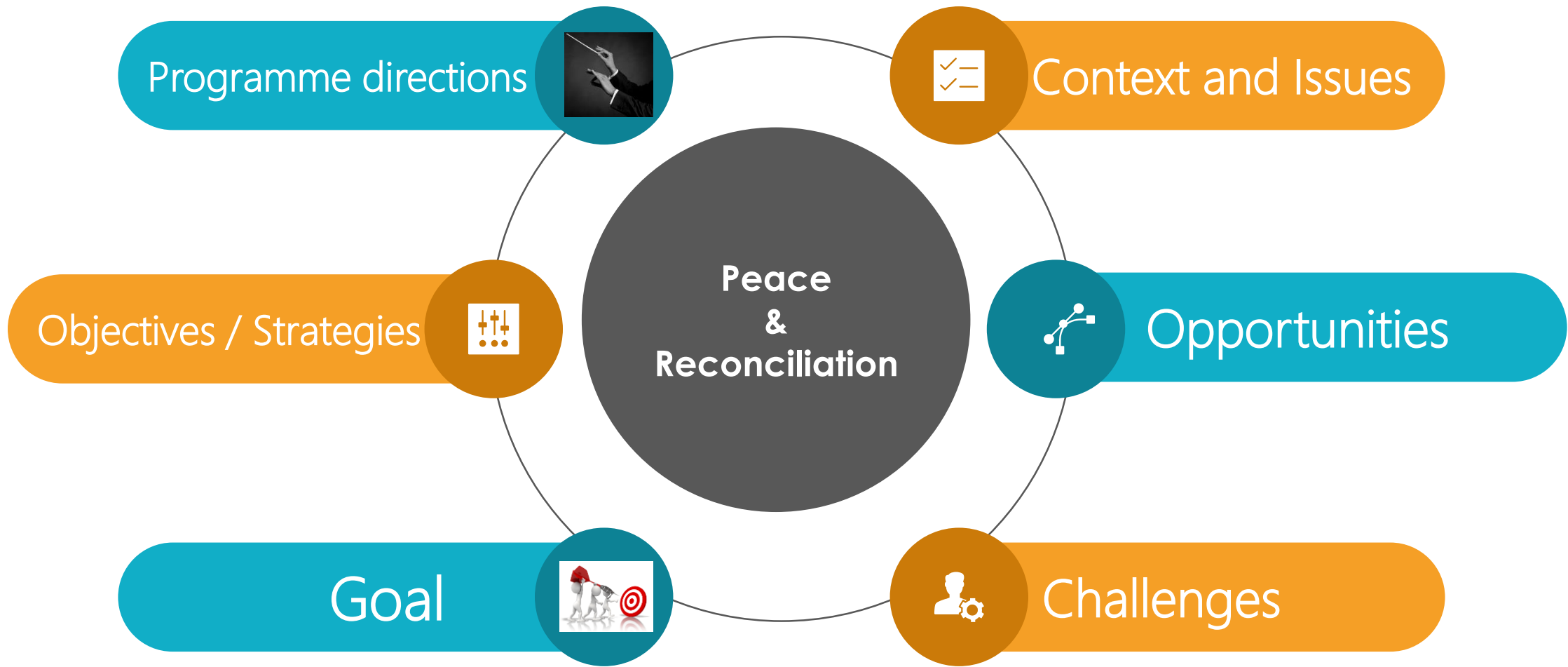


# Peace and Reconciliation Unit



# Context and issues:

- The irrefutable painful reality is that conflict and violence is on the increase. Injustice, discrimination based on religion/gender, divisive communal ideology, impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of violence are main causes for conflict and violence.
- While promoting right kind of socio-cultural analysis and ideological and leadership orientations are necessary, we also recognise that there are far less efforts, reflections and programmes to positively promote education for peace, justice, human rights, nonviolence, tolerance, global understanding, interdependence and mutuality, and environmental responsibility.
- Systemic conflicts have negatively impacted the marginalised communities of their long cherished values of solidarity, cooperation, common good and working together.
- In this context there is a need to promote a new culture of dialogue and practical praxis to create enabling and ennobling ambience and conditions to rebuild right relationship with oneself, with the other, with the Ultimate truth and with nature.
- Reconciliation is understood as a process of restoring trust and re-establishing relationships on the lines of truth, justice, forgiveness and accommodation between conflicting groups / communities for the holistic development of individuals/communities.

# Opportunities & Challenges

- Adhering to the new call of the Society of Jesus, some Jesuit provinces are initiating new experiments and creating new opportunities to promote peace and reconciliation.
- Courses are offered on peace and development, peace and conflict resolution, international relations and peace studies, non-violent communications, human rights and peace education by various institutions.
- Some institutions have initiated peace clubs among students. Forming peace committees in conflictual contexts is emerging as need. Though such efforts might be considered as minimum, these are indications of emerging new orientations and needs.
- Skills and tools on peace-building, conflict resolution, negotiations, non-violent methods etc. are also seen as critical dimensions of an effective leader.

