

PACE

PAKISTAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

EQUALITY **DIVERSITY** **TOLERANCE**

a look at three years of CVE programming



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**Center for
Research &
Security
Studies**

Rule of Law - Security - Governance

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Pakistan Center of Excellence

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WHAT IS PACE?

Introduction

a quick look at
3 YEARS
of CVE Programming

flagship project
PACE
Pakistan Center of Excellence

in collaboration with
kingdom
of the Netherlands
a major
CVE
initiative

Pakistan Center of Excellence (PACE) is a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiative brought forth by Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) with the aim of provoking critical thinking through discourse focused on core fundamental values, namely, socio-political diversity, acceptance of diversity, rule of law and equal citizenry and the laws stated under Articles 8 to 28 of the Constitution of Pakistan. With the help of the Government of Netherlands, the first phase of the project was executed successfully from September 2015 to September 2018. The project has now entered its second phase.

PACE aims to create a critical mass of young leaders, including college and university professors from all across Pakistan, equipped with critical skills to analyze various social issues and consider equal citizenship an integral part of a functioning system. Furthermore, PACE works to break misconceptions and preconceived notions about religious minorities and promotes discourse highlighting topics, such as, rule of law, equal citizenry and secular governance in order to promote social cohesion and tolerance among the masses. Monthly collaborative workshops encouraged young people to come together and devise ideas for a more harmonious future.

Thematic Areas

6

training
manuals
were
used

- Leadership and Motivation
- Rule of Law and Equal Citizenry
- Democracy, Governance and Accountability
- Respect for Diversity, Opinions and Rights
- Conflict Management and Mitigation
- Debate Competitions and Critical Thinking

Format of Workshops

PACE conducted collaborative workshops every month with about 20 professionals drawn from diverse geographical and disciplinary backgrounds and started conversations around the ideas discussed

above. For this purpose, PACE partnered with 86 public and private universities and institutions, across Pakistan.

PACE, during its first stage, focused on

empowering young professionals with the core ideals of the program with an agenda of eradicating intolerance and instilling a commitment to peaceful conflict resolution in their respective social and professional circles. Moreover, it also focused on looking beyond the religious and racial prism and promoting acceptance of all people regardless of caste, creed and faith.

For the past 3 years, PACE has strived to create a critical mass of young teachers at colleges and universities from all over Pakistan trained in human rights, rule of law, secular democracy and the importance of tolerance— values that can prove to be impactful in future leaders.

PACE training workshops focused on result-based sessions, paying attention to the impact created. Dialogue and debates encourage critical thinking and build an eagerness to question the extremist narratives. PACE conducted 31 workshops in Islamabad, inviting teachers from all over Pakistan. Each workshop was divided into 7 to 8 sessions held over a span of 3 days. Policy makers, intellectuals, academics, media leaders, civil society activists and other experts gave presentations. The speakers, through presentations and lectures, instilled the core values of PACE in young teachers so that they may spread the idea to the next generation.

58
experts

- Rule of law
- Fundamental Human Rights (FHR)
- Hidden Violations of FHR in Pakistan
- Water Issues and Rights
- Multiculturalism and Plurality
- Religious Tolerance
- Constitutionalism = Nationalism
- Women's Marital Rights
- Women's Rights and Emancipation
- Minorities' Rights and Discrimination
- Leadership and Motivation

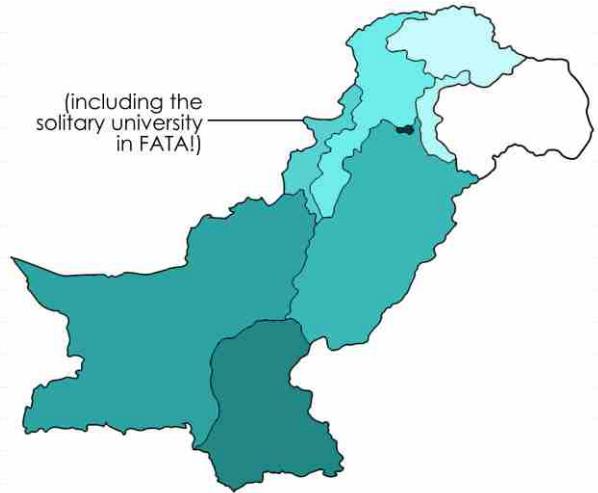
Besides training sessions, PACE aims at working for a tolerant society and, in this regard, it has held many interfaith dialogues at places of worship of the Hindu, Christian and Baha'i communities. These interfaith activities promoted the eradication of many misconceptions about minorities and represented them as equal citizens of Pakistan.

Furthermore, keeping in view the gender stereotypes prevalent in society PACE held sessions shedding light on matters such as honor killings, acid attacks, and harassment

at workplaces, highlighting women's rights. Documentaries featuring women and discussions on gender equality were screened followed by interactive sessions. Audience positively responded to what they had learned about how equal rights for women can improve the lives of men and women alike.

The achievements of PACE, in collaboration with 86 universities from across Pakistan, over the last 3 years are detailed below.

86
universities
across Pakistan



Participating universities represent every single province and region, including the lone university in FATA that opened in 2016.

In its first phase, PACE completed a total of 48 training workshops, including 17 special training sessions and 31 monthly workshops.

48

total workshops

(target was 27 workshops over 3 years, or 9 every year)

17

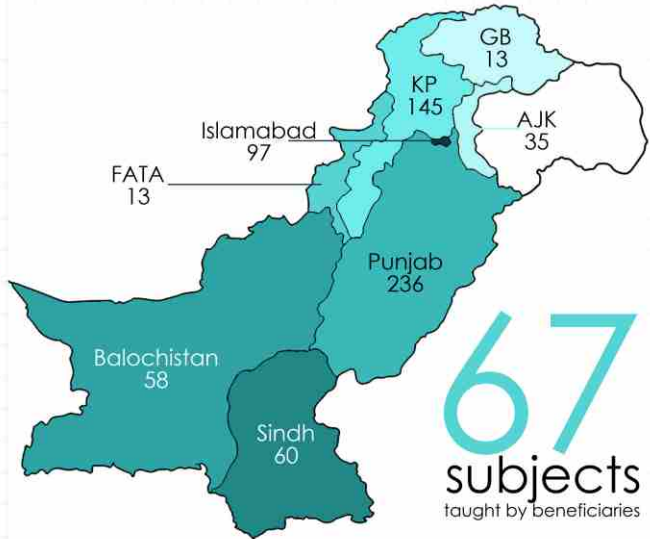
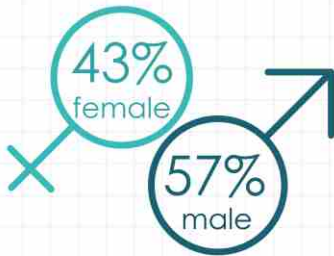
special
workshops

monthly
workshops

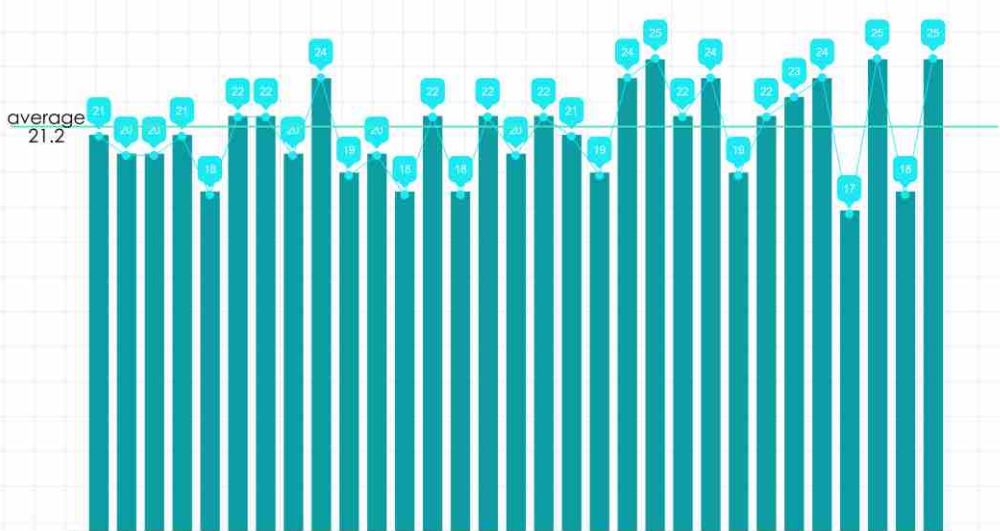
31

During the first phase of PACE, 58 field experts trained 657 university teachers, 43% of whom were women.

