

## Peace Communication and Education in and around Mumbai, India

Here are two types of courses designed for raising awareness among young members of the Salesian Society and for training selected teachers of schools run by educational Institutions in and around the area of Mumbai (particularly hailing from the states of Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat). The syllabi are tentative to enable flexibility and adjustments favouring the time, context and needs of the organizers in loco.

### 1. Synopsis of a PEACE COMMUNICATION COURSE for Salesian in formation

**Aim:** to promote nonviolent responses in situations of conflict; to understand peace theory; to practise conflict resolution and much more...

**Participants:** Salesians in post-novitiate formation. Ages: 20 and above. Approximately 30 per batch.

**Duration:** maximum 6 hours x 5 days (Total 30 hrs) or 3 hrs x 10 days (30 hrs)

**Method:** Participatory exercises with didactic content, including obligatory readings and space for discussion on certain themes.

**Materials required:** a link to the website (in construction) containing the complete syllabus.

**Tentative Synopsis:** 'Peace communication' is an introductory course to equip participants with the conceptual, critical and constructive tools to facilitate peacebuilding. Beginning with a clarification of *terms*, participants will explore the *epistemology* underpinning the construction of prejudice and stereotypes that exacerbate rivalry, discrimination and war. The *anthropological* approach to peacebuilding will begin with a multireligious presentation of the Golden Rule to emphasize mutual respect and dignity spelled out in the declaration of *Human Rights and Responsibilities*. A short *historical* study will unravel the contribution of enlightened individuals who sought peace at the cost of personal sacrifice. A *communication* analysis will focus on the role of nonverbal and verbal communication for truth and harmony, conflict resolution and will help distinguish 'fact' from 'opinion' in social media. Participants will also be introduced to *some areas of peace communication in practice*, such as Peace Journalism, Peace Education, Gandhian *Satyagraha*, Peace Research, Peace Theology and Don Bosco's Peace Culture.

## Tentative Curriculum

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>01. Introduction</li><li>02. Basic Concepts: Violence and Conflict</li><li>03. Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, Peacebuilding</li><li>04. Bias, Prejudice, Stereotypes</li><li>05. Discrimination</li><li>06. Inequality</li><li>07. The Golden Rule</li><li>08. Human needs, wants</li><li>09. Human Rights and Responsibilities</li><li>10. Communication Techniques: Fact, Opinion</li><li>11. Nonviolent Communication</li><li>12. Fake News and Elite control</li><li>13. Editors' Dilemma</li><li>14. Peace Journalism</li><li>19. Conflict Resolution</li><li>20. Peace History</li></ol> | <p><i>Additional areas to explore</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>21. Peace Education</li><li>22. Peace Ecology</li><li>23. Gandhian Thought and Satyagraha</li><li>24. Peace Researchers and Theorists</li><li>25. Peace Theology</li><li>26. Don Bosco's Peace Culture</li></ol> |
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## 2. Synopsis of a PEACE EDUCATION COURSE for teachers of Salesian schools

**Aim:** To promote peace education in Salesian schools based on the teachers' manual: *Exercises in Peace Education* (Tej-prasarini, 2003/2019)

**Participants:** Those responsible for education in schools in my province (and if requested in other provinces in India and others who request participation). Approximately 200 participants are expected.

**Courses:** 5 courses in the Mumbai Province spread over five states. Hours to be decided in consultation with school authorities coordinated by the Provincial and team.

**Method:** Lectures aided by audio visuals in view of getting teachers to implement the peace education manual in their educational institutions for the benefit of students from 5 to 17 years.

### **Objectives:**

Immediate objective: to enable selected teachers put the manual *Exercises in Peace Education* to good use in their respective schools

Ultimate objective: - to make schools places of peace and mutual respect; to ensure they are free of violence, conflict, discrimination, and bullying; - to inculcate in students mutual respect, empathy, appreciation of diversity, inclusion of differences, conflict resolution, clean environments, peace theory, peaceful practices and strategies.

**The Manual:** *Exercises in Peace Education* is a teachers' resource manual that consists of fifty-three lesson plans for educators of multicultural and multi-religious South Asia. It is meant to promote peace and nonviolence among young people from ages 5 to 17. Through experiential and participatory learning, youngsters are encouraged by their teachers to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills in order to become peace-filled persons and proactive peacebuilders. The lessons raise awareness, provoke thinking, challenge stereotypes, point to solutions and incite to action. To be relevant to all South Asians without distinction, an attempt has been made to sustain a multi-ethnic, pluricultural and inter-religious perspective.

