



PEACE CHANNEL

*(Centre for Promoting Peace,
Dialogue and Research)*

Name of the Organization : Peace Channel and NEISSR
Description : A Youth Peace Movement for Conflict Transformation and Promotion of Human Rights and Universal Peace in the multicultural and religious communities of INDIA.

Organisation information

Name and address of the organization : Peace Channel
Post Box No.03, Tajen Ao Road, Bishop's House, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797112

Contact Person : Dr. C. P. Anto, Founder and Director

Contact Number : 9436260435

Email ID : peacechannel05@gmail.com, cpanto@gmail.com

Skype name : Chowarananto

Website : www.peacechannel.in, www.neissr.com

Area of operation

Mainly in the conflict ridden region of North East, India, Nagaland state and other three states of the region. It consists of 90% youth and 10% Adults who belong to different religions and communities.

Organisation profile:

Peace Channel :A Youth Peace Movement' was founded in the year 2005 with a vision to promote peace by engaging youth as stakeholders to build peace in the conflict affected region of North East India. The movement was conceived in the local context by Rev. Dr. C.P.Anto, a catholic missionary priest. It aims at transforming a culture of violence in to a culture of peace.

Mission: To promote and nurture the culture of non-violence, justice and compassion by reaching out especially to the youth in every village, town, district and state of India to eradicate the culture of violence through multi-dimensional and inclusive approach.

Objectives: To bring together people, especially the youth, under the banner of 'Peace' to work individually and collectively to promote peace and harmony in their immediate neighborhood and strive towards universal peace, justice, equality, and brotherhood.

Forming youth to face life in multi-cultural, tribal and religious context by adopting the principles of non-violence, religion and cultural tolerance; thus transforming men and women to be Instruments of peace in their own milieu and outside.

To collaborate and net work with peace agents and to promote dialogue, mediation and facilitation with conflicting agents.

The peace clubs are the basic units of the movement, wherein members capacitated in peace building and conflict resolution. The movement has trained over 100000 (hundred thousand) youth have been trained to be nonviolent communicators and peace builders.

The movement engages with the community through the People's Forum for Peace (PFP) for addressing conflicts in the community. The PFPs engages in conflict resolution through dialogues and mediation. It has settled many community and institutions based conflicts in the state and region.

The movement also promoted over ten researches to understand the nature and dynamics of local conflicts and suggest possible resolutions and transformative strategies.

Taking the message of Peace to the general masses, the movement has set up 'The Peace Band'. Its members were school drop outs and engaged them in worthwhile activities and prevented them from taking up arms.

Through the annual peace awards, the movement honoured 11 individuals who have contributed towards peace building in the communities and peace education in Nagaland.

To sustain the peace building programmes, it initiated the first Master of Social work (MSW) institute called North East Institute of Social Science and Research in 2014, with the specialization of Peace and Conflict studies under Nagaland Central University. www.neissr.com

Our major activities:

1. Peace Clubs
2. Peer Meditation
3. Peace Forum
4. Research and Publication
5. Inter-faith meet
6. Peace Award
7. Academic programs on Peace under NEISSR

Peace Building work:

The movement seeks to transform the culture of violence that is prevailing in regions affected by violent conflicts through education for peace, community action for peace, mediation and dialogue, research and development. The movement focuses on building peace and seeks to address the conflicts which are Inter & Intra community (tribal/ethnic/religious) conflicts, Conflicts in families and institutions and Intra & Interpersonal conflicts.

The movement, through its intervention in education among the children and youth and as well as sensitization and engagement among adults; intends to ensure that the conflicts do not escalate to violence but rather culminate in a mutually acceptable and beneficial manner.

The movement reaches out the communities through a three pronged approaches. The first being the Peace Clubs formed in educational institutions and communities. Children and young adults are mobilized and capacitated through the peace clubs and these peace clubs follow a seven step process of learning, interaction and self-evaluation fundamentally aiming at developing skills in individual development, inner peace and conflict resolution and transformation among peers. The peace club members further undergo focused capacity building programmes animated by volunteer teachers and community associates on various peace and conflict paradigms. Currently there are 329 peace clubs across Nagaland and North East with a membership base of 30000 (thirty thousand) active members. Over the past 10 years, the peace club movement has reached out to over 150,000 youths to be peace builders in the conflict situations.

