

London 2012 Olympic Truce

UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador Training and Assistance Programme



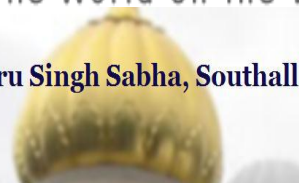
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Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall



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The Olympic Truce Peace Campaign Network (OTPCaN)

INTRODUCTION

The Olympic Truce Peace Campaign Network (OTPCaN) is a team comprising of vibrant youths from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The team has grown progressively since 2012 when the strategic team were trained in London during the London Olympics by the UNESCO team in several approaches to community peace building and means of promoting peace and sustainable development.

Thus in further pursuit of sustainable peace and development in the home countries of members of this network and other countries in the world, the OTPCaN team was involved in the following workshops:

1. Youth Programme in Sri Lanka to Promote Olympic Truce- 19th to 22nd of November, 2013.



The Olympics games was traditionally used as a means of preventing conflict and creating peace between nations at war, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United Nations (UN) have transposed this ancient peace ethic to the modern Games. Thus, to continue this tradition and promote the Olympic Truce, a 4-day Youth programme was organised in Sri Lanka from 19th to 22nd of November, 2013. The programme was sponsored and supported by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) Sri Lanka, National Youth Services Council (NYSC), Sri Lanka, the Olympic Truce Peace Campaign Network, Rotary to mention a few.

The Olympic Truce Peace Campaign Network was led by Miss Natasha De Silva and supported by several other international Facilitators and professionals such as Ryan Libre <http://www.ryanlibre.com/> taught the youths and all participants in several skills such as photography skills, tourism, sports and community activities approaches in promoting Peaceful coexistence and community development while increasing their employability.

2. Inaugurating Olympic Truce Peace Network in Nepal 21st- 23rd, September 2013



This 3-day programme was organised in partnership with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) in Nepal to promote youth participation, initiate inter-agency cooperation, development and increased youth involvement in promoting Peace through Sports, Tourism, Culture Exchange and other means. The programme also marked and organised to celebrate the International Peace Day; 21st of September.

3. 1st Global Peace and Youth Workshop – Trabzon, Turkey 1st -5th July, 2013 (Ms Dolapo Fakuade)

Youth in conflict transformation, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction



The first annual Global Peace Workshop held in Trabzon had in attendance 70 youths and professionals from 47 different countries including countries such as Yemen, Afghanistan, Palestine and Israel. During this 5-day workshop, the contribution of youths to conflict transformation, post-conflict peace building and reconstruction was examined. In addition to this, conflict, crisis and disaster academics, practitioners, consultants and students looked beyond dominant theories relating to youth in conflict and explored the challenges of youth exclusion from peace-building activities and decision making. As such, the basis, rationale and formation process of young people's relationships with societal structures and negotiation both through established and unconventional means, and how this impact on peace processes in contested and divided places were practically discussed and examined.

At this workshop, I made a presentation at the opening ceremony and answered questions in a plenary session regarding the theme of the workshop. Furthermore, I led and facilitated a 2-day workshop stream with the theme; "Peace by virtual means". The session and workshop participants focused on collective action of young people in maximising the use of all existing virtual tools and distinguishing "good practice" of this medium from its "best practice". I further illustrated how youth can use technology as a tool for collective action and a means for achieving their peace-building and social change goals, particularly in zones of conflict, social and political contestation. Examples of some of my activities as Chair of Oxfam campaign and UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador were useful in this workshop session. This workshop stream also had the quality contributions of professors and conflict management consultant from the United Kingdom, Israel and Turkey.

The Global Peace and Youth workshop was organised by CESRAN International, the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies (CPRS) at Coventry University, the Department of International Relations at Karadeniz Technical University and the support of Trabzon province government.

