Thanks for all the support for Friends Peace Teams over the last 25 years from SEYM. As you might know, SEYM is one of the original Yearly Meetings that helped form Friends Peace Teams.

**Our Mission:**
Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world to create programs for peace building, healing, and reconciliation. We travel and visit with a concern for peace in difficult places – geographically, politically, and emotionally. Wherever we go, we bring people together from different backgrounds, orientations, affiliations, ethnicities, religions, and ages. We contribute to healing the effects of trauma and deprivation in their many forms across boundaries.

**Our Approach:**
We work in solidarity and parity, listening to and sharing our experiences rather than working or teaching from an agenda. To honor the dignity of every person and to support local peace workers, we exchange experience through active, experiential methods. We work grassroots to grassroots to deconstruct historical legacies of racism, exploitation, and oppression, to preserve peace.

**Our Philosophy:**
We believe there is good in everyone and we each have the inner capacity to heal. Both victims and perpetrators of violence experience trauma and its after-effects. For healing and empowerment, we seek to share the inner goodness and wisdom of each person. This rebuilds trust.

We aim to integrate spiritual conviction with action and to develop a standard for spiritual accountability. We pay attention to the immeasurable, discern where our work is alive with spirit, and braid love, truth and justice together.

**A REQUEST FROM FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS FOR VOLUNTEERS:**
Friends Peace Teams is seeking Friends interested in supporting Quaker peace work. We especially need Friends with gifts in the areas of Recording Clerk, Fundraising, Personnel, Communications, Finance, or peace work in Latin America. Interested persons should send a letter that speaks to your gifts, skills, and interests, and includes a brief bio on your Quaker peace, justice, or related experience, to Nominations@FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

To learn more about our teams’ vibrant Quaker work for peace and justice visit our website at FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

**A REQUEST FROM THE FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND YEARLY MEETINGS:**
Ask your Nominating Committee to:
- Seek Representatives for the Friends Peace Teams Council.
- Nominate more than one Representative from a diversity of ages and backgrounds.
• Notify Council.Clerk@FriendsPeaceTeams.org when a person is approved as a Representative to Friends Peace Teams.

You are invited to become part of this transformative work for peace! Please talk with Cecilia (Cece) Yocum for more information or email ceceyocum@aol.com.

Our Four Initiatives:
Currently, we have four Initiatives, African Great Lakes initiative, Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA), Asia West Pacific, and our most recent initiative, Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples.

AFRICAN GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE (AGLI) MAY 2020 REPORT
by AGLI Coordinator, David Bucura

Like many parts of the world, Africa is being challenged by Covid-19 and most countries in Africa are in lockdown. Interestingly, Burundi, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) did not go into lockdown. Rwanda on the other hand is now in a partial lockdown, Uganda and Kenya are also in lockdown but farmers and groceries are working with strong measures in place.

March and April 2020 were marked by not only the effects Covid-19 in Africa but also a lot of environmental challenges signaling climate change. Floods and landslides took many lives in many countries in Africa, including DRC in South Kivu, Uviira City, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya.

Burundi has initiated its 2020 presidential election period. However, with Covid-19, the pandemic is having not only negative health effects but also social and economic effects. In order to mitigate the challenges associated with Covid-19 and the upcoming elections, Burundi decided to apply all measures possible to protect the population against Covid-19 without having the lockdown. Everyone is working, different activities are still taking place such as public meetings, workshops, trainings, church services, weddings, ceremonies, schools, and election campaigns.

To contribute to this unprecedented time, IPB-HROC continued peace activities in April 2020 and conducted five (5) HROC basic workshops within Quaker Peace Network (QPN) framework project for prevention of violence before election, during election, and after election. Fifteen HROC facilitators facilitated five three-day HROC basic workshops in five targeted provinces (hot spots) within the framework of QPN Burundi project entitled “Contributing to violence prevention and civilian’s protection before, during, and after the 2020 elections in Burundi.” This project aims to engage the youth and local authorities in trust building and prevention of violence through trauma healing workshops and establishing EWER mechanisms in five target provinces including: Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Mayorship, Bubanza, Cibitoke and Makamba. Twenty-five (25) participants in each province participated leading up to a total one hundred twenty-five (125) participants.

In March, HROC Burundi offered technical and trauma healing services in the community with funds from Catholic Relief service (CRS) Burundi. In March 2020, the following activities were
performed: one Training of Trainers (18 days in total), ten Community trauma healing basic workshops, and four Cultural and sport day celebrations between young people.

**Ntaseka Clinic:**
In Burundi, under NTASEKA CLINIC, the Friends Women Association in Burundi carried out the following activities in April: 489 people received contraceptives from FWA’s nurses, including 336 existing cases and 153 new ones: 338 received contraceptive injections, 49 were given pills, 96 received male condoms, and 7 received implants.

