

Project Proposal Form

Coordination Group “Building Trust in Post-Conflict Communities”

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| Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator’s Thematic Area | Building Trust in Post-Conflict Communities |
| Rotary Focus Area | Peace and Conflict Prevention |
| Contact: Contact person within your group (responsible for this project proposal)(Name + email) | Nino Lotishvili ninolotishvili@gmail.com |
| Project Title: Provide a full title (and acronym if any) | Women Peace Ambassadors for the South Caucasus |
| Project Partners and Participating Organisations: List all your project partner organisations, including participating Rotary clubs and districts if any | Implementing NGO Peace Research Center Tbilisi Partner NGO Civil Forum Host Rotary Club Tbilisi International District 2452 |
| Geographical Scope | Georgia, South Caucasus |
| Summary: Please provide a concise summary with a maximum of 500 words outlining the project and explaining the community needs your project will address and how these needs were identified. Ensure that you include what your project aims to achieve (objective) and how (method/procedure). What will be the main outcomes? Explain in a few sentences how you will incorporate the objective of sustainability into your project. | Problem description In multi-ethnic societies, people often put up an imaginary boundary line between self and others (Benhabib, 2002, p.8) that helps to develop a number of stereotypes and prejudice about other ethnic groups. Such a superior perception of self can be well exploited by nationalist leaders to abuse the concept of culture as a differentiator from others, which can constitute an obstacle for the civil integration and can therefore contribute to the social distance between different ethnic groups within the same territory. The collapse of Soviet Union gave rise to the violent ethno-political conflicts in the South Caucasus region. Currently there are two frozen conflicts in the republic of Georgia within secessionist regions: Abkhazia and South Ossetia and one active conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The present project proposal is based on the findings of qualitative research conducted with Georgian-Ossetian ethno-cultural mixed family members living across the four different Administrative Boundary Line villages, in Gori, and two Internally Displaced Persons’ (IDP) settlements, which tested the proposed hypothesis: <i>Following violent armed conflicts between their two ethnicities, the ethno-cultural mixed families that are still united and connected to each other with strong relationship bonds can represent the most “natural bridge” over “hatred, intolerance”, and therefore they can fill the gap in communication between divided communities and be role models for positive change through the reconciliation process.</i> Even if the research focus was not on gender issues, data analysis revealed that the high percentage of female engagement (99%) can be considered as peace ambassadors between conflict divided communities: they can be considered as role models of how it is possible to reach positive peace and cultural diversity, using a number of strategies which include reciprocal knowledge, mutual understanding and support and acceptance overcoming thus the social stereotypes. However, the present research revealed also that at a larger scale, these women feel powerless and often marginalized by the overwhelming majority of homogeneous ethnic Georgian communities; Project objectives and goal |

The present project aims to empower women from mixed families as well as from homogeneous families by creating a common space for knowledge and experience sharing. Thus, to support those women to explore their self-confidence and to acknowledge their own value and strength as role model peace ambassadors.

Project description

The objectives of the project is to empower women through several educational activities. Based on the above-mentioned qualitative research, the project will identify 40 women (from mixed as well as homogeneous families) from the Administrative Boundary Line villages and provide theoretical and practical knowledge about peace-building topic.

The project will be implemented in the following phases:

I. Inner and outer Peace - Building retreats

During this phase two times 4-day inner and outer peace-building retreats will be organized for project participants (20 participants per group - total number of beneficiaries will be divided in 4 different groups) with the focus on peace and conflict studies. During the workshop trainers will guide them in inner peace-building/ mindfulness/resilience techniques as well as outer peace and conflict concepts. Participants will have the opportunity to have theoretical overview of the concepts of culture, and how it can be abused to create "others" leading thus to negative stereotypes between various ethnic-cultural groups. Workshop will focus on the concept of peace - negative and positive peace, and will give the opportunity to the participants to see the difference between these two concepts. On the final, closing day, participants will have the opportunity to experience the "power of story-telling". With this technique, they will share with each other their unique experiences as "role model women peace builders" within their own mixed family units as well as within their respective conflict-divided communities.

II. Meeting with successful women leaders

During this phase, project beneficiaries will have the opportunity to meet successful women leaders. One of the relevant meetings will be held with the State Minister of reconciliation and civic equity as well as with the UNDP representative in Georgia and women peace-building experts. The objective of this phase is to create a platform where the successful women will share their stories, they will talk about their challenges and about strategies how they were able to overcome those challenges in order to become who they are.

