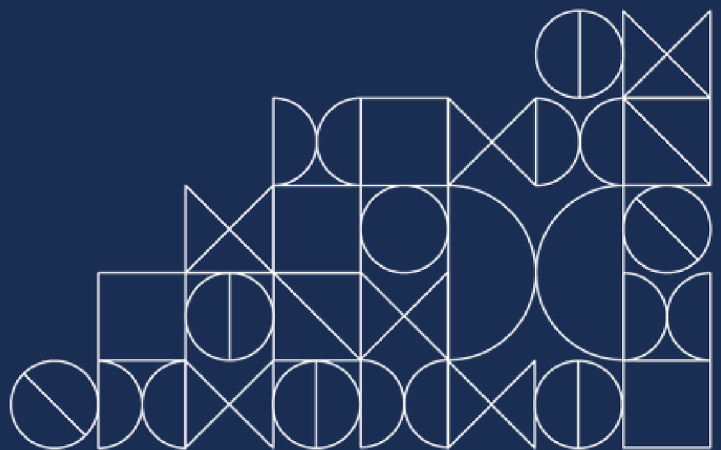


Together, we
form leaders
who transform
conflict.



In 2023,
we trained:

350

bridge building

reconciling

divide crossing

de-polarising

generous

leaders.

That's twice as many as in any previous year.
And we're not even finished yet!

**Join us in celebrating this landmark
achievement!**



Photo: WCC

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The need for our work is growing every year– but so are the ranks of the reconcilers!

As we look around us today, we can be in little doubt about how many ruptured or damaged relationships cry out for healing.

Polarised political landscapes are the rule, not the exception. Many families and other communities experience divisions, with children and other vulnerable people among the main casualties of conflict.

And yet ... as I look back over the year that has passed, I am deeply struck by how much impact even one person can have; not taking on this journey alone, but held within a network of other hands.

Together we engage in the creative act of building bridges, reaching across divides and relating in new ways.

One of the most encouraging reflections for this year is the number of alumni who have been involved in our programmes as facilitators. It testifies to their calibre as leaders in the field and their ongoing commitment to serve a divided world. They bring energy and expertise into our work, shaping the development of future programmes and contributing contextualised examples of reconciliation in practice for those who are just beginning their journey.

Our global network is our growing community of students, faith leaders and community bridge builders who are influencing the trajectory of our world towards deep-to-deep hospitality, opening the door to innovation collaborations that authentically embrace difference. They each model aspects of the values and practices of a reconciler that through continued engagement becomes habits; which in turn causes cultural shifts. Curiosity, vulnerability, empathy – they all have vital roles to play in finding new pathways forward.

This year, for our team we have seen a significant rise in programmes, with over 350 reconcilers trained who have come together from across 29 countries and 9 faith traditions. That brings our global network to over 1300 members, supported by 30 core partners. These partners are incredible organizations, we are so grateful to them and could not do this work without them. Our partners come from across a variety of sectors, serving our network and supporting our shared mission to raise a generation of reconciling leaders. I would love to encourage you to read some of our stories of the individuals and partners who are doing incredible work!

From me, a personal thanks for continuing in this journey. It is so incredible to see people coming together to support reconciliation efforts! Everything that has happened this year will be built upon next year...the impact continues!

“We need heads, hearts, and hands to come together for reconciliation.”



the year in

programmes



The next generation of leaders will steer the planet through chaos, conflict, and change.

Encounters equip influential 18–30 year olds to collaborate across divides, while they're still in formation today.

94

emerging leaders equipped

emerging peacemakers forum – second edition



Geneva



6-14 July



48

The world's most promising peacemakers. Selected from over 1,000 applicants.

Forty-eight international emerging peacemakers, aged 18-30, joined our team and the Muslim Council of Elders at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland.

Their experience was like no other - a transformational week of training in a blissful valley of the Swiss Alps, topped off with visits to Geneva and the offices of the United Nations, which helped them bond at a deep and formative level.

The group has since sustained an active and effective network, establishing startups and social enterprises, running skill-swaps and training one another, and meeting in each other's cities. This new network is utterly dedicated to expressing their shared and different faiths through collective action.



Photo: WCC

“I came out of EPF with a mission: not to let transformation end in me. I have an obligation to share it.”

