



QUAKER PEACE NETWORK  
West Africa

---

4 Pierrepont Street  
Bath  
BA1 1LE  
United Kingdom

Tel/Fax: 0044 1225336995  
Email: [admin@qpnwa.co.uk](mailto:admin@qpnwa.co.uk)  
URL: [www.qpnwa.co.uk](http://www.qpnwa.co.uk)

# Proposed Project

**ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE PROJECT AND WORK CAMP-  
SIERRA LEONE (JULY-AUGUST 2010)**

February 16, 2010

**Prepared by: Abdul Kamara**

## [description]

The Quaker Peace Network West Africa (QPNWA) proposes the establishment of a West African-based Centre for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts to be headquartered in Sierra Leone. The proposed purposeful centre, which will also serve as a topic-related Research Centre, will seek to promote inter-faith, inter-racial, inter-political and inter-state understanding while providing a neutral ground for the resolution of disputes arising within communities in West Africa.

# [table of contents

## **CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT CONFLICTS**

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
A Holistic Approach to Conflict Prevention	6
Environmental Consideration	10
Miscellaneous	12
Budget Breakdown	13
Appendix A: Land Property of QPNWA	14

## [executive summary

### **The Goal...**

The main goal is to monitor and/or intervene to stabilize a potentially violent conflict before it escalates by initiating activities that address the root causes as well as the triggers of a dispute.

### **The Objectives...**

To achieve the projected goal, the main objectives are:

- Training for peace and conflict resolution workers in activities and functions relating to peace.
- Promotion of inter-faith, inter-racial, inters political and interstate understanding.
- To provide a drop-in centre and activity for unemployed youths.
- To provide a drop-in centre for women.
- To provide a Healthcare Centre.
- To help educate the community by providing a primary school.
- Future projects may include the provision of micro credit and other initiatives.
- To help promote employment and sustainability in the local community.
- To build a Quaker Meeting House.
- Development of an office in Bradford U.K. to oversee the work and raise funds.

### **The Solution...**

The proposed construction of a West African-based Centre for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts strategically located in Rokel Village, near Freetown – Sierra Leone will provide the necessary support centres for monitoring conflict-related indices, resolving conflicts, providing both physiological and psychological support to victims or the endangered (that is vulnerable group) and, last but not least, providing adequate training that transform the idle ones into resourcefulness.

#### *Land Acquisition and Site Location*

A 1.6 acre land has been procured at Rokel Village in Sierra Leone as the ideal site for the construction of the proposed centre. A scale survey of the property is attached as Appendix A.

#### *Estimated Project Cost and Cash at Hand*

The estimate for the construction of the centre that we seek to raise is £146,055.00 British Pound Sterling. The cash at hand in QPNWA's account is £5,000.00 BPS.

#### *Projected Project Completion Duration*

It is estimated that when the estimated project cost is realised through donations, the construction of the centre will be completed and operable in three (3) years: commencing this April to April 2012.

## [introduction

The West African sub-region has always and incessantly witnessed and suffered so many conflicts—tribal, religious, clannish, sectarian and rebellious motives have mostly under toned and characterized conflicts in West Africa. Nearly ten of the sixteen states in West Africa have experienced militant unrest, civil war, ethnic and or religious conflict(s). Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Gambia and Nigeria have all experienced brutal conflicts in one way or the other. The other West African states which often are referred to as relatively calm and peaceful have also experienced (Ghana has seen numerous coups after independence) or even are experiencing some form of conflict tension.

What is discomfiting about these conflicts is that even though they could have started with so-called skirmishes and clashes, the lack of attention and understanding about their causes, nature, history and traditions and motivations of the parties involved had almost in all cases allowed these skirmishes and clashes to degenerate into brutal tribal, clannish and religious conflicts or even civil wars.

What remains pitiful about these conflicts that have resulted into needless massacres, destructions, devastations and other stemming effects such as hunger, poverty, diseases, unproductivity, waste and misplacement of resources, human degradation and immoral vices are often preventable, manageable and even resolvable. The missing link is the lack of effort to investigate, understand and give them due and adequate attention and responses.

It is for these reasons that Quaker Peace Network West Africa (QPNWA) has seen the need and seeks to establish a Centre for Research to help investigate and prevent all ongoing, pending and future conflicts in West Africa. Quaker Peace Network West Africa is of the firm belief that if brewing conflicts are investigated early and in good faith their detonation into major conflicts can be prevented and their resolution more possible. It is therefore paramount to consider an establishment such as proposed above that will provide the tools necessary to investigate pending, ongoing and future conflicts in West Africa for timely prevention, management and resolution. This will minimize security risk, political instability, human massacre, suffering and other stemming effects like poverty, hunger, diseases and dehumanization.

