

June 2018

Our thanks and appreciation go to our supporters :

Abingdon Quakers

Bester, J J

British Yearly Meeting

Kannemeyer Primary School

Mattheys, M

Naidoo A C

Suberg, V J

Thomas, G

Religious Geno

St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School

Swiss Quakers

Voster, J S (Estate Late)

Williams, J



THE NEW PEACE CENTRE

The Peace Centre has been through a difficult time but is rising again like a Phoenix from the ashes! There are exciting times on the horizon and plans in the pipeline.

We've gone back to our roots, working directly within the community and are very happy to be able to share what we're up to with our members, friends and supporters. The Ncedanani Information and Support Hub has opened in

Khayelitsha—see page 3 inside for details!

We've also reclaimed our activist history and feel part of the resurgence civil society has experienced since the scale of corruption in South Africa began to emerge. It's sort-of like David taking on Goliath, but we feel that violence cannot be addressed without addressing the violence perpetrated by the state, in the form of corruption and failure to implement the provisions of our Constitution.

We're delighted to share news of these developments and our excitement with you.

Carol Bower

Interim Director



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A VIBRANT, COMMITTED AND EXPERIENCED BOARD

The Board of the Centre reflects a wealth of experience in activism, organisational development, management, passion for preventing violence and commitment to a just, equita-

ble and democratic South Africa.

In honour of our Quaker roots and ethos, we are delighted that several members of our seven-person Board are practicing Quakers.

More information about our Board members can be found on our website.

DAVID VS GOLIATH: QPC AND THE ARMS DEAL

The 1999 Arms Deal was always controversial. It cost us billions in purchasing military hardware that we do not need and, in some cases cannot use, purchased in direct contradiction of the Defence Force's wishes.

The BAe component of the Arms Deal alone cost R35 billion, for 28 Gripen ALFA and 24 Hawk LIFT aircraft. Which are literally rotting in a hanger in Pretoria because we cannot afford to fly them and are not skilled enough to maintain them.

But there is a glimmer of light.

The BAe contract was found to be corrupt in two separate court cases in the US and by the UK's Serious Fraud Office.

The Deal provides specifically for its cancellation in the event that corruption is uncovered. The Peace Centre has suggested that this means we can in fact cancel the deal, give them back their airplanes and give us back our R35 billion. And we're going to court on August 13 against our government and several others on the matter.



GIVING TEETH TO COMBATTING CORRUPTION

Corruption is a tax on the poor

Corruption is perhaps the ultimate form of violence, perpetrated by the state against its citizens. And it is the poorest and most marginalised citizens who pay the heaviest price. Corruption is effectively a tax on the poor and fuels our high levels of violence.

It has become clear that corruption on an industrial scale has taken place, at a cost of over R300 billion in the last few years. South Africa is reeling from the avalanche of joining-the-dots made possible by the leaked Gupta emails has revealed

just how bad things were. QPC is advocating for the creation of a further Chapter 9 institution specifically to deal with corruption, which is properly equipped and resourced, with high-level powers to investigate and prosecute any and all corruption.

INCREASING CHILDREN'S PROTECTION WHERE THEY LIVE

Assault on anyone, no matter how slight, is illegal in South Africa. With one exception: parents accused of assaulting their children can claim the common law defence of reasonable chastisement.

The Centre is a friend of the court in a case of a father found guilty of assaulting his 13-year-old son. He invoked the defence of reasonable chastisement and appealed the finding. The Centre, the Children's Institute and Sonke Gender Justice, as friends of the court, prepared a submission on the constitutionality of the

defence. The court agreed, and the father's appeal was refused.

The finding has been appealed by Freedom of Religion South Africa. We are awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court of Appeal.



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP)

AVP training was offered by the Centre in its early days but withdrew its support some years ago. The work has continued, and the Centre has decided to support it again.

AVP was started in 1975, when inmates in a New York prison asked a group of Quakers for help in resolving conflicts to reduce the amount of physical violence in the prison.

AVP has achieved global reach and is available in nearly 40 countries and

most of the states in the US. It has been available in South Africa since the early 2000s.

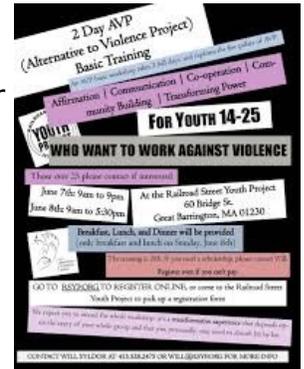
Working through a very experienced AVP facilitator and his two co-facilitators, the Centre offers Basic, Advanced and Training for Trainers training to two constituencies:

1. Long-term prisoners at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town. Selected participants are also offered the opportunity of doing the AVP Training for Trainers course
2. Community groups and civic organisations in

Khayelitsha

A total of 40 workshops is planned for 2018.

Train-the-trainer workshops and training empower 'recipients' to themselves become AVP trainers, and able to mediate and resolve conflict at community level.



HELPING OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER: NCEDANANI INFORMATION AND SUPPORT HUB

We have built a database of services organisations and NGOs, via internet search. We offer free internet and Wi-Fi to people in need looking for a job; we assist with creating email addresses and developing CVs. And, for those who have never touched a computer- Ncedanani offers computer lessons for beginners.



HELPING OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER: OUTREACH

We encourage self help in every way possible- individually and collectively. We reduce community frustration and help build resilience. Ncedanani is staffed by a Project Manager, computer assistant and 2 community workers. Community workers move through the community identifying people and organisations in need of help and support identifying useful resources, linking them together and, as necessary, linking them to appropriate support services and agencies.

Ncedanani has established a strong relationship with Social Development in Khayelitsha, Clothing Bank and Learn to Earn. Social Development placed 6 volunteers at Ncedanani as community workers- they are paid a stipend by the Department of Transport. Clothing Bank registered 4 volunteers from the Hub to be trained by them then start selling clothes for themselves. We are referring people to Learn to Earn for business training.

Story circles at local ECD centres, using volunteers, have also started via Ncedanani.

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BANK DETAILS

Standard Bank branch code 024909
Current account
Account number 071391568

Increasing the number of people prepared to act against all forms of violence

The Peace Centre was founded during in the 1980s in what were arguably apartheid's darkest days, by the Cape Western Monthly Meeting (CWMM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Cape Town. The organisation played a key role and was considered a significant contributor to ending the system of legalised discrimination that destroyed the lives of many millions of South Africans.

In 2007, the Peace Centre became independent of CWMM and was established as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). The Peace Centre continues to honour and be bound by Quaker values of non-violence, tolerance and respect for diversity, and speaking truth to power.

Our Staff