Marta Marques, participant



Photo: WCC

Photo: WCC






convening partner and sponsor

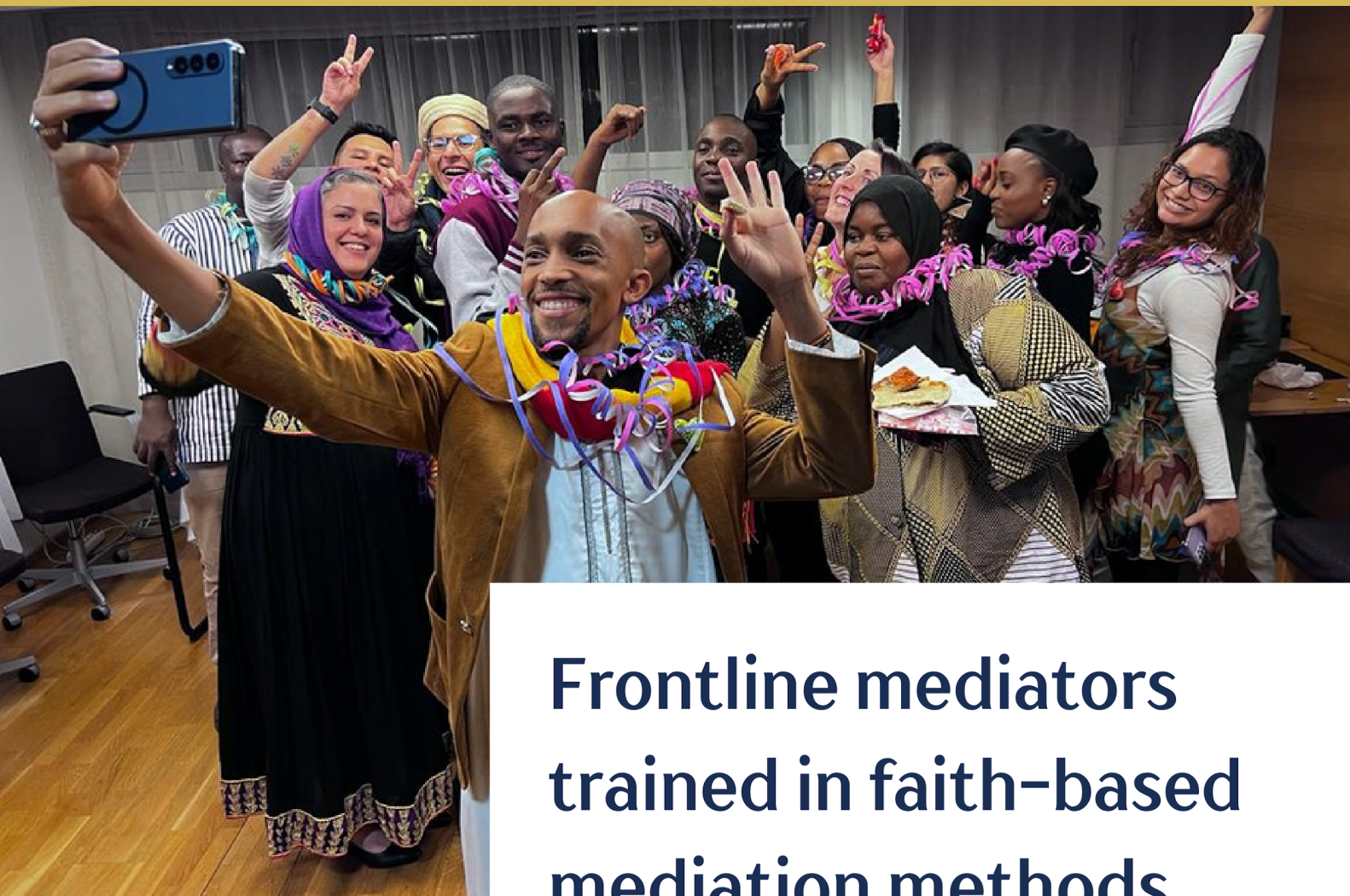


World Council
of Churches

hosting partner

mediation training with the network for religious and traditional peacemakers

 Helsinki
 23- 25 Oct
 17



Frontline mediators trained in faith-based mediation methods.

In partnership with United States Institute for Peace and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Rose Castle Foundation led training for seventeen highly influential and skilled frontline conflict mediators from around the world. The training focussed on non-violent communication, 'polarities', the Habits of a Reconciler, forgiveness, and practical reconciliation tools in the midst of violent conflict.