657
teachers
trained



67
subjects
taught by beneficiaries



Beneficiaries by primary workshop
for detailed data on these, please see the yearly reports

As many as 223 practicum activities were conducted by the university teachers with a total outreach of 8,960 students, in their respective institutions.

practicums conducted

223

total number of students reached

8,960

The project kept its focus on the impact of the initiative on participating teachers and the resultant fostering of critical thinking in younger minds.

Testimonials and M&E data collected during these sessions showed significant change in the perception and attitudes of the attendees. However, feedback from these monthly gatherings leads to the conclusion that the increasing religious radicalization and polarization through political discourse remains a major challenge for policymakers and citizens alike.

Inviting participants from all over the country opened doors to the discussion of various perceptions and observations. The participants acknowledged the gender

disparities and religious intolerance in society and expressed a willingness to work towards change. Participants considered these sessions life-changing for they changed their perception and opened their minds to various ideas regarding both gender equality and religious tolerance. The trainers' methods for conveying such complex topics in an accessible manner played an integral role in shaping attendees' perceptions.

Participants recommended that CRSS should hold such sessions regularly in the hope of achieving a more peaceful and tolerant society. They added that sensitizing people from all around the country would help stabilize Pakistan.

SUCCESS STORIES



Dr. Sajida Zaki, Professor NED University of Science and Technology, Karachi attended the PACE Collaborative Workshop with the hope of engaging in a thought-provoking experience. Dr. Zaki found the workshop enlightening and left with a motivation to help instill the discussed ideologies in her students. She commended the initiative for working hard to attain an equal society. Dr. Zaki was delighted to learn that CRSS is striving to solve issues that threaten social cohesion. She wishes to have these ideals become a vital part of society. Furthermore, the workshop made her feel more connected with organizations working for social cohesion, an idea that holds great significance to her. Being a part of the workshop made her feel like she was a part of something big, something close to her heart. She felt that collaborative workshops can play a significant role in shaping society to be more accepting and tolerant, and in creating an atmosphere of peace and harmony for future generations.



PACE has held several workshops at multiple faith centres and places of worship of various religions. One of the event was held at a Bahá'í community centre. The objective was to promote the ideals of interfaith harmony and encourage tolerance. The Bahá'í community endures many exclusionary agendas and faces discrimination in all walks of life, PACE organized an interactive session and encouraged the exchange of dialogue in a Q&A portion. During the session, a participant asked a question about the need to invent a new religion when Islam was already present, which could be deemed offensive and provocative but even this question was dealt with dignity, grace and fact-based logical reasoning. The fact that this question was asked provided a glimpse into the discrimination faced by the community. The exchange had a powerful impact on the attendees and demonstrated how tolerance and humility is the only way to deal with hatred and bigotry.

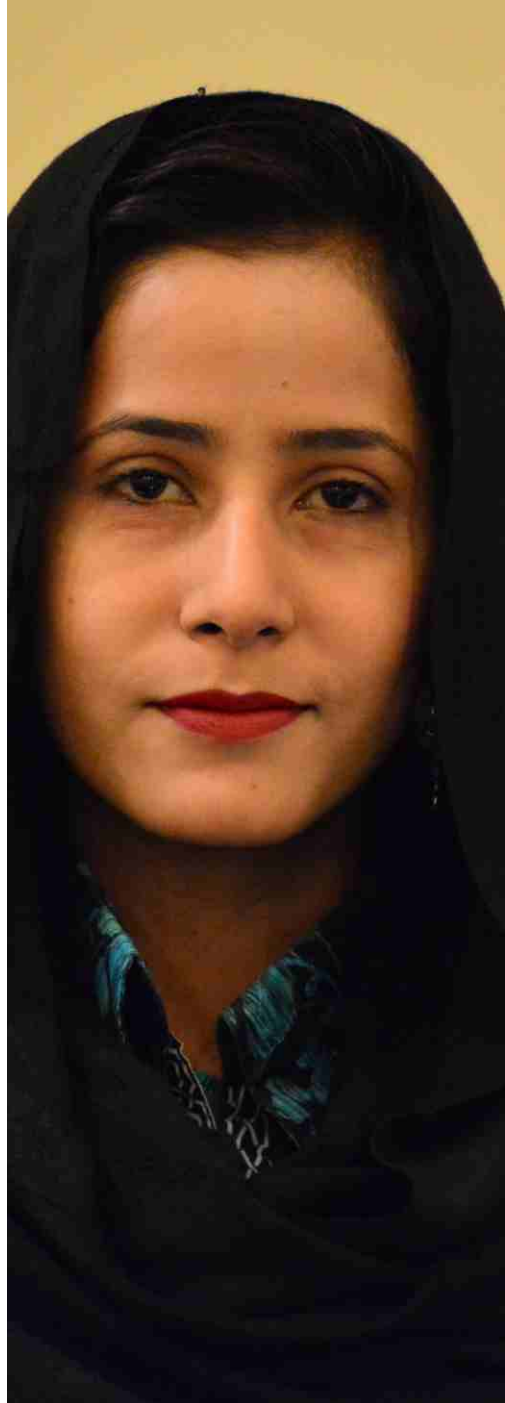
Sexual harassment has proven to be a plague on societies around the globe. A valuable member of the CRSS team faced a dilemma regarding harassment during one of the events. The issue was addressed gracefully. Dr. Toaha Qureshi, one of the initiative's most experienced trainers, held a session on sexual harassment. He explained how women face discrimination in all walks of life. They have always been marginalized by society and it is time they were given their rightful place in the society. Women are an integral part of society, he said, and they must be treated with the respect they deserve. His session was so impactful that the participant responsible for the indecorous behavior publically apologized. He was left with a changed attitude towards women and their empowerment.

Mr. Awais Khan, a participant shared the story of how people would often view him as someone who holds extremists opinions, no matter how progressive he was, all because he chose to grow a beard. The session had a significant impact on the participants and showed them that we must look beyond the prism of outer appearance as no one has the right to judge people based on how they present themselves.



PACE has held many workshops with COMSATS University in the past. At the workshop, Ms. Rumla Tahir, part of the administrative team of the university, shared her experience of people judging her based on her appearance and accent, for instance, men shaking her hand on occasions when they would refrain from doing so with other women, women who fit society's standards of modesty. Not just women but men too face unfair judgement based on how they represent themselves.

During the 29th round of PACE collaborative workshops, the principles of tolerance and respect for diversity were highlighted. One of the participants, Ms. Gulnaz Syed found the session exhilarating. She had the courage to call out the institutions that abuse their power and tyrannize minorities. The session inspired her to accept and work towards a solution rather than turning a blind eye. Moreover, the training inspired her to critically think about the prevailing issues. Instead of thinking on the surface-level, she was prompted to think deeply, considering intolerance and lack of respect for diversity; a true menace. She was inclined to work on the issue by promoting these values in her classroom. Normalizing this code of behavior among her students, she was of the view that educating the youth in this regard is crucial. She owed her new approach and thought-processes to PACE. She deemed it as an exemplary opportunity to think about on ground realities rather than considering the tip of the iceberg.