III. Applying theoretical knowledge to practical work / story-telling

During the third and final phase, the project will give the floor to the women leaders. Project participants will be asked to position themselves as leaders, and draw their strategic projects on how to address grassroots level leadership issue, how to engage more grassroots level women peace builders at a larger scale.

IV. Follow up presentations and workshops

During this phase 16 follow up events will be organized where the project beneficiaries will be supported in designing their own peace-building projects / informal educational trainings for their respective communities/villages. Already trained women peace builders will be given the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience within their respective communities. They will be the "role model" confidence building agents over existing ethnic stereotypes.

V. Project evaluation and closing

An independent evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project. Two months will be dedicated to this phase.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the project will be measured within the ABL community. After concluding the project, NGO Peace Research Center in cooperation with Civil Forum will

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| | <p>continue to organize follow up presentations and workshops within the project target communities.</p> <p>Besides that, PRCT plans to extend the project at a larger scale and engage Armenian and Azerbaijani peace-building women who could be change makers for Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. With larger budget the following year could be dedicated to the whole South Caucasus region, inviting Armenian and Azerbaijan women participants.</p> |
| <p>Beneficiaries: Who are the beneficiaries? Please include the estimated number of direct beneficiaries</p> | <p>Direct beneficiaries: 40 women + their family members; Indirect beneficiaries: large family members, relatives, community members they belong to (estimated 400 people)</p> |
| <p>Project Period</p> | <p>Project will be implemented during 12 months of period approx starting period April 2021 to April 2022. See the timetable below</p> |

Project Timeline: April 2021 – Apr 2022

| | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I phase: Retreats (16 – 2 times per group) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| II phase: meetings with successful women | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| III Phase: Story telling | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IV phase: follow up events + starting independent evaluation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V phase: Reporting - Closing events | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Project budget:

| Category | Unit | Number of Units | Unit Cost | Amount | % |
|---|--------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Administrative/managerial costs | | | | | |
| 1.1 Project Director | months | 12 | 800.00 | 9,600.00 | |
| 1.2 Coordinator | months | 12 | 600.00 | 7,200.00 | |
| 1,3 Adm/Fin Assistant | months | 12 | 300.00 | 3,600.00 | |
| 1.4 Accountant | months | 12 | 150.00 | 1,800.00 | |
| TOTAL | | | | \$ 22,200.00 | 27% |

| 2. Activities | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----------|---------------------|-------------|
| 2.1 - Hotel in Bakuriani (I phase) (40 participant - 2 grou. Per group 4 days Training) | 20 participants per day,per person 45 usd per day | 16 | 900.00 | 14,400.00 | |
| 2.2 - Transportation (I phase) | Gori - Bakuriani - Gori | 4 | 300.00 | 1,200.00 | |
| 2.3 - Training materials (I phase) | Day | 16 | 20.00 | 320.00 | |
| 2.4 - Transportation (II Phase) | Gori -Tbilisi - Gori | 4 | 250.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| 2.5 - Meals / coffee breaks/Bakuriani (I Phase) | 20 participants per day | 16 | 500.00 | 8,000.00 | |
| 2.6 - Lunch in Tbilisi (II phase) | 20 participants per day | 4 | 250.00 | 1,000.00 | |
| 2.7 - Closing event | in Gori | 4 | 600.00 | 2,400.00 | |
| 2.8 - follow up events | 20 participants per day | 16 | 600.00 | 9,600.00 | |
| 2.9 - International/local trainers | 2 per day | 16 | 800.00 | 12,800.00 | |
| 2.1 - International traner's expenses | travel+accomodation | 1 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | |
| TOTAL Activities | | | | \$ 53,220.00 | 65% |
| 3. Office Utilities | | | | | |
| 3.1 - Communication fee | months | 12 | 25.00 | 300.00 | |
| 3.2 - Internet | Months | 12 | 20.00 | 240.00 | |
| 3.4 car / driver | months | 12 | 300.00 | 3,600.00 | |
| TOTAL Office Utilities: | | | | \$ 4,140.00 | 5% |
| 4. Overhead | | | | | |
| 4.1 - Bank Fee | | 12 | 10.00 | 120.00 | |
| 4.2 - Project independent evaluation | | 1 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | |
| TOTAL Overhead | | | | 2,120.00 | 3% |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | \$81,680.00 | 100% |