

**RESPONSE – Bridgebuilders Trust**  
**Preparation of the Mid-Term Report on the International**  
**Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the**  
**Children of the World (2001-2010)**

**I**

**ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED BY YOUR ORGANISATION WITH REGARD**  
**TO PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE**

1. During the first half of the Decade Bridgebuilders Trust in Auckland New Zealand, has promoted vigorously the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). In 2000 we developed a Bridgebuilders Peace Pack, giving a resumé of peace initiatives undertaken by women internationally, nationally and locally since the first World Women's Conference Beijing 1995. We have undertaken substantial work on the promotion of peace, in particular the promotion peace building for children and youth. The following activities have been undertaken:
  - 2001: Distribution of the Bridgebuilders Peace Pack to all secondary schools in the Auckland City area through an Auckland City development grant.
  - Continuing support and promotion for restorative justice processes.
  - 2001 – 2002: 12 workshops on peace in the northern half of the North Island of New Zealand were facilitated with assistance from a PADET (Peace and Disarmament Education Trust) Grant.
  - 2002: ongoing – A parent education resource, *Better Brains for Babies* was published giving key messages on the best development of the child's brain in the first 3 years of life. To date the resource has been printed in English, New Zealand Maori, Cook Island Maori and Samoan.
  - The Decade has been recognized on all our resource material.

The Major Aspects of our Programme have been:

- **Objectives** – One of The Bridgebuilders Trust main aims is to work towards the goal that Justice and Peace are achieved for all people. We also seek to promote universal Human Rights. Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity are important in all of our work. Our interest in promoting the Decade was stimulated when three members of the Bridgebuilders Trust, representatives of the Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand in special consultative status with the ECOSOC, were invited to attend the preparatory meeting in June 2000 for the forth coming World Summit on Children.

- **Beneficiaries** – Our work seeks to benefit women and families. Actions during the decade to promote peace have concentrated on Children and Youth. Parent education to foster a culture of peace has been a prime goal of all activities with the beneficiaries being parents and children.
- **Location of activities** – restorative justice promotions, circulation of the Bridgebuilders Peace Pack to schools and some peace workshops have been located locally. The parent education resource, *Better Brains for Babies* has had national distribution as have peace workshops.
- Through our international body, Bridgebuilders International we have promoted the decade regionally and globally. Both the Bridgebuilders Peace Pack and *Better Brains for Babies* have been contributed to international meetings in Fiji, Thailand, Taiwan, Australia, and New York.
- **Resources**
  - Bridgebuilders Peace Pack
  - *Better Brains for Babies* leaflet in four languages: English, New Zealand Maori, Samoan and Cook Island Maori.
  - Leaflet Women Building Peace: A resource for the International Year for a Culture of Peace 2000 and The International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World 2000-2010
  - Leaflet –*New Directions for Restorative Justice* (Creating a balance between the offender and the victim).
- **Results** –
  - i) Bridgebuilders Trust is known locally and nationally for its work on peace building in particular peace building for children and youth
  - ii) Families have become aware of the need to create non-violent home environments for their families through use of our resources
  - iii) Bridgebuilders peace workshops encourage participants to facilitate the workshop for other groups

## 2. Difficulties encountered

- i) Difficulties of encouraging workshop participants to facilitate the workshop for other groups
- ii) Engagement of parents in activities focusing on children and youth
- iii) Accessing funding for publication of resources

3. The most important action areas are

- i) fostering a culture of peace through education – ensuring young people are informed
- ii) promoting respect for all human rights – as an organization working to promote the rights of women and girls and families we believe this is a crucial action area
- iii) advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity – this action area fits closely with the aims and objectives of Bridgebuilders international
- iv) promoting international peace and security – especially implementation of United Nations resolution 1325 – Bridgebuilders works internationally to promote peace and security

## II

### **GENERAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE**

4. Progress towards a culture of peace and its eight action areas

We believe through the endeavours of Bridgebuilders that education towards the goal of justice and peace has been furthered in the local community of Auckland New Zealand and nationally through peace workshops and on-going education. Within the Bridgebuilders international network women and girls have been made more fully aware of the need to recognise and promote a culture of peace.

5. Major obstacles for promotion of peace and non-violence

A culture of peace and non-violence is still impeded for women and girls locally nationally and regionally by the prevalence and indeed escalation of violence in all its forms and especially domestic violence and violence in war.

6. Measuring medium- or long-term progress

In 1999 a questionnaire for New Zealand women was developed through the Association of Presbyterian Women to assess how women were doing in their daily lives. This included a question on women's safety. The same questionnaire was administered on a wider basis in 2004 through workshops for the Beijing +10 review and appraisal. By using the identical questionnaire we were able to assess progress during the interval of five years. Outcomes suggested that between 1999 and 2004 there had been little improvement as to how safe women felt in their homes, on the streets and in the workplace.

### III

#### **PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION**

##### 7. Partnerships in process of working for a culture of peace

Bridgebuilders has worked closely with a number of other NGO organizations in particular the National Council of Women of New Zealand Inc. and Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) Inc. Together we have been able to do more to work for the creation of the culture of peace through workshops, seminars and printed brochures.

##### 8. UNESCO's website

We aware of the UNESCO website for the decade but funding constraints have prevented us from making maximum use of the resources offered

### IV

#### **COMMITMENT TOWARDS NEW INITIATIVES AND NEW DIRECTIONS**

#### **FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE**

##### 9. New Projects planned to promote culture of peace in the next five years

Bridgebuilders will continue to hold workshops, youth services and to write promotional to continuing promoting a culture of peace. *Better Brains for Babies* will be printed in several more languages.

##### 10. Priority domains

The priority domains are promoting respect for all human rights, furthering education for a culture of peace and advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity. These are all objectives of Bridgebuilders. At our regional consultations we continue to promote international peace and security through presentations, keynote speakers and participatory workshops. We are committed to action "in supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge." These we believe are the priority domains

##### 11. Envisage approaches to a culture of peace and promotion over the next five years

Basic to approaches in the next five years will be to work to ensure the implementation by governments and by civil society of United Nations resolution 1235. Many of its key recommendations are yet to be uplifted.