**Materials required:** A copy of the Teachers' manual in PDF can be freely downloaded from the internet ([www.petergonsalves.in](http://www.petergonsalves.in)) and spiral bound for those who wish to bring them to the course. Students' workbooks to be used when teaching is optional for the teacher-training course. For those who wish to bring a sample along, a PDF copy is available on the main page of the same website.

### Curriculum (Table of Contents of the Manual)

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| <p><b>A. SELF-WORTH</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Happy to be me</li> <li>2. I like myself</li> <li>3. Unhappy to be me</li> <li>4. My feelings</li> <li>5. Name the feelings</li> </ol>  | <p><b>E. BULLYING</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 What is bullying</li> <li>26 How bullies behave</li> <li>27 Bullying - a reality check</li> <li>28 Bully-prevention strategies</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>B. REACHING OUT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. My favourites, your favourites</li> <li>7. Appreciating each other</li> <li>8. Making friends</li> <li>9. It is good to belong</li> <li>10 On being polite</li> <li>11 Making choices</li> </ol>  | <p><b>F. CONFLICT RESOLUTION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 Introducing conflict</li> <li>30 Causes of conflict</li> <li>31 Responding to conflict</li> <li>32 Outcomes of conflict</li> <li>33 Conflicts that mature us</li> <li>34 Chairs of peace</li> <li>35 Resolving conflicts</li> <li>36 On becoming peace keepers</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>C. DIFFERENCE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 It is good to be different</li> <li>13 Variety - the spice of life</li> <li>14 Variety, creativity, work</li> <li>15 The secret of the rainbow</li> <li>16 The golden rule</li> </ol>   | <p><b>G. ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 An environment for peace</li> <li>38 Civic responsibility</li> <li>39 Managing waste</li> <li>40 Cleanliness and peace</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>D. COLLABORATION</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 Every person counts</li> <li>18 Teamwork.</li> <li>19 The challenge of winning together</li> <li>20 To collaborate or compete?</li> <li>21 Greed destroys peace</li> <li>22 Sharing - a way to mature</li> <li>23 Honesty - a way to peace</li> <li>24 The value of possessions</li> </ol> | <p><b>H. A CULTURE OF PEACE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41 Peace, war, conflict</li> <li>42 What is peace?</li> <li>43 Peace symbols</li> <li>44 Open circles of peace</li> <li>45 Understanding peace &amp; conflict</li> <li>46 Peace quotations</li> <li>47 Peace ideas</li> <li>48 Peace sensitivity</li> <li>49 Stories on building peace</li> <li>50 Stories of peace choices</li> <li>51 A culture of peace</li> <li>52 Peace prayers</li> <li>53 The peace pledge</li> </ol> |

### **My credentials as the resource person:**

Peter Gonsalves SDB, PhD, is associate professor in the Faculty of the Sciences of Social Communication (FSC), Salesian Pontifical University, Rome. He is the author of the above-mentioned peace manual (and workbook for students). His doctoral thesis on Gandhi's nonverbal communication through clothing to liberate India from the British has been published in three separate volumes: *Clothing for Liberation* (Sage 2010), *Khadi: Gandhi's mega symbol of subversion* (Sage 2012) and *Gandhi and the Popes: from Pius XI to Francis* (Peter Lang 2015). He was invited to design the web-portal of the Salesian Congregation along with an IT company while at the headquarters in Rome between 2001 and 2006. He began teaching at the University from February 2008 and has served as Dean of the FSC from October 2015 to July 2018. He was appointed one of the 13 consultors of the Dicastery of Communications at the Vatican from March 2017 to August 2022. Previous courses he had offered Salesians and teachers of South Asian educational institutions (today consisting of 12 provinces) were on 'Media Education' (1994-2000), 'Peace Education' (2003-2004) and the 'DBWAY' (2010-2014). His recent book entitled, *Don Bosco's Peace Culture – a theory-guided study* (LAS, 2022), was released in September this year. My articles and books are available at [www.petergonsalves.in](http://www.petergonsalves.in) and <https://unisal.academia.edu/PeterGonsalves>