Quetta is one of the most sensitive areas of Pakistan from a security standpoint. PACE invited trainers from all over the country to not only entertain a wide range of ideas and opinions but also to communicate the ideas discussed during the sessions to the farthest corners of Pakistan through the trainers. One such participant was Mr. Kennan Asif; a teacher from Quetta, during the 29th round of workshops.

Quetta is home to people of multiple ethnicities but has a history of hate crimes against certain communities. The workshop proved to be an eye opener for Mr. Asif. Galvanized by the discussed ideas, he promised to promote the principles of tolerance and harmony among his students back home. As the saying goes, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step; this was a step towards the journey of ushering in a mind-set, which is more accepting of differences. After attending the session, Mr. Asif was determined to commence his mission of promoting peace and diversity in Quetta.

Mr. Nadeem, a lecturer of Urdu University, Islamabad Campus, attended the PACE Collaborative Workshop. He was critical of how the female members of the workshop were dressed, and of the CRSS team members as well, when he first came to the session. At one point, he singled out one woman and questioned her choice of clothing. The CRSS team approached him and invited him to a one-on-one session to expose him to different perspectives on personal choices. This, along with the sessions on diversity, tolerance and opinions he attended, proved to be an eye-opener for Mr. Nadeem, as evidenced later in an activity he conducted on his return to his institution. During the activity, he discussed the freedom of personal choices and tolerance with an audience of 200 students. He later acknowledged the role CRSS played in broadening his world-view.

* the name of this attendee has been changed to protect their identity.



Mr. Ali Raza, a professor from Jamshoro, was also in attendance. The workshop impressed upon him the need to initiate such activities with his students. Mr. Raza held a practicum activity and organized a session at a local church to promote interfaith harmony. One of his students refused to go anywhere near a church let alone talk to a Christian. Mr. Raza had a counselling session with the student and convinced him to attend the activity. The activity had a positive impact on the student, molding his mind-set to an accepting and tolerant approach. He had one-on-one interactions with members of the Christian community, the same people he had initially refused to talk to. The practicum activity was a success in promoting the concepts of peace, tolerance and respect for diversity among his students especially those who think otherwise.

Faculty members from Preston University attended a seminar conducted by PACE. They found the session thought-provoking to the extent that they organized an international seminar to convey the tenets for which PACE stands. They held interactive activities and competitions in order to advocate the ideas of peace, diversity and tolerance. The event was a success in advocating and promoting the mentioned ideas among the masses especially the youth who undoubtedly are the real leaders of tomorrow and should be familiarized with the objectives that PACE and Preston worked hard to convey. The students left with a new approach towards diversity, tolerance and respect for the differences between people.



Ms. Asia Iqbal, a professor at Islamic International University, Bahawalpur, was present at one of the workshops. The themes of feminism, eradication of extremism and diversity were discussed during the session. This made her come to the realization of promoting these creeds among her students and society. The community she lived in had a somewhat hostile attitude towards feminism and diversity. Stuck with a rigid school of thought, Ms. Asia Bibi found herself inspired by the session and set upon a mission to encourage a progressive attitude in her students and other members of her hometown. In order to do so she successfully arranged many sessions and dialogues discussing the importance of social cohesion, feminism and diversity. The initiative was a success, gathering respect and acknowledgement from all around her city.



Mr. Majid Ghaffar was an active participant of PACE. He found the concepts upon which PACE was based, essential for the progress of society. He started a radio program back in Mansehra to propagate the concepts of feminism, tackling extremism, tolerance and diversity. The radio show was broadcast within the university campus and around the city district. The efforts were fruitful as the locals were appreciative of the show and the visible changes were noticed among the students and their thought process. The show garnered widespread appreciation from students and faculty alike.



PACE held an event at Islamabad Press Club to promote responsible journalism. A total of 60 journalists were invited from surrounding villages of Islamabad. The focal points of the event were reporting ethics, blasphemy laws and its history. Initially, the participants were hesitant to publically discuss a topic so sensitive and controversial. However, the topic was discussed, questioned and positively received. Not only were they appreciative of the efforts of discussing a topic considered a taboo, they found the session informative and gained a new approach towards dealing with and reporting on sensitive issues.

PACE WORKSHOPS

The Inaugural Workshop of the Flagship Project

March 5-9, 2016



At COMSATS Institute of Information and Technology.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from COMSATS Institute for Information Technology (CIIT), CECOS University, Quaid-e-Azam University, and the Journalism and Mass Communication Department, Peshawar University.



Trainers: A. H. Nayar, Safiullah Gul, Afa Salam, Gulmina Bilal, Jibran Nasir, Rehman Azhar, Piotr Blacerowicz, and Jehangir Khattak.



Her Excellency Ms. Jeannette Seppen, the Netherlands Ambassador, was the chief guest at the inaugural session. While addressing the cadre of lecturers, she said, "Participation of opinion multipliers in the potential exercise of tolerance and dialogue was the need of the hour. For Netherlands, all issues of radicalization, extremism and fundamentalism have been priority agendas across all those countries where we are involved through our international cooperation."



Second Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

April 15-18, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from COMSATS Institute for Information Technology (CIIT), CECOS University, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), and the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies Department, Peshawar University (PU).



Trainers: Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Ms. Samina Yasmeen, Dr. Mohsin Naqvi, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Mr. Jahangir Khattak, Mr. A. H. Nayyar and Ms. Sara Farid.



Field visit: Salvation Army Church, Islamabad.



Mr. Imtiaz Gul, Executive Director, CRSS, in the opening session elaborated on the objectives of the training saying equal citizenry is a concept which is guaranteed in all the constitutions of the developed countries, including Pakistan. We need to consciously treat all Pakistanis as equal citizens and should respect their rights. He said that the primary objective of the workshop is to trigger critical thinking through a discourse anchored in fundamental global values such as socio-political diversity, acceptance of diversity, rule of law and equal citizenry. The idea is to create a critical mass of young leaders equipped with the skills to critically analyze issues, look at each other as equal citizens, and correct misconceptions about marginalized communities.



Third Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

May 15-16, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Karachi University, Balochistan University, University of Turbat, National Defense University and University of Peshawar.



Trainers: Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Ms. Sara Farid, Mr. Zubair Ghauri, Ms. Asma Shirazi, Mr. A. H. Nayyar, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, and Dr. Qibla Ayaz.



Nanna Stoltz, First Secretary Political Affairs, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, during the closing ceremony of Pakistan Center of Excellence's (PACE) third round of collaborative workshops said, "In the Netherlands, we have this quote that it takes a village to raise a child. The idea of teachers being a gatekeeper intersects nicely with this idea, as teachers are part of the community that can help raise and provide critical thinking skills to children. Without the ability to ask these critical questions, it is impossible for a society to advance, progress, and evolve".



Fourth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

June 1-4, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Lasbela Agriculture University, CECOS University, University of Science & Technology Bannu, Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak, Balochistan University, Gomal University and Punch University, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Trainers: Mr. Shiraz Paracha, Ms. Tahira Abdullah, Mr. Charles Petrie, Dr. Rasool Bakhsh Rais, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Ms. Puruesh Chaudhry, Ms. Humaira Masihhuddin and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Field visit: Christ Church.



Mr. Charles Petrie spoke on what to expect from the UN and other international organizations in Pakistan. He said that he had observed Pakistan for a long time and the one thing that is most interesting is the vibrancy of the people and culture. The people of Pakistan have the potential to think differently and implement their ideas a unique way. Perceptions of the west are fundamentally different because of a misunderstanding on what is happening in the country. Violence is the one thing that denies the people the right to live and leads to destruction. People can be traumatized with violence as part of the world politics. Oppression creates absolute despair.