“The connection with [other] experienced young mediators and discussion around the micro-skills of a mediator was invaluable.”

Anonymous participant



Network for Religious and
Traditional Peacemakers
convening partner and sponsor

princeton rose castle society training

 Rose Castle
 15-22 Oct
 16



“My gut reaction is still, if I hear something I disagree with, to get a knot in my stomach and I just want to leave. But now a second thought comes: Wait, is there something deeper to this? Where is this person coming from?”

Emmie, participant

A new cohort of reconciling leaders on an Ivy League campus

Our partnership with Princeton is now entering its fourth year. Students we trained this October are now embedding their learning week-in, week-out, through the active Princeton Rose Castle Society, a critical forum for dialogue and mediation around deep-running tensions both on campus and out in the world. Alumni of the Society are already setting out on distinguished careers in pursuit of a more peaceful future.



Office of Religious Life
convening partner and sponsor

odyssey fellowship



Cairo



16-23 Jan



13

Faith leaders cross deep divides.



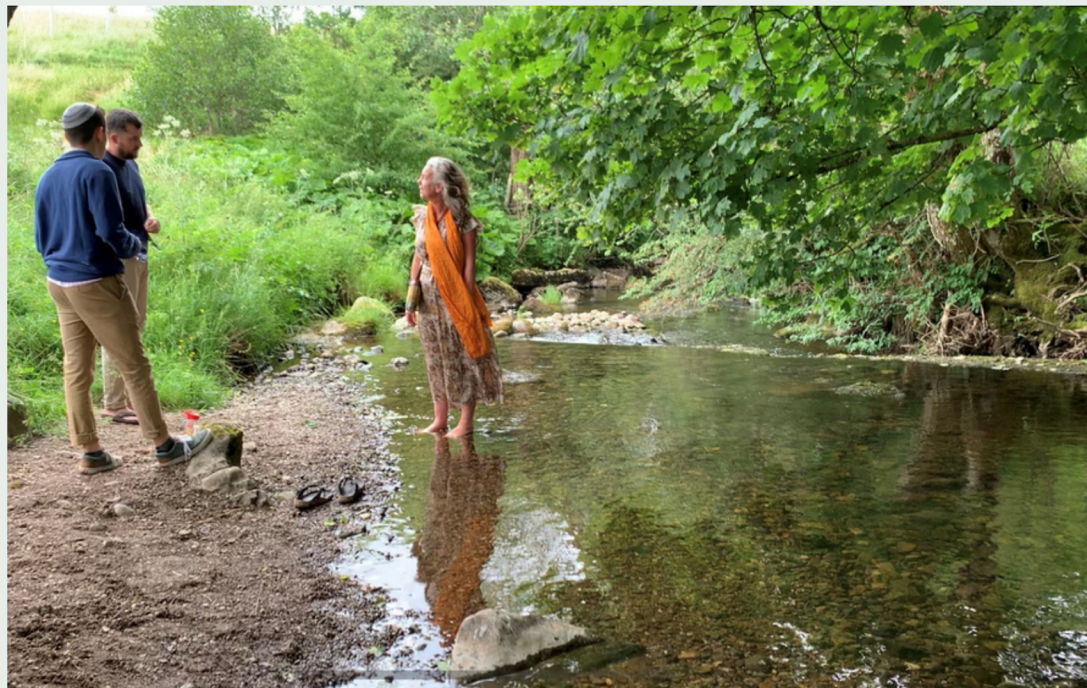
“My Faith has been strengthened and expanded in ways that I could not have conceived years ago, and it has been mainly through interactions with my Muslim and Jewish fellowship members.”

Kevin, participant

The middle stage of this fellowship saw the group travel to Egypt, to experience a space very different from their day to day contexts. In the group there were those in formal training to be faith leaders; Jewish, Christian and Muslim. The group previously joined us at Rose Castle in August for a first Encounter programme, which laid the bedrock for engagement in local communities, which they have been working on joining us for their second immersive encounter experience in Egypt. During this time the group learnt from Egyptian filmmakers and peacebuilders, engaged with challenging disagreements and encountered themselves and others deeply.



convening partner and sponsor



Space to heal, restore, recover, reimagine.

Whether in a conflict zone or a divided community, those leading from the front lines are often traumatised and tired. **Retreats** accompany experienced leaders on vital journeys towards healthy hope.

