Pacific

Each year there is an International Peace Training at Peace Place, Pati, Central Java, Indonesia. The 7th Annual International Peace Training will take place in January 2020. Citizen leaders from many countries will learn how to stand up against violence, create cultures of peace, and teach permaculture. Permaculture is the practice of working with rather than against nature. Two thirds of the participants were women, and they were mostly under 30 years of age. 14 countries were represented and 19 languages. In the training only two languages were used, English and Indonesian.