The centre will also serve as a research coordinating and supporting centre to assist student researchers in universities and institutions in the Diasporas who might come or want to come to West Africa to do research on conflict and peace studies. It is intended that the centre will also forge collaborations with universities and other academic bodies to share information via research and related work.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

QPNWA has purchased a 1.6 acre land at Rokel, a village on the outskirts of Freetown for the location of the proposed centre. The Rokel Village-based location of 19000 inhabitants is strategic to the Freetown/Waterloo Highway. It is often argued that "until there is peace and security in Rokel, Freetown cannot be that safe". It could be noted that the community became popular when for several years it played host to one of Sierra Leone's strategic and most dreaded security posts, the Rokel Checkpoint. The said checkpoint was heavily guarded by both police and military personnel who provided a round-the-clock security during the civil war. When the war was officially declared ended in 2002, the checkpoint was dissolved and since then, criminals have

moved in, taking advantage of the situation to once more create mischief and using the village as an entry point to Freetown.

Choosing Rokel as the ideal location is strategically tantamount to tackling the agents of conflicts at the core.

# [a holistic approach to conflict prevention

For the past three years, QPNWA has pioneered a pilot programme at Rokel to test a number of approaches to the issue of conflict prevention. These holistic approaches have sought to create an opportunity where the community can see a future for themselves through co-operation and through belief in a shared future. The pilot programme sought to encourage conflict prevention through:

- Increased knowledge of ways to resolve conflict;
- Facilitating positive interaction between victims and perpetrators of the ten years conflict;
- Promoting discussion and sharing experiences of dealing with conflict;
- Assisting victims and perpetrators to settle and meet their basic needs;
- Supporting economic development by cash injections through TWP's;
- Improving sustainable livelihoods options;
- Rebuilding social infrastructure;
- Enhancing social stability.

## **Alternative to Violence/Workcamp**

A one month Workcamp, beginning with a 1-week AVP workshop in July-August of 2010, 2011 and 2012. The proposed 1-month Workcamp, to be held in Rokel, Sierra Leone in July-August 2010, will be the first ever AVP and Workcamp programme to be held in Sierra Leone by QPNWA. The Workcamp, which is expected to start in July will work to complete three structure, these are as follow: Quaker Meeting House, Drop-in Centre for youths, Education/School Facilities and Health Facilities. (A detail proposal is available on request; Please quote project name or number P001).

## **Quaker Meeting House: a background**

The QPNWA was born out of a worldwide Quaker and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) initiative for consultation around the question of the prevention of violent conflict. This makes it more of a Quaker-led organisation. However, even though our programmes have a multicultural orientation and non-denominational, the network deems it appropriate for a meeting house to be built at the centre to provide a place for Friends in West Africa to meet.

This is more so important since, unlike Eastern and Central Africa, West Africa has only two Quaker meeting houses: one in Ghana and the other in Nigeria. There are Quakers in Sierra Leone and in Liberia but these hardly meet due to the non-availability of a meeting house and the high cost in renting one (A detail proposal is available on request; Please quote project name or number P002).

## **Conflict Prevention Centre**

Violence exacts a high cost on world development. Over the last ten years, violent conflicts have significantly and directly reduced economic growth in about sixty countries. As such it has hampered poverty reduction efforts and limited progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. About half of these 60 countries currently experience violent conflict or are in post-conflict transition. The other half experience high levels of violent crimes, street violence, domestic violence, and other kinds of common vio-

lence. "Common violence" is defined in opposition to politically motivated violence. It is often, though not always, related to personal and property crime. Common violence has often increased significantly in post-conflict countries after large-scale politically motivated violence ends.

While all our programmes will have the prevention of conflict as one of the key components of our activities, we shall also set-up a new team that will work on conflict, crime and violence. Its aim is to prevent the violent escalation of a dispute. Conflict Prevention may be described in the context of:

- Monitoring and/or intervening to stabilize a potentially violent conflict before its outbreak by initiating activities that address the root causes as well as the triggers of a dispute.
- Establishing mechanisms that detect early warning signs and record specific indicators that may help to predict impending violence.
- Institutionalizing the idea of preventing conflict at the local, regional, and international levels.

(A detail proposal is available on request; Please quote project name or number P003).