47

frontline leaders equipped

ukraine

📍 Rose Castle

📅 7-11 Aug

👤 12

“A wonderful and precious space [...] hugely important.”

Your creativity and connections in creating a wonderfully bespoke programme were awesome.”

David, partner



Following Christ during war in Ukraine, through the habits of **creativity** and **lament**.

A tough yet deep, restorative, and ultimately hopeful week for a team of pastors and staff from Tearfund, asking: How can we follow Christ in war? And how can we lead others through it? Art, walks, and an excursion to the Lake District kept our hands, heads, hearts (and legs!) engaged. By the end of the week, faces shone brighter, and new, deep wells of love and hope had been dug. The retreat was a reminder of the power of hospitality to hold and connect people in the midst of conflict.

tearfund

convening partner and sponsor

egypt



Cairo



23-27 Jan



14

A new faith-informed conflict mediation task force.

RCF's team in partnership with CCMUP and House of the Family for an immersive engaged deeply with a faith-informed conflict mediation 'train the trainer' programme. The programme was extremely powerful - and those it equipped now find themselves working on the frontlines of Egypt's deepest societal divides. During our time together, there was laughter, joy, and fiery wrestles. This was a valuable test of the Habits of a Reconciler in an Arabic and Islamic context; the programme was also a key milestone in the development of RCF's syllabus for a faith-informed conflict mediation training programmes, which has now been written, tried and tested and received feedback.



“We’re all deeply appreciative for the great contributions of Rose Castle Foundation, rendering the training an excellent one.”

Bishop Mouneer Abbas, partner



المركز المسيحي الإسلامي للتفاهم والشراكة
CENTRE OF CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM
Understanding & Partnership

convening partner



“Leaving our context to come away to Rose Castle was invaluable for the quality and depth of conversations.”

Imam Shefiu, partner

Putting inter-faith engagement at the heart of countering extremist violence.

Religious leaders from Nigeria brought their contextual insights to a capacity building training at Rose Castle. Mapping exercises supported a strategy for engaging new agents in reconciliation efforts, especially focused on the extreme margins. The opportunity to connect with the context of Carlisle built friendships across national lines, sharing the challenge of being religious leaders who are holding pastorally sensitive spaces while embracing the opportunity to embed peacebuilding visions and practices within their communities and across their networks.

“I’m constantly blown away by how deeply relationships form in such a short space of time.”

Hannah, facilitator



A journey of hope, a partnership of the UK’s leading centres of peace and reconciliation.

In this nine month immersive pilgrimage for Christian leaders to transform themselves and their communities through peacemaking, our retreat-inspired module focussed on hospitality and the habits of reconciliation. The vision of the Journey of Hope module is for faith leaders who are encouraged and re-energised in their role as reconcilers; leaders who are supported to live out the values of their faith, equipped to bridge divides and create communities of belonging; leaders who can call other people into a place of moral courage and civic engagement; leaders who can participate in social healing and cultural repair; leaders who will creatively transform conflict and make peace.



St Ethelburga's Centre for
Reconciliation and Peace

convening partner






Teenage leaders. Different faiths. Living together.

More than a safe space – teens get right into the trickiest conversations about faith and difference. The camp is a launchpad for kickstarting initiatives back home.

42

young leaders equipped

emerging peacemakers programme – year 3

 Cumbria
 24-31 July
 26



The pioneering camp for teen leaders that's authentically Christian, authentically Muslim, and authentically Jewish.

RCF In partnership with All Angels' Church NY, Carlisle Islamic Centre, Central Synagogue, St. Michael's Church & Muslim Community Network brought together 26 youth from New York and across the UK from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith traditions. The week together explored the Habits of a Reconciler, conflict transformation skills, scriptural reasoning, along with outdoor activities. The week sought to build resilient relationships across great spectrum of difference, and to offer a space to be curious about one another and ourselves.

“I learned a lot about my different prejudices and how I subconsciously feel about others.”

Participant

The
Hadfield
Trust

 **CUMBRIA**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

all angels' church

 **MCN**
Muslim Community Network

“At Rose Castle, my peers and chaperones cultivated an environment completely free of judgement and preconceptions. It was there [...] that I identified the root of my internal conflict, which, as it turns out, is not so internal after all.”

Participant



Summer camp and a Rose Castle society at the world's first Reconciling School.

