



CIPE -COLOMBIA 2007

*I Regional Encounter of Significant Experiences in Peace Education
- A possibility for the integrated prevention of multiple forms of violence -*

Esteemed Colleagues:

During the 29th, 30th and 31st days of August of the year 2007, in the city of Bogotá, 38 educators working in peace education had the opportunity to share a unique and exceptional experience: I Regional Encounter of Significant Experiences in Peace Education - A possibility for the integrated prevention of multiple forms of violence.

Community-based Institutes on Peace Education (CIPE) were created in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE). The CIPE is designed to provide a space in which educators can share knowledge and teaching methodologies related to peace education, human security and human rights in a context that is culturally relevant. Furthermore, the CIPE is meant to provide opportunities for educators at the local level to dialogue with the vast international network of the IIPE thereby increasing opportunities for research and the potential impacts of peace education.

The methodology of the CIPE is based on transformation of local experiences and situations of violence through the joint learning, education and reflection. The central theme chosen in Colombia, "Prevention of multiple forms of violence" allowed participants to reflect in turn on four sub-themes: competitive vs. cooperative power, conflict transformation, the power of the word - explicit and hidden languages, and the advancement of new elements of peace building strategy.

During the first two days peace educators from Bogotá, Cartagena (Bolívar), Jamundí (Valle), Nunquí (Chocó), Sincelejo (Sucre), Soacha (Cundinamarca), Tumaco (Nariño) and Villanueva (Bolívar) came together to share their experiences which they had been developing and carrying out in their respective local environments. Those present participated in plenaries, workshops, discussion groups and individual reflection. CIPE-



Colombia was filled with the spirit of communal and cooperative learning where everyone learned from others. We learned that following certain principles we could share three wonderful days together. Those principles included the creation of a group identity, the recognition of our own subjectivity and differences, and a commitment to learning in community and celebration of that community.

On the third day the event grew to over 100 participants interested in learning about this initiative. New participants on the third day included representatives from the Ministry of Education and Secretaries of Education, members of NGOs, university professors and other school teachers. This day, among other things, we learned about the Plan International project, Jóvenes Constructores de Paz (Youth Peace Builders) as well as the Forum: Experimental Laboratory for Peace Education Methodologies - Connecting with the Source. Participants from the first two days also had the opportunity to share their experiences and concluding thoughts on the event.

During this event, the first in the world of its type, we had the great company of our colleagues and friends Tony Jenkins, Co-Director of the Peace Education Center and Global Coordinator the IPE as well as the Global Campaign for Peace Education, and Emma Groetzinger, MA candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University. These two supported the conceptual foundations of the event and are authors of the Community-based Institutes on Peace Education Organizers Manual. We further thank them for their solidarity, human warmth and professionalism.

The organizing committee of CIPE- Colombia included representatives from the National Ministry of Education, the Javeriana University's Political Science and International Relations Department as well as the Department of Continuing Education, the Educational Alliance for the Construction of a Culture of Peace, Plan International - Colombia, the International Institute on Peace Education and Fundación Escuelas de Paz. We are all very pleased to have been able to participate in the formation of this new grassroots effort for Peace Education.

We would like to thank each and every one of the participants for their permanent willingness to teach and to learn, to laugh, to mourn, and for the spirit of the community that was present throughout all three days of the event. Thank you to the members of the organizing committee for bringing together the construction of this utopia, and a special thank you to the entities that provided financing for this project including the Canadian Agency of Cooperation, Plan International and Teachers College.

Now we face more difficult questions: How do we prepare to help and support other colleagues in their discovery and understanding of pedagogy of peace? How do we identify the needs of the communities where we live and work? How do we design successful proposals for peace education that respond to the needs of the community and of our students? How do we make the CIPE sustainable? What are our future actions? What methods and evaluation tools should we be using to measure the impact of these peace education initiatives? These are the things that we must begin to think about and design both individually and as a team. For now however we would like to share with you these memories and invite you to become a part of this initiative.

CIPE - COLOMBIA 2007 Organizing Team

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Primera Comunidad de Base de Educadores para la Paz
Colombia - 2007



COPLAS CIPE COLOMBIA 2007

Por: Docente Henry Franco Y.
Proyecto Jóvenes Constructores de Paz
(Tumaco-N.)

Todos con ilusiones
venimos a conocer
De experiencias colectivas
Que nos permitan crecer.

El primer día fue un goce
Hasta un grado celebramos
Con asado y papayera
A Fabio felicitamos.

Para Tony y Emma, los gringos
El idioma no fue problema
Porque todos entendimos
Que la paz es el dilema.

La idea de los “grupiños”
Propuesta por doña Mariela
Nos llevaba a cada rato
A mover la manivela.

Sincelejo, Bolívar, Valle,
Tumaco, Cartagena y Nuquí
Fueron regiones apartadas
Que hicieron presencia aquí.

El Cipe Colombia no es un cuento
Es una posibilidad real
De buscar las estrategias
Conducentes a la paz.

Este seminario repleto
De experiencias significativas
Aunque mucho se ha hecho
Aun nos quedan expectativas

El aprendizaje en comunidad
Punto clave del encuentro
Fue una gran oportunidad
Pa’ que todos digan su cuento.

El Cipe y sus estrategias
De construcción colectiva
Nos dejó muy motivados
Por acciones participativas.

La manifestación del mensaje
Que Tony quería decir
A veces sufrió problemas
Por lo duro e’ traducir.

El proyecto jóvenes Constructores de Paz
Con Gabriela, Julián y Fabián
Explicaron con acierto
La propuesta Nacional.

Al final es la nación
La que gana con todo esto
Pues los profes impartimos
Experiencias con acierto.

Y ya para terminar
Agradecer su asistencia
Y entre todos concluimos
Valió la pena esta experiencia.

Bogotá, 31 de Agosto de 2007





