

Unit 3



Peace and Conflict Resolution

Teacher Primer #3

Peacekeeping is not mentioned in the UN charter. The first need for peacekeeping occurred during the Suez Crisis. Since then, it has become an important part of the work of the United Nations. In total, there have been 68 UN Peacekeeping missions around the world. Past Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali outlined some rules for peacekeeping in the *Agenda for Peace*.

The Security Council has had several recent successes in the area of peacekeeping. In 2005, UN peacekeeping forces pulled out of Sierra Leone after bringing peace to this region that was torn by civil war, poverty, and rebels. Another UN success story occurred in 2006 when a UN-sponsored ceasefire went into effect, officially putting an end to the Israeli-Lebanon Conflict.

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/>

Unit 3: Resolving Conflict

Goal: This unit should familiarize participants with the peacekeeping work of the United Nations. Additionally, participants should gain some skills in managing conflicts that occur in their own lives.

Activity 1 (10 minutes)

Defining Conflict: Write the definition of conflict somewhere in the front of the room.

Conflict: What happens when two or more people with different opinions disagree and are unable to reach an understanding.

Read the definition to the participants, and then ask them to name some conflicts they have had. After hearing a few examples, write the word conflict on the board. Ask participants to name some emotions they felt last time they had a conflict. Write these emotions around the word conflict.

Activity 2 (10 minutes)

Conflict Shattering:

You will need - 2 copies of Appendix 8 (conflict script)

Give 2 participants the conflict scripts and have them act out one of the scenarios from the paper in front of the class.

Scenario 1: Phillipe and Inyong

Phillipe: Hey Inyong! How was your weekend?

Inyong: Terrible.

Phillipe: I'm sorry. What happened?

Inyong: Why are you asking me stupid questions? Why do you care?

Phillipe: What is your problem Inyong? I'm just trying to be nice!

Inyong: Well maybe if you weren't annoying I'd feel like telling you!

Phillipe: Why don't you just shut up? I can't stand you anyway. I don't know why I was even talking to you.

Ask participants, what was the cause of the fight? Was anyone in a bad mood already? How does a person's mood affect his/her actions? Is there a way the two could have talked without yelling? Did yelling at each other help the situation? How did the way each person handled the situation make the conflict escalate?

Scenario 2: Damien and Maria

Damien: You said we would go to the movies last night. Why didn't you call me?

Maria: Oh, I forgot.

Damien: Why do you always do that to me?

Maria: I told you, I forgot.

Damien: I waited for you to call last night, and that's all that you can tell me? I can't stand you Maria! I'm never talking to you again!

Ask participants what the cause of the fight was. Was anyone in a bad mood already? How does a person's mood affect his/her actions? Is there a way the two could have talked without yelling? Did yelling at each other help the situation? Can you think of some ways that you can apply UU values in a conflict? How can you resolve conflict without violence?

Activity 3 (15 minutes)

Suls and Ickthalonians¹

You will need - 1 bag of Starbursts
- 1 bag of Jolly Ranchers

Divide participants into 2 groups, one called the Suls, the other, the Ickthalonians. Have them gather in separate parts of the room. Give participants in the Suls group 3 Starbursts each. Give everyone in the Ickthalonians 3 Jolly Ranchers each. (You can also use cards that say 3 Starbursts and 3 Jolly Ranchers on them if passing out candy may be a problem during the game.) Then read the instructions below to the two groups, making sure that each group cannot hear the other group's rules.

Suls: You are now the Suls, a people from a distant island whose main product is Starbursts. The problem is that your people are getting sick of Starbursts. You have been sent to New York City to trade your candy away for Jolly Ranchers, which are produced by the Ickthalonians. As individuals of this delegation on this important mission, you must keep in mind all the rules of your culture.

1. The Suls are a very family-oriented culture. When you meet a new person it is considered rude if you do not ask about how their parents are. No Sul would ever think of conducting business before talking about his/her own parents and family.
2. Suls are very affectionate and must warmly shake the hand of anyone they meet.
3. You love Jolly Ranchers and would really like to trade for them.

Ickthalonians: You are now the Ickthalonians, a people from a distant island whose main product is Jolly Ranchers. The problem is that your people are getting sick of Jolly Ranchers. You have been sent to New York City to trade your candy for Starbursts, which are produced by the Suls. As individuals of this delegation on this important mission, you must keep in mind all the rules of your culture.

1. The Ickthalonians are very private people. You value hard work and successful business transactions. Family and other personal matters are very private.
2. Ickthalonians are very formal. When you meet someone, you formally bow and then begin discussing the business at hand.
3. It is considered rude to stand less than 3 feet from someone you are talking to. You want to respect people's personal space.
4. You love Starbursts and would love to trade for them.

After reading the directions to each group, explain to the participants that they should trade and follow their rules even if in real life they like the other kind of candy better. They can pick what they want at the end of class.

Stop trading after about 5 minutes. Ask if the trade was successful. What made trading difficult? Was it frustrating that the people you were trading with acted differently than you did? How did you try to work around differences? Did you learn anything about a different group of people from the trade? Can you see how differences in culture could cause conflicts?

¹. Massachusetts Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.

Activity 4 (10 minutes)

The Security Council

You will need - Copies of Appendix 9 for each person in the class

Explain that sometimes differences between people in the same country or in different countries cause wars. When this happens, the United Nations tries to get people to talk to each other so they can compromise and work around differences. The Security Council is the part of the United Nations whose main job is peacekeeping. It is made up of 9 different countries which decide how to stop the fighting when a war breaks out.

