



# World Forum AT WORK

## Reconciliation Step by Step: Stopping Societal Patterns of Violence

Members of the International Working Team Reconciliation met in Manizales, Colombia, in May 2006 to continue efforts advancing peace and reconciliation through early childhood education programs. This project is a global collaboration of early childhood practitioners, researchers, and organizations initiated by the World Forum Foundation in collaboration with NIPPA - The Early Years Organisation. Hosted by Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano (CINDE), the meeting group focused on the question: "How can we be more effective in promoting and championing these issues?"



The Working Team's answer is to step up activity in local, national, and international forums with the goal of advancing policies that support social inclusion and reconciliation strategies in programs that reach young children. "Our goal is to create a favorable atmosphere for conflict resolution," says Siobhan Fitzpatrick, CEO of NIPPA, based in Northern Ireland.

In May 2007, the publication of the first book in a series will share strategies for inclusion and reconciliation used around the world. "We will share model interactions which move beyond forgiving and encompass collaboration, partnerships, and building community," says Kishor Shrestha, associate professor, Research Center for Educational Innovation and Development, Nepal. The book amplifies the voices of early childhood practitioners in regions experiencing or emerging from conflict. "Our hope is that by broaching the topic of violence in conflict and post conflict settings and discussing the different processes of inclusion and reconciliation more practitioners and policy makers will expand their understanding of the nature of these cycles of conflict and how to break the cycles of violence over the long term," says Paul Connolly, professor, Queen's University Belfast.

A special effort is being made to include children's voices and show the direct impact of conflict and exposure to reconciliation strategies in their early years on their lives. "CINDE's programs have proven that family and the community lead the way out of the problem of violence in Colombia and Latin America," said Marta Arango, founder and president of CINDE.

International Working Team Reconciliation is an ongoing project that began with the Working Forum Belfast conference "Building Bridges: Healing Communities through Early Childhood Education" held November 17-20, 2004 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The Executive Committee is comprised of members from the World Forum Foundation (United States), NIPPA (Northern Ireland), and CINDE (Colombia). Membership in the International Working Team Reconciliation is open to individuals and organizations interested in the role of early childhood education as a force for reconciliation in regions experiencing or emerging from armed conflict. For more information:

[www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/reco](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/reco)

Register  
today!



Working Forum on Nature  
Education for Young Children  
October 16 - 19, 2006  
Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska, USA

[www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/natu](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/natu)

Working Forum for Multi-Site  
Early Childhood Organizations  
October 3 - 6, 2006  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/mult](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/mult)

JUEVES

# LA PATRI

Mayo 18 del 2006 Manizales - Colombia

El periódico de casa

PLANTEAN MIEMBROS DE NUEVO FORO INTERNACIONAL

## Las salidas al conflicto no se puede olvidar de la niñez

Un selecto grupo de académicos de países afectados por algún conflicto civil forma el Working Team Belfast Group. En los años 90 dos millones de menores murieron en guerras. Llamado.



Martha Arango

Persuasivos de los cinco continentes hacen parte del Working Team Belfast Group (Equipo de Trabajo Belfast, según la traducción literal) que se reunió hasta mañana en Manizales.

Responsabilidad de todos  
Por Sara Antúnez, la única

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