Promotion of interfaith and inter-ecumenical dialogue and interaction is the second strategy for intervention by the movement. Interfaith conclaves are organized at district levels twice in a year, bringing together leaders and followers of different religions. They have been instrumental in building trust among various religions as well as between different ecumenical churches and communities. The improved interaction has enhanced their collective participation in resolving many local conflicts. There has been a marked improvement in the inter-religious interaction and dialogue due to the common platform created by Peace Channel, called The Peoples Forum for Peace (PFP). It aims at mobilizing the adults, different religious and community leaders, professionals in the peace building initiatives, as a think tank as well as mediators in local conflicts. The PFP members also guide and mentor the local peace clubs. There are 10 active PFPs in Nagaland with 300 persons currently.

The third level approach is that it gave birth to a new academic institution called North East Institute of Social Science and Research (NEISSR) in 2014. The main aim of it was to establish a full-fledged Master's Degree Programme of Peace and Conflict Transformation Institute under Nagaland Central University has empowered the youth and adult in peace building conflict resolution skills. Thus, the institute has been developing different traditional and modern scientific strategies to eliminate and transform conflicts in the troubled region of North East India. It is the first of its kind in the state and the country. It trains fifty students every year as professional peace builders.

Categories of Work

Youth-led peacebuilding:

To be eligible in this category your work must be led by young people (defined as 30 or under). This means that at least 50% of senior staff and board members must be young people.

The movement focuses on peace building through peace education among the youth as its main strategy. Building capacity of the young people to be the leaders and citizens of tomorrow with a strong conviction for ensuring peace, harmony, justice and equality; is the core of the work that the movement pursues. The initiatives of the movement in the educational institutions and the localities are led by volunteer youth animators between the age group of 13 to 30. The movement promotes youth leadership in addressing local issues. The theory of change propounded by the movement towards a peaceful future is that of capacitated and empowered youth who would stand for peace and harmony.

Inter-religious peacebuilding:

To be eligible in this category your work should promote peace, co-operation, and understanding between people or communities of different faiths or denominations.

The initiatives of the movement also aim at enhancing community/religious harmony. In a multi-religious society like India religious tolerance is very essential. The movement has included representatives from all religions in its executive board and inter-religious dialogue and exchange is carried out with the support from all religions and sects. We seek to instil the need for inter-religious understanding and harmony as a pre-requisite for peace in the communities. Through the work of the movement, the state has experienced enhanced interaction between the different religious and ecumenical groups.

A story of success

Peace Channel is an emerging secular youth movement of third millennium aiming at the transformation of individuals as peace lovers, makers and promoters. This is a part of global movement of education for peace. Children, parents and teachers as individuals and groups take active role in understanding one another's culture and building good relationship with each other; across communities and regions by taking actions to create space for more just and peaceful homes, communities and educational institutions by capacitating them to educational institutions, communities and other like-minded organizations.

The movement has reached out to over 329 peace clubs in the educational institutions and communities and has capacitated over 100,000 youth as peace promoters in the conflict situations in the process. There has been marked improvement in the behavioural aspects of the young people who have been part of the peace clubs and are capacitated by the programmes. The students who have been part of the peace clubs in the educational institutions have been an agent of change. Just for an example, St. Clare Hr. Sec School, Dimapur Nagaland, has set a culture in the peace building process where the peace club members take initiatives in keeping and promoting peace within their school and community level, the peace club members declared their school as 'Green St. Clare' by maintaining peace garden, plastic free zone and take active role in keeping their school compound clean and peaceful by intervening and resolving conflict among fellow students as peer mediators and also take initiative in maintaining the community road by clearing and filling up the potholes and also visited orphanage home and interacted with the children, the peace club members shared about peace and love and also donated their old and usable cloths and gave a free tuition for the orphan children, the peace club members also raised funds for K.K Angami colony half Nagarjan fire victim and also for one student suffering from cancer.