Fifth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

July 15-18, 2016



At the Grand Ambassador Hotel, Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Lasbela, University of Malakand, University of Swat, University of Gomal, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, International Islamic University Islamabad, Balochistan University, Quetta, Agriculture University, Peshawar, and Kohat University of Science and Technology.



Trainers: Mr. Muhammad Jibran Nasir, Professor Saeed Minhas, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Mr. Safiullah Gul, and Mr. Charles Petrie.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



Dr. Shoaib Suddle spoke about the fundamentals of democracy, governance and accountability. He said that democracy is a form of government in which people are at the center, directly or indirectly through their chosen representatives. People are considered the driving force in democratic systems. Parliament is supreme and people indirectly partake in decision making. They all have the right to dissolve governments that do not deliver.



Sixth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

August 5-8, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Chitral, Balochistan University, Quetta, University of Malakand, Chakdara, Hazara University, Mansehra, University of Gomal, D. I. Khan, University of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Kohat University of Science and Technology, Kohat, Swabi University, Swabi.



Trainers: Hooria Khan, Mr. Charles Petrie, Mr. Khurshid Nadeem, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Ms. Sara Farid, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Dr. Shoaib Suddle.



Field visit: Chaklala Gracy Line Mandir.



Dr. Khalid Zaheer spoke on the topic of religious intolerance. He shared that religious tolerance is the right one should give to others to believe in and practice the faith of their own choice. We have no right to impose our beliefs on others. Our attitude toward others' beliefs should be genuine and positive. People usually believe in and practice ideas and beliefs they have learnt from their elders or ideas that have convinced them to change their minds.



Seventh Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

August 26-29, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Lasbela University, Uthal Balochistan, University of Malakand, Kohat University of Science & Technology, Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar, Women University, Multan, and University of Science & Technology, Bannu.



Trainers: Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Mr. Khurshid Nadeem, Ms. Sara Farid, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Mr. Zubair Ghauri, Mr. Toaha Qureshi and Prof. Dr. Justice (Retd.) Khalid Ali.



Field visit: Krishna Mandir.



Prof. Dr. Justice (Retd.) Khalid Ali spoke on the topic of rule of law. Laws in Pakistan have always faced confusion and inconsistencies. It had its laws founded in British colonial period. Pakistan Penal Code and CRPC is also a product of British Colonial Era. Since the formation of Pakistan, we have seen twenty-eight years of democracy and military rule was witnessed during the rest of time. Military had their own laws by martial law orders. Since 1947 Pakistan had to face inconsistencies and delays in law making process. Laws are made to be implemented and followed; only in this case we can become a developed nation which can compete with other nations of the world.



Eighth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

September 23-26, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



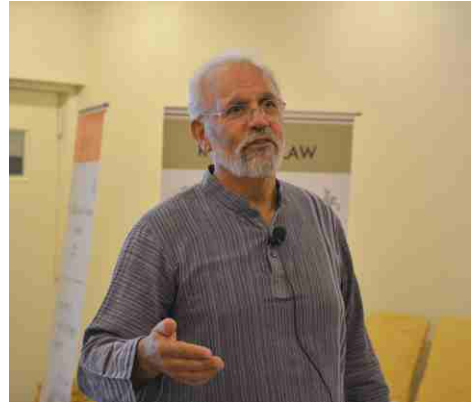
Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Hazara University, Mansehra, University of Science and Technology, Bannu, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Chitral, Quid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, COMSATS, Abbottabad, Lasbela University, Uthal Balochistan, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, University of Swat, University of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK, and Bahauddin Zakaria University, Multan.



Trainers: Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Dr. Gerald Sholomenko, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Ms. Tahira Abdullah, Ms. Sara Farid, Dr. Shoaib Suddle and Mr. Charles Petrie.



Field visit: Chaklala Gracy
Line Mandir.



Dr. Gerald Sholomenko spoke on the topic of "Things We Know or, We Don't". He shared his views on a few basic guidelines for teachers: how to teach, motivate and stimulate critical thinking. He said that a teacher is not meant to come and stand in front of students and deliver the lecture and just go away. The main responsibility of a teacher is to include and engage students in the whole teaching process. A student needs to be involved in discussions, physical and mental activities to induce critical thinking. Students should be encouraged to question and ask about complex ideas and practices. A teacher is a role model for students.



Ninth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

October 22-24, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



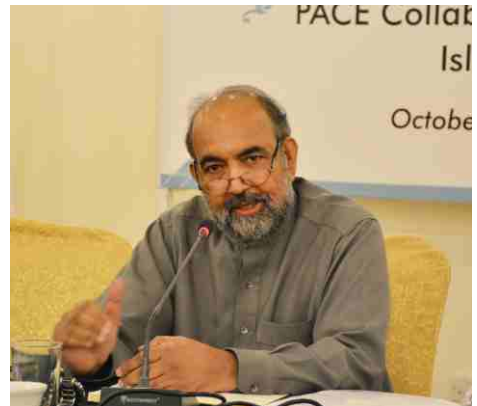
Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Swat, Swat, Gomal University, D. I. Khan, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Hazara University, Mansehra, University of Peshawar, University of Malakand, Chakdara, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Bahria University, Islamabad, and University of Poonch, Rawala Kot, AJK.



Trainers: Brigadier Samson Sharaf, Dr. A. H. Nayyar, Ms. Humaira Masihhudin, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Ms. Sara Farid, Dr. Qibla Ayaz and Ms. Ina Lepel.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



Dr. Qibla Ayaz shared his views on the topic of democracy, governance and accountability. He shared his views saying that accountability is a prerequisite for democratic systems. When we talk about Pakistan, democracy has always been portrayed as a failed system. We need to ponder whether democracy has really failed or has it just been portrayed as such. Democracy stabilizes with able leadership and this is what we lack in Pakistan. Good governance can emerge only if democracy is mature and stable.



Tenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

November 11-13, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Hazara University, Mansehra, Balochistan University of Information technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, University of Science and Technology, Bannu, Karakoram International University, Gilgit, University of Poonch, Rawala Kot, University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Government Post Graduate College, D. I. Khan, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, University of Central Punjab, Lahore, and Bahria University, Islamabad.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Mr. Rizwan Ali, Ms. Sara Farid, and Mr. Zubair Ghouri.



Field visit: Catholic Church,
Rawalpindi.



Mr. Zubair Ghouri spoke on the topic of the fundamentals of democracy, governance and accountability. Separation of power, pluralistic system, independent judiciary, free and independent media, and respect for rule of law, accountability and transparency were shared and discussed as basic elements of democracy. He also spoke about how accountability can be used as a prerequisite for successful democratic systems and how democracy can be stabilized with able leadership.



Eleventh Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

December 2-4, 2016



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Lahore, Islamabad, Balochistan University of IT, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta, Abbottabad, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Mirpur AJK, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Karakoram International University, Gilgit Baltistan, University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, and Bacha Khan University, Charsadda.



Trainers: Mr. Khurshid Nadeem, Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Ms. Amber Rahim Shamsi, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Mr. Safiullah Gul, and Brigadier Samson Sharaf.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



Mr. Khurshid Nadeem talked about multiculturalism and pluralism with reference to Islam. He said that we use different terms in our daily lives and sometimes these terms lead to misunderstandings. Secularism is also a term that has always been under debate. We actually need to know from where did this term originate and how we can apply it in our daily lives. He elaborated that in Europe, secularism wants to make a society free of religious interference. In USA, it wants to ensure religious freedom of the people without interference of the state. There is another concept known as Islamic secularism, practiced in a few states, such as Indonesia, that have diverse groups of people with different beliefs. In these states, you have to live with religious freedom and also respect the religious freedom of others. However, talk of Islamic secularism in Pakistan is always criticized.



