

## Peer Mediation in Secondary Schools

The Peer Mediation project is based in the Quaker Peace Centre in Cape Town, South Africa and is supported by Central England Quakers. It aims to help pupils and teachers understand the roots of conflict and find alternatives to violence as a way of addressing conflicts within Cape Town's most under-resourced schools.

This year the project is consolidating the peer mediation services in the five schools where they have been operating since 2015, addressing the challenges encountered in schools where levels of violence are high, and drawing up plans to ensure that the services can be maintained beyond 2017.

Last year the project held a residential training weekend for students and teachers from the 6 participating schools to train an additional 30 pupils as peer mediators and up to three teachers from each school as peer mediator trainers. It also held two one-day refresher workshops for the remaining peer mediators trained in 2015 and new peer mediators trained in 2016.

Three schools have even adopted neighbouring primary schools and are teaching younger pupils about peer mediation before they reach the high school.

The focus for this year will be on building up the ability of schools to sustain the structures set up in 2015 and 2016 after the Quaker Peace Centre withdraws, allowing the work to continue independently.