Also, curing April 2020, 44 women came for prenatal consultation (PNC), including 21 who came for PNC 1, 12 for PNC 2, 6 for PNC 3 and 5 for PNC 4. Sixteen pregnant women came for the ultrasound test. At the end of April Ntaseka Clinic had 330 patients under retro drugs including 267 women and 63 men. Additionally, in April the psychosocial team provided services to 59 people who were tested for HIV and received pre- and post-HIV test counseling. Of the total number of people tested, 39% were women and all 3 HIV people positive were women, with 5% of seropositivity.

With partial lockdown in Rwanda, total lockdown in Uganda and Kenya, AGLI partners are still working from home to prepare activities to implement when the pandemic slows down.

**Peace libraries in Rwanda:**
Rwanda is still on partial lockdown and everyone is working from home using different technology. However, there is a high demand from parents asking about how they can access books from libraries. Hence, the idea is to find new ways of creating an online platform and library that can help children continue to improve their reading especially as schools plan to reopen in September 2020.

In general, despite the lockdown, in many African countries agricultural services are considered essential and hence agronomists and farmers are allowed to carry on working but follow measures like keeping at least a meter a part, avoiding groups, and sanitizing as much as they can. These measures are to try and reduce the impact of Covid-19 on food security because food insecurity is already on the rise even as governments, private sectors, donors, and some well-wishers are already distributing food to the vulnerable.

Today, hold the world in the light and especially Burundi as they go through the presidential election on May 20, 2020.

For more information see: [Friends Peace Teams/AGLI](#)

**ASIA WEST PACIFIC**

Asia West Pacific is active in the North Caucasus, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. The Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia are doing online workshops and support meetings, and Korea has returned to in-person training. We are hosting two courses for online Cultures of Peace facilitators. We will facilitate AVP online workshops for the National Gatherings of Australia (May 22 & 28) and the U.S.A. (May 24th).
During the pandemic we are sheltering, collaborating with groups for localized responses, opening online workshops, linking people in isolation, coaching parents on how to support children especially those children with disabilities, and continuing activities in peace libraries and outdoor learning centers to love the earth and each other in this slower time.

We also speak out for public health over military responses to meet our needs. Spiritual companion groups have kept us very grounded. As news writing improves, please read the range of stories on FPT/AWP website. Go the FPT home page, scroll down, and check out our work with Cultures of Peace; Power of Goodness; and Peace Libraries, Schools, and Gardens!

We are concerned about the weaponization of religion and law, used to legitimize state-sanctioned oppression or violence. We speak out for the release of Bro Song Kang Ho in Korea and Ding Jiaxi in China, and to oppose the closure of media such as ABS-CBN, the Philippines’ largest TV network. Please visit our Ecological and Social Justice articles.

For more information on Covid-19 responses, see the FPT/AWP website for Resist Militarization of Covid-19 Responses by Subhash Chandra with the network War Resisters’ International.

PEACEBUILDING EN LAS AMÉRICAS

Friends Peace Teams has a new and innovative project underway in Latin America to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to many marginalized peoples who are already the most severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and other adverse developments in its wake.

The Peace Baskets (PAN PAV) will be delivered to families in economically marginalized and high-conflict urban neighborhoods (Red Zones) and will include food, disinfectants, hygiene items, messages of peace, and emergency contacts. Women, men, and youth in many of these families have been trained in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Recipients of the baskets will be encouraged to pass on the peace to others through sharing food and messages of peace with their loved ones and neighbors.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) partners are energized and filled with hope due to their Peace Baskets (PAN PAV) project which offers them the opportunity to address the multiple viruses their societies are facing including the hunger virus and the domestic violence virus. The virtual appeal has gone out and been well received so far.

Honduras will be the first country to begin implementation next week. Like everyone in Honduras, our partner, Ondina Murillo, is only allowed only to go out two days a month as assigned by the government.

El Salvador and Guatemala will begin implementation soon afterwards. Colombia and Ecuador will be the next countries to begin this project. In Colombia the focus will be migrant families and in Ecuador, indigenous families.

Under “States of Exception” and severe lockdowns, all partner countries are vulnerable to human rights violations. We have seen flagrant abuse of civil rights, including the use of tear gas and live bullets to disperse women and children seeking food (Honduras), assassinations of community
leaders and their families (Colombia), arbitrary arrests and incarceration of informal sector workers (El Salvador), and police repression of the LGBT community (Ecuador).

The regional situation is ripe for continuation of State abuse on multiple levels with little recourse for redress.

Salomón Medina, National Coordinator in El Salvador, was held with 38 others in a State-sponsored detention center in San Salvador for 39 days upon return from Ecuador. He described manipulation and threats by authorities as well as the non-violent collective actions taken to gain release. Such iron hand policies of the government have only increased.

Our partners extend deep gratitude to all for the moral, spiritual, and financial support they have received. Please continue to hold them in the light. ¡Gracias!

Mónica A. Maher, Coordinadora para América Latina, Peacebuilding en las Américas.

