



WELCOME...

EDUCATION FOR PEACE

**LOYOLA INSTITUTE OF PEACE &
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (LIPI)**
*(The Nodal Platform for Peace and
Reconciliation,
Jesuit Conference of South Asia)*

**JHEASA MEET, CHENNAI
OCTOBER 2018**

Introduction

- We live in a world of growing violence. The cry for peace is heard all over. Peace-building and reconciliation have become the need of the hour.
- Loyola Institute of Peace and International Relations (LIPI), Kochi, appointed by the POSA, is the Nodal Digital Platform for Peace and Reconciliation of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia.
- LIPI aims to foster an atmosphere of peace with a multi-pronged approach. The Nodal Platform is located in and functioning out of LIPI. It envisages to network with all the existing peace initiatives especially in the South Asian Assistancy.

Rationale

Peace Mission as a timely response:

- 1. Decree 1 of the General Congregation 36 of the Society of Jesus**
- 2. Fr General's letter on Peace Mission (20 Sept. 2018)**
- 3. Provincial of South Asia's circular on Peace and Reconciliation (26 March 2018)**

1. Decree 1 of the General Congregation 36 (GC 36) of the Society of Jesus

#21 Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice

- It calls “to share God’s work of reconciliation in our broken world emerged often and powerfully. What GC 35 had identified as three dimensions of this ministry of reconciliation, namely, reconciliation with God, with one another, and with creation, assumes a new urgency. This reconciliation is always a work of justice, a justice discerned and enacted in local communities and contexts. .. This mission can lead to conflict and death, as we have witnessed in the lives of many of our brothers. While we speak of three forms of reconciliation, all three are, in reality, one work of God, interconnected and inseparable.”

2. Fr General's Letter on Peace Promotion (Dated 20 September 2018)

- This (peace promotion) is a matter, which falls within the purview of the Conference and, clearly, must be part of an overall strategy to promote peace in the subcontinent. I am glad that you have a meeting of "Peace groups" scheduled for the near future. I see that the initiatives taken by Fr Kalathil will be part of the conversation. Hopefully, the participants will generate ways to explore avenues other than those initiated by Fr Kalathil which have wider relevance than only Pakistan, and which translate into action for peace. This will ensure that the Society in South Asia is increasingly a player in promoting peace in a troubled part of our world.

3. POSA's Circular (26 March 2018)

“Connecting to Place Reconciliation at the Core of Our Life-Mission-Life in South Asia”

- ‘Connect’ was the leading theme of JCSA meet held at Kandy in February 2018. The Provincials of South Asia desired to be connected in a deeper way with Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh as integral parts of the Assistency. Based on the deliberations there JCSA put forth two concrete proposals:
- 1. We invite Jesuit Higher education in South Asia, especially the autonomous colleges/universities, to explore the possibility of initiating a “Centre for International Relations and Peace Studies, with special focus on South Asia.
- 2. To prepare modules for higher Education on “Non-Violent Communications and Conflict resolutions.” This could be our way of responding to the call of GC 36 for reconciliation in the midst of the challenges of fundamentalism that generates and perpetuates conflict ridden situations across South Asia.

Education for Peace

- Education for peace is a priority for the Assistancy today as South Asia continues to be a major conflict prone area in the globe.
- A culture of peace must imply more than a theoretical vision and understanding that impresses itself. It should reach out on persons and groups, communities and societies.
- How to promote peace across all areas of our educational ventures, including the teaching-learning process?
- How can an education for peace be made meaningful and integral to our present system?

Pedagogy

- This calls for developing concrete methodologies to promote peace and reconciliation which implies diagnosis and awareness of the dynamics of violence in different spheres.
- In a world rife with injustice and inequality this demands a serious and explicit pedagogic commitment to create critical consciousness, which is concerned with justice and freedom.
- This will motivate our students to learn alternative ways of conflict resolution rooted in people's lives, cultures, values and attitudes.

National Colloquium on Peace and Reconciliation

LIPI, in collaboration with Indian Social Institute (ISI), Delhi organized a colloquium on 'Peace and Reconciliation' at the Assistancy level on 7-8 October 2018 at Jnana-DeepaVidyapeeth, Pune.



Objectives of the Colloquium

- Enhancing the present JCSA initiative of the Nodal Platform at the national and international level.
- Exploring the possibility/feasibility of initiating a Centre for International Relations and Peace studies with special focus on South Asia.
- Launching peace studies and peace forums in our educational institutions (schools, colleges and universities) and other centres of learning.
- Networking and collaborating with peace initiatives in South Asia.

POSA's Concept Note on International Centre for Peace Studies

- POSA has proposed his concept note on developing a Centre for International Relations and Peace Studies which comprise of all SAARC Countries.
- Peace-building is defined as a comprehensive, long-term process working towards sustainable peace based on the values of rights and human dignity. Peace building recognizes and supports the central role that local actors and processes have in ending violence and constructively addressing both the immediate effects and structural causes of violent conflict.

Rationale of the Centre of Peace Studies

- Our academic studies should include methods of conflict resolutions and peace building; such studies should find place in our political discourse. In South Asia we have vibrant traditions of Buddha, Gandhi and numerous men and women who have developed and practiced non-violent methods; these are relevant and applicable to individuals, communities and nations.
- The unique contribution of non-violent struggle for independence in India contains valuable riches for nation-states across the world, especially in South Asia. These have to be brought to the fore.