### **Conference and Retreat Centre**

The centre and retreat centre would serve two purposes: first, it will act as a meeting point for Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Governmental organizations and Community Based Organizations working towards the prevention of violent conflict; and second, the centre will also provide an avenue for communities that are in disagreement to meet in either friendly and non hostile environment to iron out their differences.

The centre shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, in particular the following:

- To educate individuals, groups, and the general public in such knowledge areas as peace and conflict prevention, religious and spiritual traditions, ethnic, racial, and gender identities and values, ecologically sound living, the significance of diversity among peoples, cooperative living and working, and inner peace and peace in the total society;
- To encourage and develop study and research programmes that relate to the programmes of the Centre, and to make that information available to the general public; (A detail proposal is available on request; Please quote project name or number P004).

### **Library Projects**

As part of efforts to encourage reading and education, QPNWA has proposed to build a static and a virtual library at its centre. It is hoped that the libraries will have Internet connections and will serve as enlightened educational information centres for communities in Africa that do not have such institutions. The building of such institutions will enable African communities to achieve higher standards of education in their immediate communities (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P005).

### **Peace Media**

Through our peace journalistic programme, QPNWA aims to shed light on structural and cultural causes of violence, as they bear upon the lives of people in a conflict arena, as part of the explanation for violence. It aims to frame conflict as consisting of many parties pursuing many goals, rather than a simple dichotomy. An explicit aim of our peace journalism programme is to promote peace initiatives from whatever quarter, and to allow the reader to distinguish between stated positions and real goals. Specific tools use for this include website, newsletter, radio station, film and television programmes, and presentations using projectors and yearly documentaries (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P006).

### **Drop-in Centre for Youths**

The primary objective of this centre is targeting young people/offenders at the outset of a career of crime, aiming to “nip the career in the bud”, and transform a potentially negative role model into a positive one. By targeting these groups, youth involved in violence and youth that are about to take up a career in crime, the chances of changing attitude are enhanced. Moreover, the project seeks to build foundational structures that will facilitate constructive dialogue between the youth, academics, policy makers, politicians and the media in the context of peace (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P007).

### **Education/School Facilities**

The education programme at both the primary, vocational and adult level will be administered by the drop-in centre staff. Almost all primary and secondary school facilities around Rokel and surrounding villages have been severely damaged. Roofs of buildings were often ripped off and their doors and windows forcefully removed. At present many schools are housed in temporary shelters as their buildings have been destroyed. All schools are void of furnishings such as desks, benches, tables, cupboards, etc., and teaching and learning materials. While all schools in neighbouring Waterloo and at Rokel are government-approved, it is estimated that only 66% of teachers are qualified. The QPNWA drop-in and retreat-centre programme intends to get involved in educational service delivery as well as to bridge the gap at the primary through to vocational level. The centre will also run an adult educational centre (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P008).

### **UK Education Programme**

A limited number of scholarships are offered by QPNWA to West African students wanting to pursue a master program in Peace and Conflict Studies at the UK. These programs aim to reinforce and connect the capacity of individual and institutions through further training. (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P009).

### **Health Facilities**

As with educational facilities, Public Health Units (PHU) have been affected throughout Sierra Leone. Although not all PHUs have been damaged, the dispersion of staff and the poor accessibility due to the status of the road infrastructure results in most units being non-functional. The QPNWA programme, therefore, hopes to get involved in health delivery or services only at our village while also liaising with other agencies providing or willing to provide longer-term support to health services, the repair or rehabilitation of buildings around our target area (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P0010).

### **Sports and Community Centre**

Research has shown that sports help rehabilitate young people who have been involved in armed conflict, by drawing them out of violent routines and offering them socially-acceptable and structured patterns of behaviour. Research on the reintegration of former combatants in Sierra Leone has shown that participation in sports helped to make a shift from a social context in which violence is 'normalised' towards one in which working together as a team is recognised and acknowledged in 'peaceful and socially-accepted ways'.

During the war period, the only attraction that was able to bring people together was sports. It is worth noting that sports continued astonishingly in-between battles and bombshell in Freetown by the Economic Community Monitoring Group (ECOMOG). As such, sports helped to a large extent in preventing Sierra Leone from experiencing genocide as was experienced by other countries (A detail proposal is available on request; please quote project name or number P0011).