Twelfth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

January 27-29, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young lecturers and professors from University of Balochistan, Quetta, University of Lahore, Islamabad Campus, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Karakoram International University, Gilgit Baltistan, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Bahria University, Islamabad, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Haripur University, Haripur, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, University of Gujrat, Gujrat, University of Sargodha, Bhakkar Campus, and the University of Agriculture, Peshawar.



Trainers: Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Ms. Sophia Saifi, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Dr. Toaha Qureshi and Mr. Safiullah Gul.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



While speaking about tolerance, Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Brigitta Blaha of Austria shared her views saying that tolerance is the willingness to accept behaviors, beliefs, and ideas that are different from yours. Pluralism is a situation where the people of different origins, religions and races live together in a society. Diversity is recognizing that each individual is unique and comes with specific and unique characteristics and equality indicates that people, in a society, no matter what their background is, should have the same fundamental rights and be equally treated. No one should be discriminated on the basis of their unique characteristics.



Thirteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

February 17-19, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young lecturers and professors from Isra University, Jamshoro, University of Punjab, Lahore, Government Degree College, D. I. Khan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan University, Swabi, University of Engineering and Technology, Swabi, Islamia College University, Peshawar, University of Science and Technology, Bannu, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Hazara University, Mansehra, Haripur University, Haripur, Gomal University, D. I. Khan, Karakoram International University, Gilgit Baltistan, University of Poonch, Rawala Kot, AJK, and Preston University, Islamabad.



Trainers: Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Ms. Simi Raheal, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Mr. Charles Petrie and Mr. Safiullah Gul.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



Ms. Simi Raheal, a senior TV artist and a development sector activist, spoke on gender roles in media. She said that today, media has become a source of social conscience. It's a slow process to deconstruct the preconceived ideas and develop more understanding of gender roles in a more liberal way. She referred to a Shakespeare's quote about how the entire world is a stage and all the men and women are merely players. He didn't know that the world would turn into a theatrical world: sad, intense and volatile. All the roles we play from birth to death are assigned by society. The people, in the context of religion and cultural practices, construct society.



Fourteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

March 10-12, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Swat, Bahria University, Government College of Commerce and Management Sciences, Sargodha University, International Islamic University Islamabad, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, Gomal University, Bahauddin Zakaria University, Sindh University, University of Balochistan and Preston University.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Ms. Kamla Bhasin, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Mr. Ammad Khaliq and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



Ms. Rasha Ruhayeale, who served as the Second Political Secretary for the Australian High Commission in Pakistan for almost two years was invited to the opening ceremony as the chief guest. She commended the PACE project for engaging and promoting critical and open discourse on fundamental values such as diversity, rule of law and equality. Responding to a question about globally raising nationalism and far right politics she said: "I think one of the most important things - for all of us as citizens of our own countries and of the globe - is to ensure that you remain true to tolerance, diversity and rule of law. These are the things that matter the most. So well, other people might have particular views on certain things, but I think it is important to make sure that this voice remains heard."



Fifteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

March 31-April 2, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



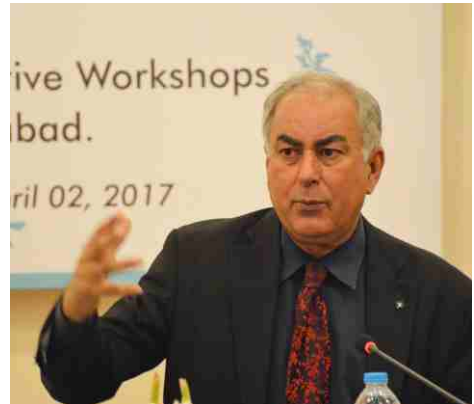
Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Karakoram International University, Department Of Technical And Vocational Education, Islamia University, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, University of Peshawar, University of Balochistan, University of Sindh, Gomal University, Institute of Southern Punjab, The University of Lahore, Bahria University, Fata University and Preston University.



Trainers: Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Dr. Toaha Qureshi, Mr. Safiullah Gul, and Mr. Ammad Khalique.



Field visit: Church.



Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi spoke on the fundamentals of democracy, governance and accountability. He shared his views saying that democracy is like a hat that everyone wishes to wear. Noise and indiscipline of democracy, in the longer run, is far better than silence and discipline of dictatorship. Power, legitimacy, and governance are some of the basic elements of democracy. Democracy is one of the oldest government systems but then it was known as city states that later on converted into empires. Later on, nation states emerged out of the empires.



Sixteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

April 21-23, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from COMSAT Abbottabad, Agriculture University, University of Sargodha, University of Sindh, Sialkot Higher Education Department, the Islamia University, Abbottabad University of Science & Technology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Women University of AJK & Bagh, The University of Lahore, University of Balochistan, Air University, Preston University and FATA University.



Trainers: Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Mr. Naseer Memon, Ms. Sateah Afreedi, Mr. Safullah Gul, and Mr. Ammad Khalique.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



Ms. Sateah Afreedi interacted with the participants on public speaking and how they could arrange debates and discussions in their classrooms. She started with the definition of public speaking; public speaking is an art where you're able to stand in front of an audience and deliver a speech, or to present your point of view in a manner that people stop and listen to you. It is often confused with just "talking in front of a crowd", however, oratory skills are something which not everyone has but may gain by working hard so that their natural speaking power can be improved and worked upon to turn one into an orator. She talked about different types of conferences: declamation contests, Lincoln Douglas style debates, and Model United Nations (MUN) conferences.



Seventeenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

March 10-12, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Karakoram International University, The Islamia University, Government Institute of Emerging Technologies, University of Balochistan, Muzaffarabad Department of Technical And Vocational Education, Muzaffarabad State Disaster Management Authority, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, COMSATS, University of Sindh, Institute of Southern Punjab, GC Women University, Punjab University College, Gomal University, Haripur University, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, University of Management and Technology and FATA University.



Trainers: Brigadier Samson Sharaf, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Dr. Niaz Murtaza, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Mr. Safiullah Gul, and Mr. Ammad Khalique.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



Mr. Safiullah Gul was one of regular trainers at PACE workshop and conducted an interactive session on 'Leadership and Motivation'. He said that the successful leadership determines the extent of efforts directed towards a certain goal. He presented his model of goal-seeking i.e. activation, persistence and intensity. "Being alone doesn't actually matter if you have goals and objectives set in your mind. To achieve these goals, you actually need to overcome your fears and insecurities. An individual sometimes can set an example and be motivation for others," he said. The session, filled with activities to enhance creative and critical thinking, focused on looking at things from a slightly different perspective in order to encourage creative problem-solving.



Eighteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

July 7-9, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam, FATA University, FR Kohat, University of Science and Technology, Bannu, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, University of Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Kotli, and Preston University, Islamabad.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Ms. Sehar Tariq, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Mr. Ammad Khaliq and Mr. Safiullah Gul.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



Ms. Sehar Tariq spoke on “Tolerance for Diversity” during her session. Ms. Tariq started the session with a brainstorming activity in which she asked participants about their perceptions of various generalized societal concepts. Later, she discussed their responses in detail. She talked about how certain characteristics are specifically related to gender, religion, sect, culture and ethnicity, just because of stereotyping. Stereotyping is something that is deeply rooted in our society. People judge each other on the basis these stereotypical behaviors. There is no respect for differences and because of this disrespect we consequently end up indulging in violent activities. We live in a society where we can find cultural, political and religious, ethnic and social diversity. Despite living in this diverse society, we never tolerate or celebrate these differences in a positive manner. Instead, we try to manipulate and exploit each other as stereotyping is an easy way of organizing and processing information.