The Key objectives of the Centre of Peace studies

- To promote 'International Relations' (with special reference to South Asia) as a respectable and relevant subject of study and research.
- To advance studies in 'Non-violence and Conflict Resolution.'
- To seek possible avenues of collaboration and networking among South Asian countries.
- To encourage exchange of scholars among South Asian countries.'
- To net-work with people engaged in peace initiatives/studies.
- To initiate such studies in our schools, college, universities, faculties and social centres.
- To initiate people to people contact among South Asian countries.

Proposed Location ?

POSA proposed that such a centre could be attached to one of our existing autonomous Colleges or Universities to facilitate academic studies.

In response, the colloquium recommended a **feasibility study** at the Assistancy level in collaboration with selected members from higher education.

For an on-going Discussion

- Does such a centre for International Relations and peace studies have takers today?
- Is it feasible/compatible with the existing curriculum in the colleges/universities?
- Will such a centre be sustainable? What would be the basic financial requirements

Peace Promotion in Jesuit Institutions

- **Certificate/diploma Program in Peace Studies or Short-term Courses:** The sample module prepared by LIPI will be presented and an adapted version of the same could be used elsewhere.
- **Peace Forums/Desks** in colleges and universities: Various activities of the peace forums/desks will conscientize and orient young minds in their commitment to justice and peace. E.g. *Shanti-Sadhbhavana Manj* launched by ISI, Delhi, and Indo-Pak forum started by Fr. Joe Kalathil.
- **Art and Peace:** Art is an effective tool in curtailing violence and promoting peace. E.g. the Art wing of LIPI conducts art therapy and workshops for children, youth and grown-ups.
- **Science and Peace:** We make use of the advancements in science and insights from religion for promoting peace. Cosmic retreats, seminars and publications are major tools for this venture.

Peace Promotion in Jesuit Institutions

- **Ecology and Peace:** Ecology is an adequate platform for building peace. E.g. *Tarumitra*.
- **Publication:** Publication of books and booklets on peace-building and conflict resolution which include personalities, traditions, movements, and the like. E.g. *Ezhuthu Magazine* published by LIPI.
- **Peace Conference:** LIPI resource team will be available for organizing peace conferences in colleges/universities.
- **Peace Research and Documentation:** Action based research with reference to conflict zones and issues. The results could be published.
- **Documentary:** Producing documentaries on best traditions and practices in society to promote communal harmony.
- **Use of Social media:** Sharing of success stories and inspirational events may be shared via website for wider impact.

Certificate/Diploma in Peace Studies

Significance: An innovative certificate program is envisaged for graduates and qualified professionals as an additional academic merit. The course will enable the candidates to enhance effectiveness in their work-environment through improved interpersonal relations, better teamwork, deepened social and self awareness, increased gender sensitivity resulting in all round harmony, peace and justice.

Objectives of Peace Studies

- a) to make the participants aware of the dynamics of self and social transformation;
- b) to impart an in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of socio-cultural change;
- c) to facilitate in acquiring necessary skills to engage in social action and conflict resolution;

- **Name of the course:** Certificate Program in Peace studies.
- **Place:** LIPI, Kochi
- **Facilitators:** LIPI Resource Team
- **Target group:** Graduates and above from a recognized institution
- **Requirement:** 25 Participants, Mutimedia Hall, LCD projector, etc.
- **Course Duration:** 60 academic hours, five hours per day on twelve Saturdays - two half-day experiential outings

Topics

- Understanding peace and justice
- Dealing with conflicts
- Communal harmony
- Environment and peace
- Art and peace
- Education for peace
- Parenting for peace
- Science and peace

Subthemes

- Socio-cultural analysis
- Politico-religious approaches to justice
- Human rights and gender justice
- Cultural intelligence
- International relations
- Environmental justice and gender Justice
- Personality development
- Effective parenting
- Artificial intelligence, Philosophy and peace
- Media and peace
- Literature and peace
- Peaceful lifestyles
- Nonviolent leadership
- Happiness index and wellness quotient

Pedagogy

- Inputs
- Panel discussion
- Pace talks/seminars
- Peace literature, Documentaries on peace
- Interactions with leaders and promoters of peace
- Personality development programs
- Group discussion/Assignments/Presentations
- Art Therapy, Yoga/Meditation
- Interreligious dialogue,
- Reading materials, Field visits

LIPI Resource Team

- Prof Dr K Babu Joseph (Principal Advisor, LIPI & Former Vice-Chancellor, Cochin University of science and Technology)
- Dr Jacob Thomas IAS (Executive Director (Academics), LIPI & Former Additional Chief Secretary, UP)
- Prof Dr.M.P. Mathai (Certificate Program Director, LIPI & Professor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahamedabad)
- Dr D John Chelladurai (India Peace Centre, Nagpur)
- Dr Maria Cheeran (Course Coordinator,LIPI)
- Prof. Dr. KM Mathew (Former Professor, KUFOS, Kochi)
- Dayabai (Activist)
- Justice Cyriac Joseph (Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India)
- Prof Dr Ozzie Mascarenhas (JRD TATA Chair Professor of Business Ethics, XLRI Jamshedpur)
- Dr D John Chelladurai (India Peace Centre, Nagpur)
- Dr MK George (Former Principal, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Trivandrum)
- Prof. Dr. KK Jose (Former Principal St Thomas College Pala)

Discussion

- 1. How do you appreciate launching a Centre for Peace Studies and International Relations?**
- 2. How to promote peace and reconciliation in the South Asian Context; identifying various nuances?**
- 3. What are the concrete proposals to initiate peace studies, peace forums and the like in our institutions and centres?**

**Our collective effort, we hope, will be a
creative step to promote education for
peace**