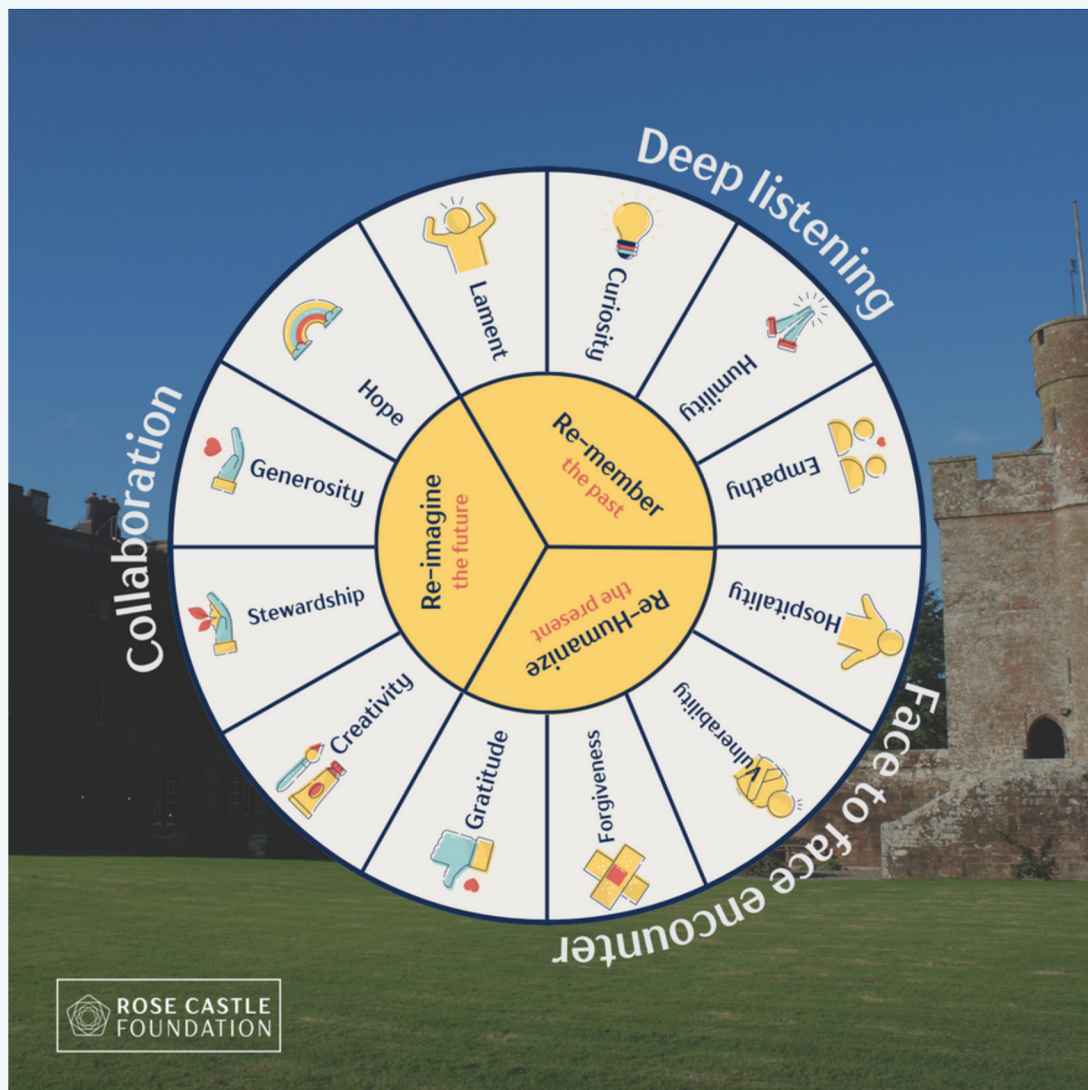
Joining us in the beautiful lake district we had 14 students from the National Cathedral Girls School. Over our 4-day encounter programme at YHA Borrowdale and Rose Castle we came to explore our difference, what happens when conflict builds walls between us, and how each of us can model reconciling leadership. The group left the programme intending to set up a Rose Castle Society at school, to hold spaces for curiosity and having difficult conversations.



the year in

our network





What are the behaviours we need to navigate mess?