Nineteenth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

July 28-30, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Isra University, Tando Jam, Liaquat Medical University, Jamshoro, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan, FATA University, FR Kohat, and Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Brigadier Samson Sharaf, Mr. Safiullah Gul, Dr. Niaz Murataz, and Mr. Ammad Khaliq.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



Brigadier Samson Sharaf, at PACE workshop shares his insight on “rule of law”. He talked about transparency, predictability, stability, accountability as major elements required for the establishment of rule of law. He said, “We won't be able to make everyone answerable before law until we follow these rules in our daily lives. Even all the religions of the world give us a certain kind of code of conduct to have a comprehensive idea of do's and don'ts”.



Twentieth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

August 18-20, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam, FATA University, FR Kohat, Women University of AJK and Bagh, Bagh, Government Girls Zubaida College, Hyderabad, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Quetta, Karakoram International University, Gilgit Baltistan, University of Haripur, Haripur, University of Lahore, Lahore, The Islamia University, Bahawalpur, and Preston University, Islamabad.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Mr. Ammad Khaliq, Dr. Zubair Ghouri, Mr. Mustafa Malick, Ms. Seemi Raheal, and Dr. Niaz Murataz.



Field visit: Catholic Church.



Mr. Niaz Murtaza shared his views on the concept of democracy and good governance. He said that any institution at its initial stage is never stable, and the same is the case with democracy. But once it is stable and mature, democracy starts delivering. When we look back at the history of Pakistani politics, Pakistan has never been stable, he added. It could never see the fruits of stable and mature democracy. Political scientists state that from stable institutions emerge egalitarian societies. Egalitarian societies are the ones where people have equal access to education, capital, opportunities and freedoms. In such societies, strong institutions, able leadership and good governance emerge and development takes place.



Twenty-First Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

September 15-17, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha; Sargodha, University of Sindh; Jamshoro, Karakoram International University; Gilgit Baltistan, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology; Jamshoro, University of Balochistan; Quetta, Institute of Educational and Professional Development; Muzaffarabad, AJK, and Preston University; Islamabad



Trainers: Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Dr. Farzana Bari, Ms. Radha Shah, Mr. Mustafa Malick, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, and Mr. Safiullah Gul.



Field visit: Hindu Temple.



His Excellency, Ambassador Mr. Mian Sanullah, was chief guest to the opening ceremony of the workshop. He shared his thoughts saying that equality or diversity always has been a part of the constitutions in every state of the world. He said, "I don't think so that any of the state can keep itself away from guaranteeing the basic human rights. If any state does so, they are most probably violating the UN Declaration of Human Rights. They would certainly be facing punishment in the shape of sanctions." Minorities that suffer from persecution survive in a state of psychological distress and the effects of this distress continue for generations. Every society has racism, sexism and other discriminatory behaviors but the question is that how can we eradicate them? "First of all what I would suggest is that states should not get involved in the personal affairs of the citizens by not making laws that promote hate speech and structural violence. There should not be discrimination on the basis of religion, sect, sex, race or language. Institutions are not strong enough to protect the people's rights," he said.



Twenty-Second Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

October 20-22, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Urdu University, Karakoram International University, FATA University, University of Sargodha, The Islamia University, Preston University, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and University of Haripur.



Trainers: Ms. Shagufta Khalique, Ms. Saima Jassam, Ms. Humaira Masihuiddin, and Mr. Safullah Gul.



In this round of the workshop, Her Excellency, Ambassador Ms. Fouzia Mian Sanaullah was chief guest to the opening ceremony. Sharing her views on multiculturalism she said, "Multiculturalism is the coexistence of diverse cultures where it includes cultural, racial and religious groups and is manifested in customary behaviors, cultural assumptions and values, pattern of thinking and communication style." She referred to Quaid-e-Azam's address to the first constituent assembly, in which he said, "Pakistan is for all and you are free to go to your mosques and temples and you are free to pursue your professions and be a free citizen." She expressed that we along the line somewhere just expunged these remarks from our national discourse and it is a tragedy. We have turned to a path where the visionary leaders of Pakistan didn't want to take. This is the root cause of the major issues Pakistan faces today.



Twenty-Third Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

November 10-12, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha, Government of Sindh, Ghazi University, International Islamic University, University of Gujrat, Karakoram International University, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences, Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority, University of Sindh and Preston University.



Trainers: Dr. Azhar Qazi, Ms. Naila Mir, Ms. Radha Shah, Ms. Humaira Masihuddin, and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Ms. Amber Rahim Shamsi started her session with discussion on the topic of tolerance that we see it lacking in Pakistan. She said, "Lack of tolerance is usually manifested through violence in Pakistan. What I believe is that we in Pakistan can't progress without understanding and respecting diversity. We may apparently say that we respect other's ideas but, in practicality, we do ignore them. We grow up listening to the things which develop intolerance among us. We don't respect difference of opinion and argue logically. Our mentality has been shaped in [such] a way that we are not ready [for] our preconceived notions to be challenged or even discussed. Our socialization pattern[s] [are] always based on [this]. One of the factors responsible for this growing intolerance is ethnocentric attitude. We have lost the ability to listen to others. We only want ourselves to be heard. We need to start these from our homes and schools. Being parents we don't initiate open discussion with our kids. In our educational institutions we should focus on developing the positive attitude in our students. We should make them learn how to argue logically and respectfully."



Twenty-Fourth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

December 15-17, 2017



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sindh, Sindh Agricultural University, Peoples Medical University, University of Balochistan, Federal Urdu University, National University of Modern Languages, University of Sargodha, Kohat University of Science and Technology, Gandhara University and FATA University.



Trainers: Mr. Mustafa Malik, Mr. Ammad Khaliq, Ms. Naila Mir, Dr. Azhar Qazi, Ms. Sateah Afreedi and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Ms. Naila Mir is an educationist and shared her knowledge and experience on “Effective Student Handling”. She started her session on discussing the myths and realities regarding teaching methodologies in the context of Pakistan. She said, “You don't need any inborn talent to become great at something. Talent can be developed and for that you need the motivation and practice. Learning through a different method may reduce effort and time and make students understand the message. A teacher should give feedback and help students identify own areas and adopt for a positive approach to overcome the weaknesses. You can help them speed up their learning tenfold by helping them identify and use the right methods.”



Twenty-Fifth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

January 12-14, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sindh, Ghazi University, University of Haripur, Karakoram International University, University of Sargodha, Federal Urdu University, The Islamia University and Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences.



Trainers: Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Mr. Ammad Khaliq, Ms. Naila Mir, Mr. Abdullah Dayo, Ms. Sateah Afreedi and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Ms. Jennifer Kathernie Jag Jivan, as chief guest to the opening of the 25th PACE workshop, shared her views on the Islamic concept of “Huqooq ul Ebad” which beautifully captures the rights of citizens over each other. Christianity also prescribes universal love without any discrimination. Similarly, all the religions are based on love for all. By discriminating, we are hurting ourselves and our own people. We as equal human beings come out of the discriminatory and biased attitudes and respect each other.



Twenty-Sixth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

February 9-11, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Institute of Southern Punjab, FATA University, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, University of Sargodha, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences, Federal Urdu University, University of Haripur, Karakoram International University, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority.



Trainers: Dr. Tauqeer Hussain, Ms. Shagufta Khaliq, Ms. Naila Mir, Dr. Azhar Qazi, Mr. Ammad Khaliq and Mr. Safullah Gul.



Dr. Azhar Qazi shared his experience of being in a jihadi camp, relating it to respect for diversity, rights and opinions. He said, "Teachers are brain of a society and I believe that teachers have the ability to bring the positivity in the society. We are here to learn how to digest the concepts of diversity. We most of the time use the term respect to seek attention. We have to know the real meaning of this word to start implementing it in our lives. Appearance of a person should never define his orientation."



