**RECONCILE Peace Institute**

**Frequently Asked Questions 2013-2014**

**1. What is RECONCILE International?**

RECONCILE International was established by the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC)as an institution for promoting civic education and trauma healing in Sudanese communities destabilized by civil war, tribal clashes, and human rights violations. Decades of civil war have a dramatic effect upon South Sudanese society and have led to extreme challenges in building trust, healing memories of trauma, transforming conflict and promoting reconciliation. RECONCILE International, however, is committed to training religious and community leaders to engage the complex challenges of leadership and community building.

RECONCILE’s vision is harmonious and caring communities in the Sudans realizing their full potentials, living and working together in justice, peace, truth, mercy and hope. Accordingly, RECONCILE’s mission is to contribute to nation building by facilitating processes for equipping communities in South Sudan and the region with knowledge and skills for sustainable peace through trauma healing, accountable governance and social transformation.

**2. What is the RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI)?**

The RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) is a program founded and managed under the Board of RECONCILE International. The RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) runs annually and provides three months of training for South Sudanese church and community leaders from across the country. RPI provides two tracks, one in the area of *Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation* and the second in *Community Based Trauma Healing*. Each twelve-week course consists of six modules. Each module runs for two weeks and the classes consist of case studies, lectures, group discussions, guest speakers, role plays, and field work. RPI participants study in a diverse learning environment in which they learn from colleagues of different genders, ethnic groups, ages, social-economic statuses and life experiences. This three month intensive experience ultimately provides space to reflect upon and address prejudice and stereotypes, while building meaningful bonds with other national leaders. In addition, RPI students participate in fieldwork which allows them to practice their skills in the community and learn from organizations and churches based in Yei, South Sudan.

**3. What is the purpose of the RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI)?**

South Sudan is at a pivotal time in history. Decades of war have left many unresolved issues within South Sudan’s borders and between its neighbor the Republic of Sudan. As the newest nation in the world, many question how the sovereign state will overcome the many challenges leading to its succession and consequent independence on 9 July 2011. While the nation continues to celebrate the new freedom afforded by the referendum and recent independence, citizens also mourn the loss of lives in reoccurring clashes throughout this country.  These ever present challenges witness to the need for more relevant, practical, and sustainable peace efforts in South Sudan.

The RECONCILE Peace Institute seek to actualize the full potential of this great nation by providing a comprehensive three (3) month training to a select group of faith and community leaders engaging in trauma recovery, peace work, and development in South Sudan and the region. Our students are equipped with vitals skills necessary for facilitating trauma recovery and conflict transformation in their communities and places of influence. Our instructors include highly trained experts from throughout Africa, Europe and the United States of America who are committed to contextualizing their knowledge in a manner which is practical for grassroots efforts. As a result, our graduates are equipped with vitals skills necessary for addressing trauma and conflict in their communities and places of influence.

**4. Does the RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) provide certification?**

The RECONCILE Peace Institute provides certificates, in cooperation with Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia, in **“Community Based Trauma Healing”** and **“Peace Studies & Conflict Transformation.”** Certificate holders who desire and have the means to continue their studies are able to complete the diploma course (nine months) at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation. RPI alumni are granted advanced standing in the Mindolo program and can begin six months after graduation.

**5. If I can only attend one module, which one should I attend?**

If you can only attend one course, you should attend *Community Education and Mobilization for Peace*. Many have termed this the “crown jewel” of RPI because it incorporates all of the skills acquired in the first five modules in a dynamic and engaging way.

**MODULE DESCRIPTION**

The module provides information on violence and conflict in community structures, case studies and role-plays on different aspects of community education and mobilization for peace. The course also examines the structure of organizations in which people participate and investigates how the construction of these organizations contributes to the transformation of conflicts. Finally, the course provides participants with knowledge and insight on ways to enhance community collaboration for peace. Through this training, students draw from their imagination, traditions, cultures, and the people’s capacity for reflection and action in the process of peace-building. As a result, participants acquire skills useful in transforming conflicts within communities and organizations through education, training and mobilization.

**MODULE OBJECTIVES**

The aims of this module are:

* To stimulate critical thinking and analysis on issues for social change in participants’ communities and/or work place.
* Enable participants to explore ways in which communities can be educated and mobilized for peace.
* Encourage participants to use an effective approach to developing a culture of peace
* Prepare individual participant to become role models for peace and agents for peaceful change at the grassroots level.

**LEARNING APPROACHES**

This module employs a variety of teaching formats allowing participants to actively engage in participatory learning process which include:

* Case Studies
* Role Plays
* Lectures
* Group Discussions
* Guest Speakers
* Individual Presentations
* Videos
* Practicum in the Local Communities

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a result of studying this module, participants:

* Identify kinds of conflict, violence, and issues for social transformation embedded structures
* Demonstrate confidence and knowledge to educate and mobilize communities for peace
* Attain a comprehensive understanding of cultures of peace and alternative means of promoting it
* Devise strategic plans for educating and mobilizing for peace
* Enhance their intellectual insight, while enhancing their actions and efforts towards peace and justice in their communities

**6. What is the cost of this course/module (2 week)?**

The cost to attend one module is $300USD (915 South Sudanese Pounds). This amount covers expenses such as books, staff time, food, course materials, and certificate. Transportation and housing can be provided if needed. Please see chart and explanations below for more details.

**COST FOR ONE (1) SELF PAYING DAY STUDENT - ONE (1) MODULE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FeeAllocation | Lecture Fees/ Staff Time | Meals($5 per day, Lunch/ 2 Tea Breaks) | Course Materials & Library Fees | Certificate | AdministrativeCost | Total Cost |
| **One Student***(Price in US Dollar)* | **150**  | **55** | **35** | **10** | **50** | **$300 USD** |
| *(Price in South Sudanese Pounds)* | **457.5** | **167.75** | **106.75** | **30.5** | **152.5** | **915 SSP** |

**7. If needed, does RPI provide housing?**

RPI provides housing for students traveling from out of town at a cost of $20 per day.

**8. If needed, does RPI provide scholarships?**

Scholarships are *extremely* limited and are reserved for active grassroots peacebuilders who do not have the money to afford the cost of an RPI course.

**RECONCILE International**

**RECONCILE PEACE INSTITUTE SCHEDULE – 2014**

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| --- | --- |
| **Community Based Trauma Healing****Certification** | **Peace Studies &  Conflict Transformation****Certification** |
| **Student’s Arrival/ Mandatory Orientation****25th -28th January / 29th January -2 February 2014** |
| **Module #1 Conflict Analysis****3rd – 14th February 2014** |
| **Module #2 Recognizing Trauma****17th -28th February 2014** |
| **Module #3 Responding to Trauma****3rd -15th March 2014** | **Module #3 People for People Peace Building Interventions****3rd -15th March 2014** |
| **Module #4 Journey of Trauma****17th -28th March 2014** | **Module # 4  Non Violence Faith Based Philosophy & Practice****17th -28th March 2014** |
| **Module #5 Trauma Healing with Specific Populations****31st March – 11th April 2014** | **Module # 5 Leadership, Good Governance and Peace building****31st March – 11th April 2014** |
| **Module #6 Community Education & Mobilization for Peace****14th – 25th April 2014** |
| **RPI Graduation****28th April 2014** |

**All APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE BY 16th AUGUST 2013.**