## Challenges:

- As the culture of individualism, materialism, relativism and consumerism is on the increase, creation and promotion of countercultural narratives will be a slow process, and will need innovative tools and creative methodologies appropriate to context and communities.
- There are also international and well-designed actions and campaigns by self-proclaimed vigilante groups to create an atmosphere of intolerance and fear among the marginalised and minority communities.
- Easy use of social media platform to spread rumours, fake news, single stories, stereotyped information etc with ulterior motifs.
- A new culture of instant or retributive justice is fast growing.

# Goal

- **To develop, spread and institutionalise dialogue praxis / culture, inclusivity and justice to the marginalised by training peace practitioners who will accompany students, youth and leaders and initiate peace praxis.**

# Objectives / strategies



To identify and develop peace practitioners in institutions (schools and colleges) (eventually in rural / urban locations)



To nurture and promote peace related concepts, reflections, peace praxis and peace art forms.



To identify, document and disseminate peace practices, reconciliation narratives, and humanizing counter cultural art forms.

# Programme directions

**a. To identify and develop peace practitioners in institutions (schools and colleges)**

## **Programmes:**

- 1. Identifying and training about 100- 125 peace practitioners (25 each in five southern states) through systematic, innovative, multi-phased training and workshops as a pilot programme**
- 2. Initiating and promoting peace clubs in institutions through peace practitioners**
- 3. Promoting multi-cultural/multi-religious activities / competitions / fests / exchanges in schools and colleges to demystify discriminatory myths**

# Programme directions

**b. To nurture and promote peace related concepts, culture and dialogue praxis.**

**Programmes:**

- 1. Conducting micro researches on peace building efforts in conflict situations**
- 2. Organising consultations / seminars / lectures on peace related concepts and practices in partnership with peace institutions and colleges.**
- 3. Organising periodic reflection sessions on current conflict issues among NGOs / CSOs / religious groups along with representatives of affected communities and publishing the outcomes and testimonies of peace building efforts.**
- 4. Organising workshops on conflict resolution, negotiation and dialoguing skills.**
- 5. Exploring opportunities for learning by establishing linkages with international efforts on peace and reconciliation.**



# Programme directions

c. To identify, document and disseminate innovative peace practices, reconciliation narratives, and humanizing counter cultural art forms.

## Programmes:

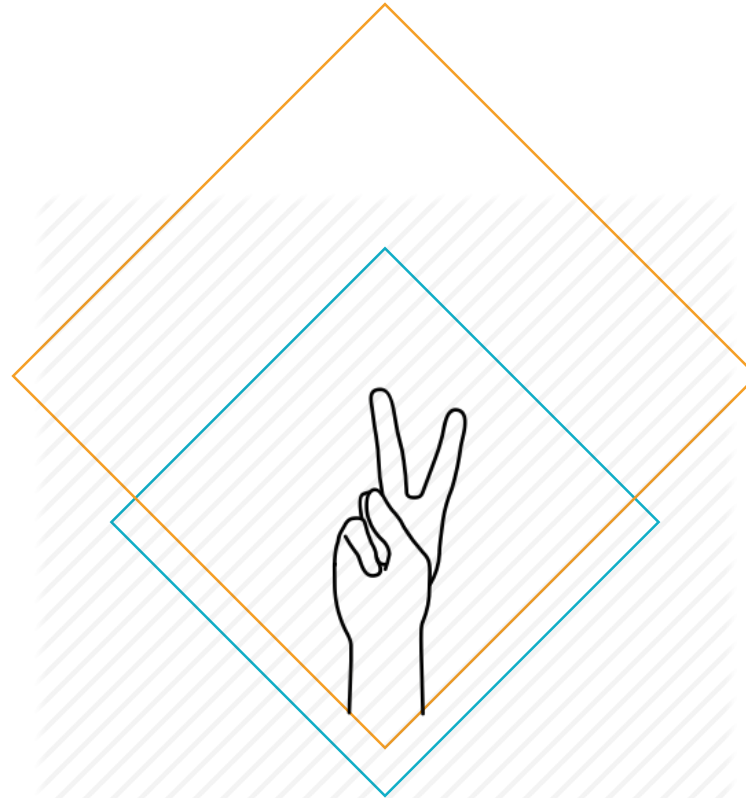
1. Collecting, documenting and publishing peace practices, videos, reconciliation stories, pictures, captions etc
2. Developing peace-building resource guidebook for students
3. Promoting peace art forms

## **Human Resources required:**

- 1. Researcher and Trainer with peace building and conflict resolution studies**
- 2. Communication and documentation person**

## **Name of the Unit:**

**Peace and Reconciliation or Peace and Conflict Resolution**



**Thank You**