## [environmental consideration

The Eco-village project will seek to address the issue of sustainability not only in environmental sense but also in social, economic and spiritual terms. It will comprise of the following projects:

### **Ecological Buildings**

This project in collaboration with a local construction firm will embark on the building of Eco-friendly houses using available natural materials that are environmentally friendly for the benefit of ex-combatants and those affected by the war in dire need of housing. The houses will be built using clay bricks for its ability to maintain indoor cooler temperatures and transparent plastic roof to maintain adequate lighting during the day. The buildings, that will incorporate a Low Cost Housing approach, will feature rainwater harvesting and storage facilities.

### **Renewable Energy System**

In promoting environmentally friendly way of producing electricity, the organisation will provide solar power through solar panels that will produce energy from sunlight which is abundant in this tropical region and generate electricity at night. Solar power is an environmentally friendly means of generating electricity because of the non-polluting nature of energy collection to produce electricity. Much of the energy to power the premises shall be generated from renewable and available resources using state-of-the-art sustainable technology. For instance, low energy lighting will be used throughout to cut down drastically on electricity bills.

### **Waste Management**

Sierra Leone faces serious waste management problems particularly in the capital where waste matter is normally dumped in and around residential areas posing environmental and health hazards. The practice where most households burn their waste has the same consequences. The proposed project aims to introduce environmentally friendly ways of waste disposal and recycling. It is hoped that the success of this project will be representative of a model for the entire country and elsewhere. All household waste within and around the village will be collected at a central point on a weekly basis with a strong emphasis on households separating their wastes—putting organic wastes like food separately from bottles, tins, paper etc. The organic waste materials could be used as compost for agricultural purposes.

### **Biological Wastewater System Project**

The project aims to reduce water consumption by recycling waste water. The main source of water within the village is wells as the area lacks pipe-borne water. Water would be pumped using either a hand or a solar powered pump. A special concrete storage facility will be constructed to store all wastewater from domestic activities and bathing. This water collected at a central point could be treated and filtered and used to flush toilets, etc.

### **Organic Food Production**

This project will see the introduction of organic methods of food production using natural fertilizers in the form of waste processed as compost to maintain a healthy soil which is the centre piece of organic farming. Products from the farm would be used to sustain members in the village and the remainder sold in the local market.

### **Eco-village Education**

The eco-village education project will support the move to a more sustainable eco village environment. The QPNWA education team will visit schools, colleges and communities to help children, adults and businesses understand the issues of climate change and other ecological issues. In-house seminars and lectures will take place at the Education Centre. This will be an on-going activity and not limited to the eco village alone. Essentially, this will transform participants into become environmentally responsive.

## [miscellaneous

### **Sustainability**

Once the project is completed it is hoped that it will be self-sustaining with the beneficiaries providing most of the labour that would be needed in the village. Our aim is to achieve sustainable development by enhancing the economic, social and physical environment for community benefit.

QPNWA hopes to develop a sustainable economy within the village where beneficiaries would be able to grow what they eat, engage in income generation activities, gain knowledge and be self sufficient.

### **Transportation**

Lack of transport is a key constraint to both developmental and economic activity. The provision of two mini vans, two motorcycles and ten bicycles could help facilitate movements.

### **Reporting and Accountability**

Narrative and financial reports will be prepared by QPNWA Organizing Committee and its Trustees. All original receipts will be collected at the time of the funded activity. At present, only a minimum level of confidentiality is prescribed. However, this could change depending on the content of matters discussed during the actual gathering. Photos will be taken by designated daily photographers assigned to record the events.

### **Follow-up**

Anticipated follow-up activities will include meetings of QPN Commissions, and the annual meeting of the regional QPNWA and QPN groups (West Africa, East Africa, Great Lakes Region, and Southern Africa). Other follow-up activities will include a range of joint activities to be defined during the actual consultation, but will almost certainly include planning and preparation of the next QPN-appeal in 2010.

## [budget breakdown

Category	Item	Number of Items	Unit Cost (£)	Total Cost (£) Year
	Workcamp/AVP	1	N/A	45.000
	Quaker Meeting House	1	8.000	8.000
	Conference and retreat centre	1	35.000	35.000
	Conflict Prevention Centre	1	10.000	10.000
	Library Projects	1	3.000	3.000
	Drop-in centre for youths	1	25.000	25.000
	Education/School Facilities	1	16.000	16.000
	Health Facilities	1	7.500	7.500
	Sport and community centre	1	15.000	15.000
	Peace Media	1	17.000	17.000
	Peace and Education Exchange	1	6.000	6.000
	Labour	N/A	10.000	10.000
	Transportation	14	14.000	14.000

		Sub Total	<b>£166.500</b>
		7% of total	£11.655
TOTAL		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>£178.155</b>

**APPENDIX A**