TOWARD RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE PEOPLES (TRR) (Now under the care of Peace Ministries)

As experiential events, TRR is cautiously piloting "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change" and "Re-Discovering America" online, and developing a series of webinars on "The Land Remembers" and other topics. For more information, please visit our page on Toward Right Relationship With Native Peoples (TRR).

The goal of TRR is to build relationships between Native and non-Native communities based on truth, respect, justice, and our shared humanity. They ask that we join them as we learn to challenge and support each other as we work toward right relationships that address more than 500 years of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation of Native peoples.

Paula Palmer with Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples program sent this report:

Dear Friends,

It won’t be a surprise to hear that TRR facilitators are looking to Zoom and other online platforms to carry our work forward during this period of no-public-gatherings. We’re just about ready to pilot-test Zoom versions of our "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change" and "Re-Discovering America" workshops. It will be really interesting to see how we can convert the highly participatory kinesthetic learning process of our on-site workshops into an equally moving and meaningful online experience. We’ll keep you posted.

Our slide presentation on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools (including an interview with Jerilyn DeCoteau during her tenure as president of the board of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition) is already available online.

In addition, we are creating a new series of participatory webinars based on my article, "The Land Remembers: Connecting with Native Peoples through the Land" and the Bartimaeus Institute conference, "Unsettling Histories | Decolonizing Discipleship | hukišunuškuy." Look for these this summer.
If you would like to support these efforts, Friends Peace Teams would very much appreciate your donations during this time when our usual public presentations are not bringing in income. We also encourage you to support Indigenous communities that are terribly hard-hit by Covid-19. Please read the articles below about Covit-19 on the Navajo Nation and donate directly to help the Navajo Nation’s Covid-19 response here. At the same time, we need to be teaching Americans why such deep and persistent inequities exist and equip them with resources to build a more equitable society. This is the ongoing work and commitment of TRR. Thank you for joining us.

TRR Articles of Interest:
A Life on and Off the Navajo Nation, by Wahleah Johns, New York Times.

TRR WEBINARS:
May 18, 10:30 am EASTERN time, History of the Snowbird Indian Day School for Eastern Cherokee children, presented by Swannanoa Valley Museum. This school was founded by Quakers and then operated for seven decades – until 1963 – by the federal government. Former students and family members will share their memories and the legacy of the Snowbird Day School. Registration required.

Below are links to some recent court cases that you might have read about online:

PEACE MINISTRIES
Friends Peace Teams Peace Ministries Committee invites Friends to join us, share your peace ministry, or learn about and support others’ peace ministries. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30am Eastern time. See the vibrant website at https://friendspeaceteams.org

POWER OF GOODNESS (Now under the care of Peace Ministries)
We invite Friends to read and use the Power of Goodness stories online. AVP facilitators will also find the Power of Goodness Community Guide and Agendas for 1.5-hour Power of Goodness sessions (AVP-minis) organized around a theme from cultures of peace and a story.

For more information, please visit our Power of Goodness website.
Power of Goodness collects stories from the lives of real people that depict instructional moments in how to rely on the power of goodness in difficult situations and the amazing results of doing so. Our vision is to inspire readers, listeners, viewers, and participants to act with courage and to bring good into the lives around them. The stories are written for children and illustrated by children in ways compelling to people of any age, depicting the excitement of action, the joy of seeing from new perspectives, and the encouragement of small acts that make big differences.

CULTURES OF PEACE AVP WORKSHOP
Join us August 1 through 9, 2020, in Buffalo, New York, for the Creating Cultures of Peace Training.
Practice tools for creating cultures based on ecological and social justice, for teens, young adults, and their adult allies. $280/person training plus $170/person for food (3 meals/day). There are a limited number of home stays available.

**To register:** Send a brief bio and letter of interest to NadineClare@gmail.com, please mention how you're involved in peace and justice.

Sponsored by Friends Peace Teams and Quaker Religious Education Collaborative.

This training workshop will be a hybrid of in person and online participation. We invite anyone age 13 to adults, with a focus on teens, young adults, and adult allies. Adults are asked to reach out to a young person to invite them to attend with you. There is one session on the first day and the last day and two sessions per day during the week. We include an AVP basic with special topics of resiliency, play, conscience, liberation, and discernment. For more information please visit the Friends Peace Teams Creating Cultures of Peace webpage.

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative is working with FPT to connect First Day School youth to Quaker Activists around the world. Please ask your youth to contact us at: PeaceMinistries@friendspeaceteams.org.

Submitted by Nadine Hoover

**FPT SPEAKERS AVAILABLE**

Let us know if your meeting or a group you are involved with would like to have a speaker from Friends Peace Teams by zoom. Translation can be arranged as needed. Contact Cece at ceceyocum@aol.com for more information.

Again, thanks to SEYM for all your support to Friends Peace Teams over the last 20+ years.

FPT Mailing Address:
Friends Peace Teams
1001 Park Avenue
St. Louis MO 63104-3720