

Peace and Nonviolence Education Australasia

Digest Update 4: 18th May 2021

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www.peaceandnveducation.org

1) Teaching about giving/receiving Consent

This process is an illustration of how we can support each other in the Peace and Nonviolence Education network by offering conversation spaces to share our questions and our learning. Gillian Moses initiated this invitation around the network for a Zoom conversation...and those who came were the right people!

For many of us who work in schools, the topic of consent in sexual relationships has become a hot button issue in the last few weeks. The petition started by Chanel Contos has elicited many stories of harm, and has focused attention on how schools are addressing the topic. This leads me to wonder how we as educators committed to a way of Peace and Nonviolence might approach the topic, so I would like to invite you to join me in a conversation around this question:

How can the resources of a Christ-centred theology of nonviolence help us engage with issues of consent

- *in teaching about the giving (and receiving) of consent?*
- *in resetting relationships after (perceived) assaults?*
- *in helping communities talk about these issues in healthy and productive ways?*

Zoom meeting, facilitated by Michael Wood on Tuesday March 30...we had a rich and wide-ranging conversation. **Chat Box comments** are included which included some additional resources and links.

[link removed – web version]

Following this conversation, Gillian added that the excellent resources that have been mentioned in the chat are well worth sharing.....AND:

...I did convene a talking circle with the Leadership Team here at school, and for some of them it was their first experience of this kind of process.

They are very keen now to use talking circles to explore the idea of consent with students and with staff (many of whom find it really difficult to talk about sex ed at all).

So all I have is the simple ideas of making space for people to really converse with one another – funny that this turns out to be the most effective strategy of all 😊

2) Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Peace Ambassador Program

I really like this group - founded and located in Sydney by Australian Steve Killelea (remember the Soldiers of Peace video and the annual Global Peace Index)...they now have a growing number of centres around the world and are doing the groundwork to provide evidence-based research and information about the current state of 'peace in the world'. The Ambassador Program looks inspiring, informative and accessible.

Could be excellent for peace educators and possibly students. There is an opportunity for anyone interested to do a simple (free) online 2-hour introductory course (I'm really pleased to see that others appreciate the need to establish 'shared vocabulary' before commencing collaboration). The course is free, informative, visually appealing/engaging, with short 3-5min modules and can be progressed at your own pace. After completion, you are then invited to apply to become a Peace Ambassador, in your own community context (or further afield), with lots of updated resources and current information available to support this role.

I'm not sure if high school students would be 'allowed' to do this....

In the first instance, I'd be encouraging all peace educators to have a go at the intro program and then become a Peace Ambassador within their school context...AWESOME!

[THE COURSE](#) provides an opportunity for individuals – those with extensive experience in peace as well as those who are newer to the field – to gain concrete knowledge and resources to help foster peace in their communities. This includes an in-depth understanding of IEP's research and methodology, as well as a concrete understanding of how to communicate peace research. As an IEP Ambassador, you will connect with peacemakers and other professionals around the world, expand your skills in the areas of peace research, and learn about investing in the factors that build peace. Through this program, you will become part of an international network of leaders who are creating a paradigm shift in the way the world interacts with and understands peace

PLEASE let us know if you give it a try, your feedback would be appreciated, and we can then circulate our network with the info and suggestions about use.

3) Peace Education Learning Frameworks

I came across this [article](#) recently [**A Review of 12 Peace Education Learning Frameworks: And why you should make your own**] and thought it worth passing around for some background reading. I have also forwarded it to the group at St Mary's Adelaide and Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) who have recommenced a conversation about creating a pilot school declaring itself as a '**Zone of Peace**'

This provides an opportunity to explore and consider an 'emergent design' process for Peace and Nonviolence Education in each school context, and also to benefit from the inspiration from others.

Here's one example from the 12, with the author's reflection

So I made this peace-learning framework once. No, not the one in the image (below). That's the second proper one I made. Similar concept, but entirely different purpose and intended use.

Peace-learning frameworks are seriously critical for any peace education program you want to set up or for any education-type program associated with peace, human rights, anti-racism, social justice, or anything of the sort. I've used them tons, and it's been great, but all too often, such frameworks are misused and misunderstood. And when that happens, well, it's just a bit of a waste of everybody's time to be honest. Let me explain.....

Reflection: *This is a framework for peacebuilders and people who are passionate about doing their part to build a more peaceful and just world. It is not for the general public. A peacebuilder does not need to be convinced about the humanity of others and does not need to gain awareness about injustices experienced by others. They may deepen their knowledge in related areas; however, it should be assumed that a peacebuilder already has a certain level of awareness and is passionate about transforming social issues that bring about injustice and human suffering.*

4) Restorative Practices International

Restorative Practices International (RPI) is a not-for-profit, independent, professional member association that supports the development of restorative justice in schools, prisons, workplaces, organisations, families and communities. There is a very vibrant Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/RestorativePracticesInternational>

5) Restorative Practices in Victorian Schools

Restorative Practice in Victorian Schools is a network created to facilitate and promote collaboration and sharing of ideas, experiences and expertise among its members. We aim to create an environment that supports educators and schools to sustain best practice and build relationships between schools so that they can support each other in the implementing and sustaining restorative approaches. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2399621166957321>

6) Restorative Church

Restorative Church promotes collaborative, cross-fertilizing conversation between people in the fields of restorative justice, restorative theology, and restorative practices for church communities.

<https://restorativechurch.org/about-restorative-church/>

7) Dialogue on Restorative Practices at the University of Western Australia

This dialogue/interview (approx. 45 min) is between **Dr Chantal Bourgault du Coudray** (Lecturer in Gender Studies at UWA) and **Michael Wood** (UWA Chaplain and Convenor of a staff Community of Practice focussed on implementing Restorative Practices at UWA). The interview was for use in Chantal's Gender Studies Unit with undergraduate students. This interview is for viewing within the Peace Education network – please do not distribute more widely. The interview will only live stream for about 15 min. To view the whole thing, download it from the following link:

[link removed for web display]

8) Cultivating Peace and Nonviolence in Education at West Philadelphia High School

Story about the use of Talking Circles at West Philadelphia High School

<https://peacelearner.org/courses/edu-596-f2012/learning-modules/conflict-resolution/5-6/>

9) Restorative Justice – Education – Monash University

At the heart of restorative justice is the idea that everyone is inherently worthy and that our connection to one another is what matters most. So how can teachers and schools create a restorative culture where both individuals and the school community can thrive?

Monash University's Kristin Reimer researches the impact of restorative justice approaches in schools. Here she shares her insights into the key ideas behind the concept, and offers practical ideas on how to build it.

<https://www.monash.edu/education/teachspace/articles/how-to-use-restorative-justice-in-your-classroom-and-school>