Twenty-Seventh Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

March 2-4, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Institute of Southern Punjab, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences, Federal Urdu University, Gomal University, Pakistan Institute of Professional Studies, Abbottabad, The Islamia University, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, FATA University, University of Sargodha and Karakoram International University.



Trainers: Ms. Humaira Masihuiddin, Mr. Niaz Murtaza, Dr. Akhlaq Awan, Dr. Tauqeer Hussain and Mr. Ammad Khalique.



Field visit: Bahá'í Centre.



Ambassador Qazi Humayun was the chief guest of the opening session and started the discussion on the topic of multiculturalism and pluralism with reference to his professional experiences in various countries around the world. He said that there is a lot of diversity in the world. There are people from rural and urban communities with different cultures and ethnicity. People are different, cultures are different but all this combines and gets projected as strength of a nation. Similarities and differences both strengthen you. Pakistan also has different ethnicity with different cultures and outlook in life. Different people in these regions think different way and all these things shape up your personality and thinking. In every country, people belong to different classes and not every state is a welfare state. Only welfare states have a greater consideration for the dispossessed. The concept of diversity and multiculturalism bind together the nations. Tolerance is the key to pluralism. Be courteous and nice to the people. Every human being has a right to living and we don't have a right to take away this rights from them.



Twenty-Eighth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

March 30-April 1, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, University of Buner, University of Sargodha, Federal Urdu University, University of Buner, University of Haripur, University of Bagh, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and FATA University.



Trainers: Ms. Kishwar Sultana, Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Mr. Niaz Murtaza, Dr. Tauqeer Hussain, Mr. Safiullah Gul and Ms. Humaira Masihuddin.



Ms. Kishwar Sultana spoke on the topic of respect of diversity, rights and opinions. She elaborated on the topic, saying that diversity is valuing the differences between the people and ways in which those differences contribute to healthy relations. It refers to the ways that individuals are unique and differ from one another and embracing and celebrating the differences we all embody.



Twenty-Ninth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

April 20-22, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Karakoram International University, Quid-e-Azam University, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, University of Balochistan, Kohat University of Science and Technology, FATA University, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Federal Urdu University and University of Sargodha.



Trainers: Ms. Naila Mir, Mr. Niaz Murtaza, Dr. Tauqeer Hussain, Ms. Radha Shah, Mr. Safiullah Gul and Ms. Humaira Masihuddin.



Ms. Humaira Masihuddin was also one of the most regular trainers and conducted her session on the theme of 'Pluralism and Multiculturalism with Reference to Islam'. She said that all human beings belong to one origin and one place, and no purely homogeneous society exists in the modern world. Most societies consist of different ethnic groups. She defined minorities as a group of people who are singled out from the other groups and are treated differently because of their physical or cultural characteristics. "Minority is a subordinate group as opposed to the dominant group. The concept of multiculturalism revolves around a society with heterogeneous beliefs and set of ideas. Multiculturalism makes a society diverse. Respect for diversity shapes coexistence, peace, and harmony under a political and institutional framework. Differences are not challenges and do not impose any limitation on growth of an individual or society. Every individual has a right to be different and be respected by all. In Islam, the concept of diversity is clearly inclusive," she continued.



Thirtieth Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

May 11-13, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from University of Sargodha, University of Poonch, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Hazara University and University of Balochistan.



Trainers: Ms. Naila Mir, Ms. Radha Shah, Dr. Akhlaq Awan, Dr. Tauqeer Hussain, Mr. Safiullah Gul and Ms. Humaira Masihuddin.



Dr. Tauqeer Hussain, a defense analyst, as part of PACE initiative shared his thoughts on the topic of "National Security and Elements of Integrity for a Nation." He described honesty, competency, resourcefulness and truthfulness as basic elements of integrity of a person. Even good health and education also falls in the integrity of an individual, which are important ingredients to build confidence, mental effectiveness, and physical fitness. He linked the above mentioned characteristics to the Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution of Pakistan. According to him, these characteristics define a person's character and personality, and build on a nation's code of conduct.



Thirty-First Round of PACE Collaborative Workshops

July 13-15, 2018



At Hill View Hotel,
Islamabad.



Participants included young university lecturers and professors from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Ghotki Government College, University of Sargodha, Mirpur Khas University, University of Sindh, Federal Urdu University, University of Haripur and the Islamia University.



Trainers: Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Dr. Khalid Zaheer, Ms. Naila Mir, Ms. Maham Asif, Ms. Radha Shah and Dr. Niaz Murtaza.



Field visit: Catholic Church.



Ms. Radha Shah, a renowned feminist and gender rights expert, conducted a session on "Addressing and Recognizing Sexism in Global and Pakistani Context." She shared her own experiences saying that the session would specifically focus on the issue of sexism at the workplace when women are harassed sexually as well as don't have equal access to speak or report against it. Sexism even when you are not being heard on the basis of your gender can affect your possibility of contribution in a professional capacity. She said that if women face particular barriers at the workplace, they are also excluded from broader ideas of diversity. We need to look into practical solutions for women where experiences are more bearable and productive. At the same time, we need to think about what men can do to actively create an equal space for women to promote diversity and equality.



SPECIAL EVENTS

International Women's Day at Gomal University

The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th, 2017, at Gomal University, D. I. Khan. A large number of students and faculty members from various departments of the university attended the event.

Dr. Akhlaq Awan, Head of the Department of Pharmacy, Gomal University opened the session with a welcome note. He welcomed Dr. Naseem Saba (guest speaker), Mr. Safiullah Gul (guest speaker), Ms. Farhana Kanwal (Representative CRSS), Mr. Shams Momand (Representative CRSS), students, and faculty members to the event. He shared with the participants that Pakistan Center of Excellence (PACE) is a major countering violence extremism (CVE) initiative by CRSS designed to trigger critical thinking through a discourse anchored in fundamental global values such as socio-political diversity, acceptance of diversity, rule of law and equal citizenry, as well as the rights afforded within Pakistan's Constitution (Articles 8-28). Today, the activity we are conducting here is also supported by PACE.

While sharing his views about the history of International Women's Day, Dr. Awan said that this day is globally celebrated to appreciate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call for actions to accelerate gender parity. International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without any division, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural,

economic or political.

Mr. Safiullah Gul, a suicide bomb survivor and Bureau Chief Dunia News, Peshawar shared his views on women's role in the media. Mr. Safiullah Gul started with a presentation with critical analysis of women's role in media. He referred to a survey about the news covering the women issues. He said that only 10 - 15% coverage is given to women's issues; women are only limited to the entertainment section and crime stories. He stimulated the discussion saying that women are portrayed as a symbol of entertainment and cunningness in the media. But when we critically look at the roles women are playing in our surroundings, does that really stands with the standards of humanity? Media manipulates the status of rape victims. According to the media, they try not to show the victim's identity but no one knows that what they are going through with this exposition to the media.

Ms. Naseem Saba from North Waziristan shared her life story from her time in early education to becoming a successful professional. She said that a strong woman, who taught her to be confident and assertive in her character, raised her. She is successful in her career because of the support provided by her family, especially her father. Her father gave her equal opportunities of education and self-grooming despite the opposition he faced from their tribal culture. She told the participants that her parents were of the view that if a woman is supposed to educate a whole generation then she should be educated and confident as well. Later, Vice Chancellor of Gomal University

wrapped up the session saying that difference of opinion is always there but we all are of the same thought that women should be treated equally. If you start from the time of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) until now, the contribution is very good and

recognizable. If each one of us starts changing our behaviors towards women and recognize the role and contribution of them in our lives, we are not far from the day when women will be equally educated and provided with equal opportunities.