The second level, it has trained lots of religious and community leaders in turn they have settled and prevented number of conflicts in the state and the region. For example, Lotha-Adivasi inter tribal and interstate conflicts, Intervened in the Southern Angami- Mao tribe conflict, intervened and curbed further escalation of state level conflict between the civil society and government of Nagaland in Jan 2017, by bringing all the religious leaders and concerned citizens for a collective decision making process through dialogue. It settled various institutional conflicts like St. Joseph's College issue, Christ King Schools issue, Zunehboto Community issue, Etc.,

Third level success story is the establishment of the academic institution called NEISSR. A post graduate institute on peace building in Social work setting. It is the first in India and gives specialisations in peace and conflict studies, youth development and community development respectively. It has been training the youth and adults on various theories, models, case studies and successful practices related to peace and conflicts both national and International levels. Thus, in turn the social work students and peace builders have been actively involved in finding solutions to resolve existing issues, conduct researches, seminars and undertakes community based developmental works to bring lasting peace in the region.

Peacebuilding plans

Title : Inter Religious and Ecumenical Coalitions for Sustainable Peace in North East India through a Peace Centre

The project would seek to build inter-religious and ecumenical coalitions in 10 unreached locations in Nagaland through mobilizing and capacitating religious and ecumenical group leaders. The coalitions will be developed as forums for interaction and dialogue between different groups to enhance mutual understanding and respect. Young people in the locations will be an integral part of such coalitions as will be represented in the groups that are formed. Furthermore, the coalitions would seek to bring about the common strands of unity that binds followers of different religions together in the local context. These coalitions will be instrumental in preventing religious conflicts and disharmony in the North East Region.

Geographical Location: India, State of Nagaland (5 districts and 10 locations as below)

1. Dimapur District : Niuland and Medziphema
2. Kohima District : Chiephobozu and Tsemenyu
3. Wokha District : Wokha and Lakhuti
4. Mokokchung District : Mokokchung and Tuli
5. Peren District : Jalukie and Peren

Goal

Interaction and cooperation among the different religious groups and communities are enhanced.

Objectives

1. To establish one Inter-religious and Ecumenical Coalition (IREC) in each location.
2. To form one Quality Peace Club in each location for the youth to be mentored by the IREC.
3. To equip the local leaders and youth in religious harmony, dialogue, peace building and conflict transformation skills to enhance mutual understanding, trust and respect.

Activities

- Consultative meeting with the religious and ecumenical leaders, youth and women organizations, tribal frontal organizations.
- Formation of People's Forum for Peace (an inclusive approach for building relationships among different religions, Ecumenical communities) at the local level.
- Formation of Quality Peace Clubs in each location to initiate the peace education process in the locality.
- Capacity building programmes on peace, living harmoniously in the multi-cultural, religious and tribal communities, conflict transformation skills, dialogue and mediation for adults and youth.

Outputs

- 10 inter-religious and ecumenical coalitions formed in each of the locations with 25 members each.
- All coalitions are empowered through focused capacity building programmes on inter-religious and ecumenical understanding and interaction.
- One each Quality peace clubs in 10 locations are formed and capacitated and are mentored and sustained by the IREC members.

The coalitions will be formed and mentored by the movement for a period of one year and thereon the follow up support and mentoring will be undertaken by the volunteers of the movement.

Long term plans

The movement seeks to build a community that would strive for sustainable peace and development through engagement of youth. The movement seeks to capacitate youth towards becoming active peace builders in future.

The movement plans to expand peace clubs to all the educational institutions in Nagaland as well the North East in the coming years. The peace clubs in institutions will be coordinated by a state level mechanism consisting of community leaders, educationists and philanthropists. The People's Forums for Peace at the community level will guide and mentor the peace clubs that are formed in educational institutions and localities.

Inter-religious and ecumenical coalitions would be formed in every district in Nagaland. These coalitions will support and promote dialogue and understanding between different groups and conflicting parties.

Leadership:

The Peace Channel was founded by Rev. Dr. C.P. Anto on the occasion of International Day of Peace on 21st September 2005 as a movement to mobilize, capacitate and educate young people on peace and conflict transformation. He believes in the power of youth that once they are capacitated on peace and universal solidarity, they in turn become change makers in the families and communities, transforming the culture of violence in to culture of peace.

