



2012

# Re-Constructing the Social Fabric of Communities after War Trauma

**INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP FOR HUMANITARIAN WORKERS**

ORGANISED BY

**THE CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ECO-NOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GENEVA**

**&**

**INSTITUT ODeF, GENEVA**

**&**

**LESLEY UNIVERSITY, BOSTON**

## **Objective**

Humanitarian workers are confronted with systemic challenges in helping post-traumatic communities reconnect and rebuild. Specific skills and knowledge are needed to provide social reconstruction of the community and healing of collective and individual traumas. At the same time, support is also needed for the helping professionals who are often exposed to the danger of burn-out. “Sense making” is an important element in dealing with this occupational stress.

This one-day workshop aims at introducing key social science theories and techniques in reconstructing post-traumatic communities while lending support to the “helper” who are pressed to intervene in uncertain territory with limited authority and leverage.

## **Approach**

This one-day workshop will focus on the diagnostics that can be easily applied in analysing the social and psychological disconnect of the post traumatic community. It will shed light on how to rebuild the social fabric and in reestablishing the social networks to support the rebirth of a torn community.

The learning approach will be reflective and experiential. Participants will have the opportunity in trying out the diagnostic tools discussed by the facilitators and comparing notes with each other in order to digest and absorb the well established social science theories for future use.

### Programme Overview

The workshop will address two main topics:

*I) Diagnosing social disintegration of communities exposed to war and armed conflict*

1. Understanding the disintegration of communities (Social Anomie)
2. Recognising positive and negative social networks (Social Capital)
3. Restoring social capital and social cohesion (Community Rebuilding)  
(based on Durckheim, Putnam and Coleman)

*II) Practicing techniques to restore social cohesion of communities*

1. Mapping social networks and respective roles (Sociometry)
2. Assessing one's relational impact of war trauma (Social Atom)
3. Organizing and conducting enactment of social issues in a community (Sociodramas)  
(based on Moreno and Boal)

### Learning Outcome and Benefits

Attending in this workshop, participants will be able to,

- acquire a understanding of the complex dynamics which haracterise humanitarian work and assess how the concepts presented during the workshop can be fruitfully applied to their own work .
- become familiar with tools which are part of emotional intellegence and supportive artistic expressions of human experience that can help transcend barriers to human interaction and communication.
- develop further their own working models of effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian work in situations of community development in post-conflict situations.

### Participants

Participants should demonstrate proficiency in English, field experience, a BA degrees in relevant social science disciplines.

The optimal size for this workshop is 15-30 participants.

### Date & Time

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 9.30-12.30; 14.00-18.00 Hrs.

### Venue

World Council of Churches, Salle 4.  
150 Route de Ferney/1 route de Morillons, 1212 Grand Saconnex, Geneva.

### **Participation Fee:**

475 CHF per person with coffee breaks and lunch included

### **Faculties and Resource Persons (5)**

#### ***Bio of Norbert Apter, M.Ed.***

Manager of the Institute ODeF in Geneva since 1994 Training Director and Trainer in Human Relationships through the use of Action Methods and Psychodrama. He has many years of experience working as a trainer and consultant for international organisations like ILO, CERN, ICRC, MSF, ONUSIDA and MONUC. Norbert completed studies in psychology at Harvard University, Brandeis U and University of Geneva. He holds a federal diploma in Adult Education – Analogy (Brevet Fédéral en Education pour Adultes -Analogie) and completed graduate studies in Psychodrama at Hoewell International Center for Psychodrama (GB).

#### ***Bio of Raymond Saner, Ph.D.*** (Community and Social Psychology)

Raymond Saner is professor at Sciences Po, Paris and director of the Diplomacy Dialogue branch of CSEND, a NGO based in Geneva since 1993. He has researched, taught and published in the field of conflict resolution and social capital. He was previously delegate & deputy chief of training at the International Committee of the Red Cross and (ICRC), did clinical internships at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, in New York, a clinical practicum at the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center and Institute for the Study of Destructive Behavior, in Los Angeles, California; and prison rehabilitation, Cell Block Theater, Avenel State Prison, New Jersey, USA. Raymond has been trained as psychodramatist (Psychodrama Centre, Beacon, NY) and Gestalt psychologist and therapist (Laura Perls, Isador From, M. Polster).

#### ***Bio of Vivien Marcow Speiser, Ph.D.*** LMHC, ADTR

Vivien Speiser is a Professor and Director of International and Collaborative Programs, GSASS, Lesley University. Vivien is a dance therapist and expressive arts educator. She has developed and implemented numerous arts based programs throughout the U.S and Israel. As former founder and director of the Arts Institute Project in Israel, she has been influential in the development of Expressive Arts Therapy there. She has taught and lectured extensively throughout Scandinavia, Israel, South Africa and the United States.

#### ***Bio of Phillip Speiser, Ph.D., RDT, REAT.***

Former Director of Arts Therapy at Whittier Street Health Center, Roxbury MA. The Arts Therapy Department provides educational, therapeutic and arts in healthcare programs to over 1,000 children and families throughout the greater Boston area who are challenged emotionally, physically and developmentally. Phillip is an expressive arts educator/therapist, psychodrama, drama and music therapist who has developed and implemented integrated arts therapy and educational programs for over three decades. His multidisciplinary work on the connections between arts/aesthetics, education and therapy has led to many projects/program collaborations that have integrated these three areas. He

is a senior lecturer at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA and has taught at numerous colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. He is the former chairperson of Very Special Arts Sweden and of the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association.

**Bio of Lichia Yiu**, Post-Doc in Organisational Psychology, Ed.D.

Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND) in Geneva, a non-profit research and development organisation in Geneva established in 1993. Lichia Yiu has designed and implemented change platforms to facilitate institutional transformation in both the public and private sectors. She worked with civil society groups in developing their leadership capacities in facilitating sustainable development in the communities they serve. Prior to co-founding CSEND, Lichia worked with public health and social service organisations (WHO, UNICEF) and applied sociodramatic method to mobilise multistakeholder support for more inclusion of marginalised groups, such as physically handicapped youth and their families in Taiwan. Lichia continues to teach in different universities in Asia and in the USA as visiting professors focusing on change leadership and institutional change design.

### Institutional Profiles

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