Explain also that the UN has soldiers, sometimes called the Blue Helmets, who go to places where there are wars to keep peace.²

Explain also the role of Women in Peace-Keeping during conflict and what kind of efforts they provide. Also discuss what the UN Security Council Resolution says about women and their equal participation in resolving conflict.

- Look at (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>) for the Resolution.
- Connect discussion to UU-UNO mission to promote Gender Equality.

Pass out Appendix 9. Discuss the worksheet.

Activity 5 (15 minutes)

The Security Council and the Suls and the Ickthalonians

Read this to the class:

News flash! At a recent trading session between the Suls and Ickthalonians, an Ickthalonian got scared when a Sul tried to shake his hand. The Ickthalonian jumped backward and ended up stepping up on another Sul's toe. The Sul thought that this was an attack and started hitting the Ickthalonian. A little while later all the Suls and Ickthalonians were fighting with each other.

Now the Suls and Ickthalonians have declared war on each other.

Explain to the class that they are the Security Council. They will be voting on what to do about the Suls and Ickthalonians. Begin by asking some questions. How did the fight start? What could happen if the Suls and Ickthalonians fight with each other? Could the Security Council help if the Suls and Ickthalonians meet and talk to each other? What should the United Nations do to help? How could the importance of Starbursts and Jolly Ranchers influence whether the two groups fight?

Then have a vote on these ideas. If the participants came up with their own suggestions, vote on those instead.

- The United Nations should not get involved.

². A World in Our Hands. (Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 1995) 34-35

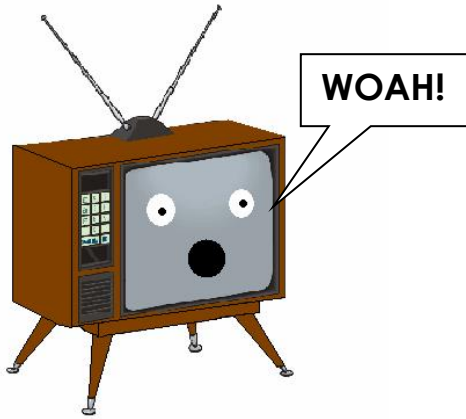
- The United Nations will hold a meeting on neutral ground between the Suls and Ickthalonians.
- The United Nations should not send Jolly Ranchers or Starbursts to either of the nations until they stop fighting.
- The United Nations will send peace troops to demand they stop the war.

Before dismissing class, review the day's lessons and activities. Ask the participants to go over how they felt during the conflict discussions and what they think about the UN's role in helping people resolve conflicts. What about the role of UUs in resolving conflicts? Did all of the conflicts start for good reasons? How should people decide how a conflict is resolved? What does compromise mean, and how should that be used in conflict resolution?

Don't forget to pass out the homework before they leave class if you desire to do so!

Homework

Show Time



T.V. shows and Internet videos aren't always violent, but they often are. Sometimes we don't even realize how much violence happens in a program. Take a closer look at a T.V. show or Internet video and find out what's happening. Maybe it won't be violent at all. Maybe it will. Fill out this sheet while you watch.

Name of show _____

Time of show (if applicable) _____ Channel (if applicable) _____

Number of times there was a conflict between two people: _____

Number of times people raised their voices at each other: _____

Number of times people hit or punched each other: _____

Did you see any weapons on the show? _____

Were there any conflicts that were resolved without violence? _____

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 is not violent at all, 10 is really violent) how violent was the show? _____

Do you think T.V. and Internet affects the way people live their own lives?

Do you think violence on T.V. and the Internet is a problem? _____

Conflict Script

Scenario 1: Phillipe and Inyong

Phillipe: Hey Inyong! How was your weekend?

Inyong: Terrible.

Phillipe: I'm sorry. What happened?

Inyong: Why are you asking me stupid questions? Why do you care?

Phillipe: What is your problem Inyong? I'm just trying to be nice!

Inyong: Well maybe if you weren't annoying I'd feel like telling you!

Phillipe: Why don't you just shut up? I can't stand you anyway. I don't know why I was even talking to you.

Scenario 2: Damien and Maria

Damien: You said we would go to the movies last night. Why didn't you call me?

Maria: Oh, I forgot.

Damien: Why do you always do that to me?

Maria: I told you, I forgot.

Damien: I waited for you to call last night, and that's all that you can tell me? I can't stand you Maria! I'm never talking to you again!



Appendix 9

The Security Council ³

The Security Council has 15 members.

5 of them are permanent members: China, United Kingdom, Russia, France, and the United States.

The other 10 are elected by the General Assembly for 2-year terms.

When a conflict between 2 countries arises, the **Security Council** meets to decide what to do to get them to come to a peaceful agreement. They helped both sides come to an agreement in the Iran-Iraq war. They helped set up elections in Cambodia and Namibia.

The United Nations Security Council believes that women also have an important role in preventing conflicts and in peace-building. They must have participation and full involvement in keeping peace and security around the world.

Sometimes the Security Council sends United Nations peacekeeping soldiers to places where there is war. These soldiers are often called Blue Helmets because... well, because their helmets are blue. These soldiers do not fight. They try to get people on both sides to talk to each other so that there can be peace again.



³. A World In Our Hands, (Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 1995) 30-35.