Rev. Dr. C.P. Anto, born to an agrarian family in central Kerala (Kalady in Ernakulam District) on 15th May 1971, came to the North East India (Nagaland) in year 1989 to pursue his call as a Catholic Missionary. He responded to the 'call within the call' to promote peace and non-violence in the conflict ridden region of the North East India, perceiving the nature and extent of the damage caused to humanity, human rights, justice and development through the sustained conflicts and violence in the region. A violent incident involving young people perpetrated on him and his colleagues and its awful aftermath; ignited the spirit in him to work for regaining the youth for peace 'The Peace Channel- A youth Movement for Peace' was the result of deep reflection and research to find a way to rescue the young people who are caught in the vicious cycle of conflicts and violence for no fault of theirs.

The current leadership of the movement consists of eminent personalities in the field of peace, development work, religious leaders and professionals who subscribe to the hope for a better future for Nagaland. The Governing Board of the organization has the representation of all religions and major communities in Nagaland and the North East. Peace Builders from across the world collaborates as resource persons and guides in the movement's mission.

Supporting information

References:

1.Prof. A. Lanunungsang Ao

Pro-Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University

+91-9856073333

Email: lanuimchen@gmail.com

2.Prof. Paul Bueno De Mesquita

Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies,

The University of Rhode Island Kingston, RI 02881

+114012076928

Email: paulbdem@uri.edu

3.Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil

Bishop of Kohima Nagaland-India

+91-9402832891

Email: thoppilj@gmail.com

Governance information

Certificate of registration **NO.H/RS/5412** dated **29/05/2009** in the office of the Registrar of Societies, Home Department Nagaland, Kohima under Registration of Societies Act, 1860 as amended vide Registration of Societies (Nagaland First Amendment) Act, 1969.

Please provide the following information:

The year your organisation was founded:	2005
The number of staff in your organisation:	15
Full-time staff:	9
Part-time staff:	6
Volunteers who work regularly for your organisation:	105
Do you have audited annual accounts?	YES
Do you have a board of trustees?	YES
Mission statement (if available) :	To promote and nurture the culture of non-violence, justice and compassion by reaching out especially to the youth in every village, town, district and state of India to eradicate the culture of violence through multi-dimensional and inclusive approach.

Honours and Awards

- Rotary National Peace Award 2017 Foundation International National Peace Award on 19th February 2017 at Pune, India in recognition for the long & dedicated Service as Founder Director of PEACE CHANNEL, Nagaland.
- RTF International Confederation of NGO's (iCONGO) and United Nations volunteers had conferred an award of KARMAVEER CHAKRA, in 2011 for outstanding child led initiative.
- Muslim community Nagaland conferred an award for promoting Inter-religious Harmony in Nagaland on 21st January 2016.
- Received a Certificate of Appreciation from the University of Rhode Island, USA, in June 2016 for introducing Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies as one of the specializations under MSW curriculum.
- Received a Certificate of Appreciation from Ministry Health and Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland, on World No Tobacco Day on 31st May 2016.
- North East Peace Award was conferred 2019 for promoting peace in the North East Region on 7th December 2019 at Christ School International, Nongsder, Umiam, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Networking with institutions:

- Christian Institute Of Health Sciences & Research (CIHSR) Dimapur Nagaland
- Holy Redeemer Health Center, Chumukedima, Dimapur Nagaland
- Catholic Commission for Higher Education of Nagaland (CCHEN), Dioceses of Kohima, Nagaland.
- International Institute of Peace and Development Studies (IIPDS), 1562/113, Moo Ban Pibul, Bangkok, Thailand.
- BPHE Society's Centre for Studies in Rural Development of Social Work and Research, Ahmednager, Maharashtra.
- Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.
- Catholic Health Association of India, Bangalore.
- UNICEF – VHAI, New Delhi, India.
- Vedhik IAS Academy, Bangaluru, Karnataka.

Social Media Links:



bit.ly/3DwDi9r



bit.ly/3y4Jft6



bit.ly/3ouWO1P

Full Name of Applicant/ Member : Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto
*Founder and Director, Peace Channel and
Principal, NEISSR*

Date : 08/12/2021