The **Habits** are for everyone – a framework to unlock flourishing by getting back to basics. Faith communities in particular use them to collaborate better.

scholarship



UK



2023-24



80+

50 leading scholars explore the Habits to advance Christian Reconciliation.

This November we launched our major new project, the 'Christian Wisdom of Reconciliation', supported by a generous grant from the McDonald Agape Foundation. Over the next 12 months we are gathering dozens of the UK's leading scholars from the universities of Durham, Aberdeen, Cambridge and Oxford to research the 12 Habits of reconciliation and develop innovative practices and resources for fostering ecumenical dialogue between hotly divided Christian communities.

Keep up to date next year, as the project is set to follow a glittering pathway towards new research agendas, articles, books, and community resources!

"This project has significant potential to develop a practice of ecumenical Biblical reasoning as the vehicle for a fresh approach to reconciliation, with the capacity to transform the lives of Christian communities around the globe."

Professor Paul Murray, Director
Centre for Catholic Studies,
Durham University



Generously funded by the
McDonald Agape Foundation

churches

📍 Global

📅 All year

👤 300+



“I commend the approach and experience of the Rose Castle Foundation in giving a relational tool that can assist in building peace from the family to international diplomacy.”

Bishop Nick Dill, partner

Reconciling churches, our partners in mission, teach the habits in their communities.

We are grateful to the dozens of churches who have pioneered cutting-edge toolkits, resources, and practises around the 12 Habits of a Reconciler. In particular, we recognise:

- Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis
- The Anglican Church of Bermuda
- St Christopher's Church, Birmingham
- Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York
- All Angels' Church, New York
- Reformed Church of Bronxville, New York
- Marble Collegiate Church, New York
- St Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria

5 scriptural reasoning



Journeying deeper into our different scriptures together.

Underpinning our approach to dialogue between faith groups, **Scriptural Reasoning** is a practise that's all about getting into the depths of difference both bravely and safely.

u.k. faith leaders

📍 Windsor
📅 16-19 Jan
👤 15

“Doing SR opened my eyes to the power of sharing texts across radically different contexts”

Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet,
participant



Supporting Faith in Leadership's flagship programme with specialised SR training.

Convened by our partners at Faith in Leadership, senior leaders from the major faith traditions in the UK brought the depths and differences of their scriptural traditions into dialogue through the practice of Scriptural Reasoning at the third module of the Senior Faith in Leadership Programme at Windsor Castle. The programme facilitates meaningful encounters between faith leaders, accessing the resources that each faith tradition provides for effective leadership. Scriptural Reasoning remains central to SFLP, and RCF continues to enjoy a close partnership with their team, with whom we have a long history of shared practice.



FAITH IN LEADERSHIP

convening partner

u.s. leaders

Virginia

6-7 Sep

17



Training new SR trainers alongside our partners at this leading seminary.

Together with the Centre for Anglican Communion Studies (CACS) at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) we trained leaders in the DC metro area with the necessary tools to run a Scriptural Reasoning group. The programme provided an opportunity for participants to encounter local faith and community leaders from other Abrahamic traditions through intensive shared study of sacred texts; to deepen participants' understanding of others' traditions and communities; and to strengthen participants' capacity to foster peaceable neighbourhood across religious and societal boundaries through the facilitation of SR. By the end of the programme, all participants - many completely new to SR - agreed that they had the confidence and desire to use SR in their practice.

“We not only deepened our understanding of our respective traditions but also fostered genuine bonds of friendship and cooperation across faiths.”

Mirbek, participant

frontline mediators



Oman



16 Nov



15



Applying Scriptural Reasoning in Mediation Process Training.

In Partnership with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, RCF shared Scriptural Reasoning with a cohort of 15 youth mediators from 15 different countries, who are all engaged in frontline peace and mediation work.

The group planned ways to implement Scriptural Reasoning in a formal mediation process to build empathy, understanding, model host/guest dynamics and explore the wisdom of our sacred texts.

Those trained will implement Scriptural Reasoning practices in their delicate and sensitive conflict contexts as they carry out mediation processes with faith actors.

“I am happy to inform you that I am doing my step down training in Katsina today; the second phase will utilize Scriptural Reasoning to work with the intergenerational gap.”

Hayatu, participant



convening partner and sponsor



Sharing what we learn about how differences and faith can shape stronger societies.