PACE Workshop with National Press Club, Islamabad

The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) conducted a one-day PACE Collaborative Workshop on March 2, 2017 with young reporters and journalists from the outskirts of Islamabad. The journalists were from Hassan Abdal, Wah Cantt, Murree, Doltana, Jhelum, Gojar Khan and Taxila.

Mr. Zeeshan Salahuddin, Project Manager, welcoming the participants to the workshop said that the main purpose of inviting a diverse group is to gather various opinions and ideas. He elaborated the objectives of the workshop saying that PACE trainings are delivered on equal citizenry, fundamental human rights and diversity which are usually not discussed openly. Journalists influence ideas and opinions of a common person to a large level. It is important for them to be trained in critical soft skills, not taught in our mainstream educational institutions.

Ms. Humaira Masihuddin kicked off the session speaking on the theme of 'Pluralism and Multiculturalism with Special Reference to Islam'. She said that all human beings have the same origin so it is futile to fight over our

differences. She quoted the last sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) that "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action".

She shared a few incidents of blasphemy law being misused by the people and for victimizing the accused without any proof, or on the basis of misunderstanding or personal grudges. She stimulated the discussion saying that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) strictly forbade his followers from violating the rights of Christians while signing the Charter of Najran with them.

Mr. Zeeshan Salahuddin, in his closing remarks said that it is important to inculcate critical thinking in our youth, and to equip them with the art of questioning the pre-established narratives. He said that strict adherence to the rule of law and equal citizenry is the basis for a progressive society and Pakistan needs to embrace these ideals in order to cultivate tolerance and diversity.





Testimonials



Mr. Anwaar ul Haq
University of Peshawar, Peshawar

The PACE workshop has strengthened my belief about the worth of pluralism and peaceful co-existence. The workshop enlightened me about the value of democracy, established democratic institutions and its impact on the overall development of society. It informed me about the plight of minorities and certain religious sects living in Pakistan. The said workshop also shed light on religious harmony and the importance of secular societies for the protection of human rights in modern world.

The workshop that I attended was superb. The content of the sessions was informative and interesting and resource persons were all highly knowledgeable. The values of equality, diversity and tolerance are important and we need to focus more on them for a peaceful society. It was a very good opportunity for me to learn something in a diverse social environment. It had a positive impact on my thinking to advocate for the development of a more inclusive society for all.



Ms. Nousheen Raza
Karachi University, Karachi



Mr. Sheikh Obaid Ullah
University of Science
and Technology, Bannu

I have attended PACE workshop organized by CRSS. I have learned several things through this workshop which are mentioned below;

- To respect the existence and importance of other religions in Pakistan.
- To provide equal human rights to the minorities of Pakistan
- To highlight inequalities and injustice of societies at different platforms.
- To develop an open mindset where everyone can easily accept the religious differences and regard each other as equal humans.



Ms. Noor Jehan
Abdul Wali Khan
University, Mardan

I have learned to bear things I deemed unacceptable in my view. I am trying to look at things positively now. My approach towards female students has dramatically improved as I take personal interest in their personality grooming as an individual. Thanks to PACE workshop. I am a better person who respects differences and choices of others.



Ms. Sana Nawaz
University of Sargodha,
Sargodha

The workshop left a great mark on my personality. Being a teacher I was familiar with the terms and concepts i.e. peace, equality, tolerance and diversity however I was not aware of its practicality. I have learned to interact with my students in a more patient and tolerant manner.

Through this program I gained a lot of knowledge. I have learned to be more respectful and accepting in my day to day interactions.



Mr. Ziaullah Shah
Karakoram International
University, Gilgit

The PACE workshop left some indelible marks not only on my way of thinking but my lifestyle as well. The subject matter of the workshop which revolved around the virtues of democracy, rule of law and rights of the marginalized effectively highlighted the issues in a way which appealed to the audience. I feel sensitized towards human rights but at the same time now their violation inflicts more pain. Unfortunately in our society violation of the ideals like democracy, rule of law and basic human rights is so widely prevalent that it leads to severe disappointment. I would request CRSS to conduct some workshops solely on the topic of hope.



Ms. Tayyebah Sehar
Preston University,
Islamabad

PACE workshop allowed to me to learn new concepts which are not usually grasped in a span of few days. The trainers were able to deliver complex ideas in a simple manner. I have a much better understanding now of concepts like diversity, equality, rule of law in its true sense.

I was surprised that the instructor pointed out areas where our institutes as well as we particularly as teachers and facilitators lack in the domain of teaching and preaching. The concepts enabled me to broaden my vision and have changed my canvass of thinking and now I observe and behave on logical, rational and unbiased basis.



Mr. Abdul Hakeem
Balochistan University of
Engineering IT
and Technology, Quetta

The workshop organized by Pakistan Center of Excellence (PACE) played a contributory role in my understanding of the topics such as diversity, peace and equal citizenship. The lectures, discussions and the interactive sessions with the resource persons and the participants on these issues were helpful for me in gaining an insight. Furthermore, the workshop was of immense value as I can now personally involve myself as a problem-solver. In conclusion, this workshop/seminar changed my perspective and gave me a new outlook through which I can analyze the issues of diversity, rule of law, democracy and gender discrimination in good manner.



Mr. Ali Hassan
Lasbela University, Lasbela

I personally appreciate your efforts that bring people from each corner of the country and create a platform for us to interact and share our views. Such platforms are not only encouraging but also are the need of time. We as educationists have the potential to influence and guide our students to be respectful towards others and not be judgmental.

PACE workshop had a great impact on my life. This program helped me understand how diversity looks like in different parts of Pakistan. Universities are a great place to introduce the concepts of diversity, equality and inclusion among our students. This can help them be respectful towards others irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, religious differences and sexual orientation. PACE gave me a great exposure to understand the phenomenon of diversity and inclusion in non-western context Pakistan. This training allowed me to rethink about the non-western version of diversity. I can see how important diversity can be to introduce at organization level (universities) that I previously thought could never happen in Pakistan.



Dr. Safia Bano
University of Balochistan, Quetta

THE CENTER

CRSS Background

The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) is a think tank/advocacy center founded in September, 2007. Founded by noted security expert and media personality Imtiaz Gul, it is committed to the cause of independent research and nonpartisan analysis, and informed advocacy, and help people outside Pakistan understand this nation of 212 million people.

As an advocacy center, CRSS is dedicated to trigger critical thinking through discourse anchored in global democratic values such as socio-political diversity, rule of law, equal citizenry, and acceptance of diversity, fundamental human rights, all at the intersection of empirical research in security studies.

CRSS Core Values

CRSS strives to embed the national conversation in constitutionalism, and rationalize it over extremism and sectarianism. CRSS believes the path to peace is through embodying fundamental human rights, specifically:

- Strict adherence to the rule of law, and stringent implementation
- Informing the public on civic education, especially good governance and public accountability
- Promoting equal rights for all citizens of Pakistan
- Championing women empowerment
- Providing training and opportunities to youth to veer them away from radicalization through critical thinking

CRSS' programming reflects its core values, which CRSS believes can, along with time-tested methodologies in strategic communications, impactful message development, research and advocacy result in a more tolerant and cohesive Pakistan.

CRSS Publications

CRSS produces several publications annually. Our flagship publications are the NAP Tracker, an annual audit of the counter-terrorism/counter-extremism National Action Plan (NAP) of the Government of Pakistan; and the Annual Security Report, a measure of the state of security in Pakistan by gauging the number of violence-related casualties across the country.

CRSS also regularly publishes papers, commentary and analysis by our research fellows from around the world. You can find all of our publications freely online, or collect copies free of cost from our offices in Islamabad.

You can also visit the CRSS Blog, as well as the website of our sister organization Afghan Studies Center.

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