4. Youth Peace Ambassador International (YPA6) 25th May – 2nd June 2013 Thailand



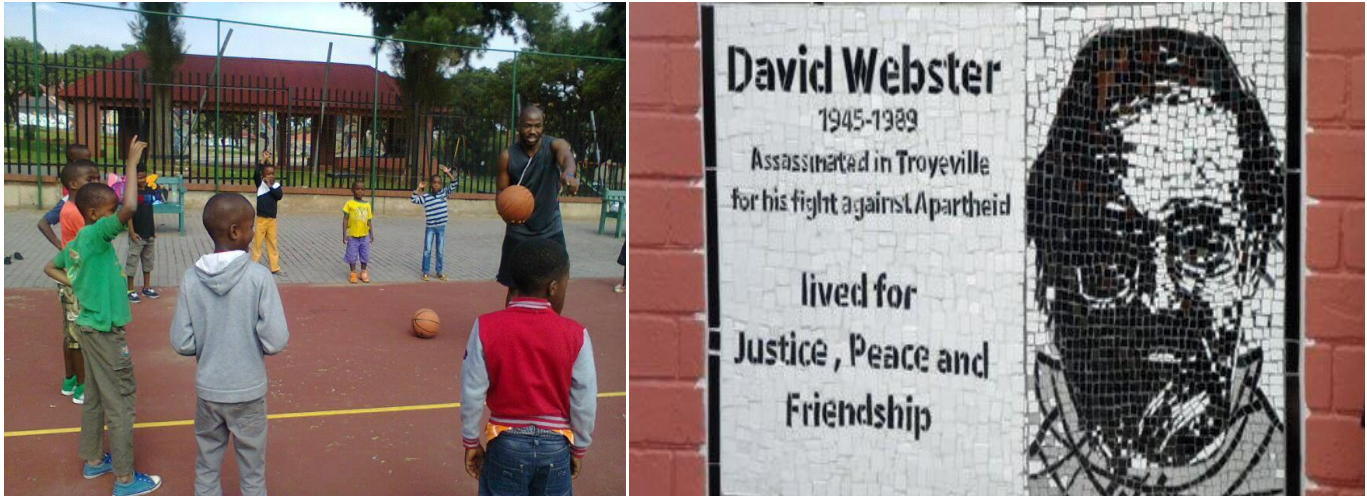
In pursuit of Peace and active youth involvement in community development, the youth have continued to worked and collectively identify issues that can promote a culture of peace, and developed 2200 action projects through the Youth Peace Ambassador training forums which is promoted at making a difference in their communities.

Therefore the sixth Youth Peace Ambassador International Training workshop: From Ethical Minds to Ethical Action (YPA6), 25th May – 2nd June 2013, was held in **Bangkok and Kaeng Krachan**, Thailand, joined by 70 participants from 18 countries. The co-organizers were Eubios Ethics Institute, International Peace and Development Ethics Centre, Center for Ethics of Science and Technology at Chulalongkorn University, American University of Sovereign Nations, with cooperation from Loxley International and Oran Patana Foundation.

Also a Youth Peace Ambassador Festival at Chulanlongkorn University was held on the 22nd to 27th of May 2013, overlapping with the YPA6. Collectively through these events and trainings, youths around the world are harnessing the power, optimism and influence of young people to promote action and change for Peace. The Youth Peace Ambassador International programme is global in reach, and the YPA6 brought youth from around the world together.

During and towards the success of the YPA6 training workshop, Dolapo Fakuade made a presentation, facilitated sessions, chaired a session as well as presented workshops at both Chulanlongkorn University and Kaeng Krachan province of Thailand. YPA 7 is scheduled to hold in Nepal in subsequent months.

5. David Webster Park- Holiday Project- Peace through Basketball, South Africa 2014 (Victor Mutanga)



This sport-based conflict resolution and peace building programme was done in honour of David Webster 1945-1989 Assassinated in Troyeville for his fight against apartheid - lived for justice, peace and friendship.

In this programme Basketball was used as a tool to help erase racial boundaries, provide an opportunity for discussing crucial issues that affect young people's lives every day, teach the values of Ubuntu, Channel young people's passions and provide educational opportunities.