As a face-to-face practitioner working directly with hundreds of leaders from communities all over the world, we learn a lot. This year, we've made it a priority to share that with those who are making a difference on a massive scale.

research collaboration

From exporting conflict to importing peace?

We partnered with LSE Faith Centre to gather a group of 19 senior peacebuilders - inspirational women from Israel-Palestine and across the UK - to connect around the globalised Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The sensitively-facilitated workshop explored the role of storytelling in conflict and provided a rare opportunity to hear diverse perspectives, drawing on the rich wisdom and experiences in the room to reframe shared challenges and visions.



conferences & networks



Putting faith and difference on the agendas of policy makers, governments, and international actors.

What are the forces, institutions, and individuals shaping tomorrow's world? And how can we work with those people to shape it more peacefully, knowing what we know about the human drivers for peace and flourishing?

This year, those questions took us to the heart of the 'Tech for Good' movement, where we have a growing platform speaking into the key gatherings of those shaping the next generation of digital technologies including social media. The keystone of the year was attending the PeaceTech forum in San Francisco.

We have maintained our close engagement with Wilton Park at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and increased our engagement through additional major platforms such as the Human Flourishing conference at Harvard University.

partner gathering

**Collaboration is
in our DNA.**

**Our thirty long
term partners
would surely
agree.**

In June, we convened a group of our UK partners from the faith, education, and community sectors at Rose Castle for the first time, to review the practises of Scriptural Reasoning and Habits of a Reconciler on which our programmes are built.

Our partners remain the key channel through whom we recruit, educate and support our Reconciler Network, and our relationship with them is a priority. Our partners include universities, schools, seminaries, faith-based networks, churches and other houses of worship, governments and peace-building organisations.



Peace Library



... 3,000 books!
Peace Library
installed at Rose
Castle.

With honoured thanks to Professor Nigel Young, co-founder of Peace Studies at Bradford.

We are delighted that Rose Castle has been entrusted as the custodian of Professor Nigel Young's personal collection of books, which he has carefully collected and grown over the last six decades. Nigel is the Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Research Professor in Peace Studies at Colgate University and has been a pioneer and shaper of the emerging field of peace studies.

Our team were particularly touched to hear him tell the story of the collection, which we'll be capturing to be shown alongside his books in our Peace Library. Once catalogued, the collection will become available for public use and study.

The collection involves many seminal works in the field of peace studies and covers fascinating themes such as the history of the Civil Rights movement in the US among many others.

and finally .. our team

As a final note from me, I would like to say none of this would be possible without the hard work, energy and care of our incredible team.

Anna has been such a wise and prayerful presence for our whole team; championing the work of the Christian Wisdom of Reconciliation Project with dedication and passion.

Joe has taken us to new heights with his leadership around fundraising and income generation. As a faithful steward and creative thinker he is bringing Rose greater sustainability.

Hannah and Phoebe have continued to champion our programmatic work; from innovative content to nurturing and sustaining partner and emerging leader relationships. They have travelled to far flung parts of the world to create and facilitate new spaces for building trust, in universities, seminaries and houses of worship.

Phoebe's focus on developing and refining our Rose Way content goes from strength to strength. Her creativity and deep grasp of our curricula and DNA is continually feeding in to resource development and extending the reach of our training. Her care for the team is especially valued by us all.

Robbie, our newest team member, has brought theological depth and wisdom around our learning and impact, and has thrown himself energetically in to every aspect of our work. He too has travelled the world to build and deepen relationships with key partners including universities and seminaries.

Georgia has returned to work with fire, passion and dedication; bringing new creativity around our communications, our relationship with Rose Castle and estate, and our ways of working as a team. Neil is our rock – a steadfast and empathetic leader, stewarding Rose and the team with great care. None of our work would be possible without him.

This summer we were also joined by an incredible trio of university volunteers: Halima, Avi and Anika. Their contribution to our summer programmes and planning brought a burst of energy, creative ideas, and passion for our work, as well as a welcome diversity of experience and perspectives. We look forward to continuing to journey with them as they move on through and beyond university and seminary.

I look back over this year with such gratitude. It is a privilege and joy to work with such a dedicated, passionate and humble team, who seek integrity and wisdom in all they do. Also to you, our supporters, we thank you for all your care, prayer, and commitment. I feel confident in the years ahead that we will continue to learn and grow; and continue to impact the lives of many many more with this vital work of reconciliation.

With thanks,
Sarah Snyder



