

MOTTO

“Towards Peace and Reconciliation through Non-Violent Means”

VISION

Our vision is to establish a violence free and just society in our country and to contribute to conflict- and self-transformation, thereby to rebuild relationships in the spirit of a holistic vision of peace and reconciliation.

MISSION

In cooperation with the Oblate world, Pax Christi and other organizations Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (CPR) shall advocate, support and work for Peace and Reconciliation, to help build better social structures that promote justice, peace and integrity of creation.

The mission of the Centre is to educate, empower and support individuals and organizations in their efforts to prevent violence, to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to foster inclusive, equitable and safe communities, locally, nationally and worldwide.

In carrying out our mission we will focus on the most vulnerable groups in our society, among them widows, orphans, prisoners, children and the marginalized people living below the poverty line.

We will reach out to them irrespective of their cultural identities, be it colour, class, caste, cult or language.



The Centre for Peace and Reconciliation a Joint venture of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate - Province of Jaffna and Pax Christi Germany

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate work for the integral freedom of every human person. They promote and safeguard human dignity, voice against human rights violation, build up justice and peace among all sectors of people, render psycho social services to war victims, have dialogue with other ethnic, religious and cultural groups, address the issues of dehumanising poverty and particularly ministry on behalf of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Basing on this philosophy the Oblates founded the JPIC- a voluntary non- Governmental Organization in 1998 in the Northern part of Sri Lanka.

Action in favour of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is required today more than ever, as an integral part of the Church's mission and of our Oblate charism.

Pax Christi

Pax Christi began in 1945, when French Catholics offered to forgive, pray for, and be reconciled with their former arch-enemies in Germany. More than 60 years later the spirit of that gesture still influences much of Pax Christi's work.

PCI is today a nongovernmental Catholic Peace movement in more than 30 countries and five continents. It works on many issues related to Peace, but has a specific focus on demilitarization, security and arms trade; economic justice, ecology and development; human rights and conflict resolution.

Pax Christi Germany – involved for many years in social assistance for war-affected people in Northern Sri Lanka – sent one of its civil peace workers to Jaffna in 2005 as advisor for establishing a Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and strengthening the local capacities for Peace. At the same time it will become a new movement in Sri Lanka for non-violent struggle for justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Centre for Peace & Reconciliation (CPR)



***“Towards Peace & Reconciliation
Through Non-Violent Means”***

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Peace Education at Grass Root Level

In an environment, where a whole generation has no experience of a life in Peace but only with injustice and violence, it is a fundamental service for the future, to introduce programs for a special Peace Education.

Training for volunteers

For spreading the ideas and methods of concept of Peace our staff members are working with volunteering citizens of any age who are ready to share their time and capabilities for reaching common goals. For their specific engagement they receive a qualified preparation by an ongoing formation program with different subjects according to the demands of their work.

Children's programs in primary schools

To establish and strengthen a new culture of Peace we work with the children in the primary schools. By conducting two hour programs for selected children we try to interest the teachers for a further cooperation and implementation of Peace Education elements in their personal teaching program.

Handbook for Teachers

As an additional motivating and supporting tool we published in cooperation with a team of lecturers of the Jaffna University a handbook for teachers in primary schools and other leaders of children's groups. Every school in the peninsula received a copy as a model for Peace Education, and other copies are available in our library at a reasonable prize. Two hours presentation meetings are conducted on special request.

Training program for Community Centres

As a special support to the community centres in the Jaffna district we offer on request of the management there the following trainings free: Basic training in Peace work, Non-violent Communication, Children programs, Human Rights Awareness and Participative Leadership.

Human Rights

For a peaceful life in a society a strong legal system is of a high importance. Therefore we begin the enforcement of law with the basic Human Rights which are highly endangered in every war time.

➤ **Human Rights Education**

Most ordinary people do not know about their fundamental rights. In our seminars we teach about Human Rights, humanitarian law, Court system, also about the actual Emergency Regulations, PTA, and Current Issues related to High Security Zone.

➤ **Documenting Human Rights Violations**

By clipping newspaper articles and conducting field interviews we are creating a documentary system with information about the general life situation and especially violations of Human Rights.

➤ **Legal Aid Program**

In cooperation with other NGOs we organize free legal aid for victims of HR violations.

Peace Library

We are building up a collection of peace related information materials like books, magazines and other didactic materials which are offered for the use of different groups, interested citizens and professionals like teachers, priests, University students and other group leaders. For mutual advantage we are working in collaboration with the public and School libraries.

As a new tool of knowledge management we provide a computer work place with Internet access for everybody who is interested in "e-learning" and "Peace research".

Publishing books is another function, the Number one of the series is a booklet on "Non violent communication", and Number two is the Handbook for Peace Education in primary schools.

Cultural and Religious Peace Activities

The International Peace Day, declared by the UN in September, and the Day of Human Rights in December are our main occasions for creating public awareness of the actual Peace issues. Painting- and writing competitions, art exhibitions, multicultural shows and Peace Talks supported by a comprehensive coverage in the media are the favourite ways of promotion.

As religions are an excellent factor of winning people to new ways of Life we consider inter religious encounters important symbols of Peace. We support steps to overcoming mistrust and resentment. In places of common worship, pilgrimage and shrines like Madhu we try to emphasise the special chance to celebrate the reconciliation of the divided Sri Lankan society.

Exchange programs between people from North and South

Based in Jaffna – the Centre of the civil war for decades - the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation reaches out to connect people of the whole country in a common learning process. In work camps, workshops and seminars we try to find the traces for mutual understanding and discuss ways to create a just society without new tolls of human lives.

By connecting existing groups and founding new ones we are strengthening the non violent Peace movement countrywide.

Civil Society Networks

All people who volunteer are contributing to strengthening and rebuilding of the fabric of their community. The responsible involvement of volunteers in different associations (NGOs) thus will guarantee a democratic development and a free society. Strengthening the local capacities for Peace is our main purpose of networking at grass root level. However, Peace is not considered cowardly, refraining from fight but a struggle for justice through non-violent means. Networking means to combine all creativity and energy for the common goals with like minded organizations also on provincial and national level.