



50 QUESTIONS TO GUIDE US IN CREATING PEACE

This set of questions has been developed during the international project [From Inside Out](#). The main theme of this project was peace education as an integral part of peace-building efforts. The project was designed to assist youth workers and educators in developing empathetic and creative leadership skills for delivering peace education activities and to empower them to become active peace builders in their communities.

One of the main problems with traditional peace building is the lack of a holistic approach. Many global peace initiatives are overly focused on the political levels of peace and conflict without considering the personal and interpersonal dimensions, where patterns of violence also exist. However, peace building is not only about responding to international conflicts, it is also about how we relate to ourselves and those around us. Thus, another aim of this project was to enhance participants' understanding of peace education through a holistic approach, and to explore opportunities to integrate nature and place-based learning methods into peace education.

The main activity within this project was a residential, 9-days training course for youth workers and trainers, which was organised in June 2019, in Latvia, by the association [Room of Fulfilled Dreams](#).

This training course gathered 25 participants and experts from Austria, Italy, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Portugal, Spain and Turkey. During the training course, participants learned principles of, and different approaches to peace education, and discovered how to build peace within themselves, and in and between various groups.

With this set of cards, we wish to invite you to think more about building and sustaining peace, and the roles and possibilities of each of us to become peace educators and peace builders. You can use these cards to find ideas for topics for peace education activities, or to develop questions for group and individual reflection. The questions also invite you to analyse processes and tendencies in your society, and the interactions of you, your community and environment.

The images on these cards show the [From Inside Out](#) training course and several other international, non-formal education activities that [Room of Fulfilled Dreams](#) organised, with financial support from the [Erasmus+](#) programme.

FROM INSIDE OUT

Thanks to Erasmus+, many prejudices and assumptions have been challenged, lots of international friendships have been created, and members of divided communities have connected. Many young people have found their voice and the courage to stand up for issues that matter to them, to be more critical, more creative, more active and take initiatives to create a better life for themselves and their communities. Thus, this program itself has contributed much to sustaining peace in Europe.

WHY QUESTIONS?

You might use the images included in this deck as associative cards, but the most important tools are the questions. You might wonder. Why have we decided, from all the outcomes of the [From Inside Out](#) course, to share the questions?

Humans tend to focus on having the right answer rather than discovering the right question. We are rarely asked to generate and explore compelling questions, nor are we taught why we should ask such questions in the first place. Tests and examinations all reinforce the value of giving correct answers.

What we know of life is only where we have decided to rest with our questioning. Many bad decisions are taken because assumptions haven't been questioned. The skill of asking good questions can make a big difference. It is a powerful tool for personal and social change. The questions help us to shift our attention from a passive to an active one. People could

become creators, rather than receivers, of solutions.

Questioning is a basic tool for rebellion. It breaks the stagnant shells of the present, and opens up options that might be explored. It removes the facade of confidence and sureness and uses uncertainty to move towards growth and new possibilities. Questioning can uncover hidden powers and resources inside of people. Many innovations come from asking new questions. Asking taboo questions in our culture at the moment can even lead to important social and cultural transformation. Asking questions and listening for strategies and ideas embedded in people's own answers can be the greatest service a social-change worker or educator can give to a particular issue.

If you want to arrive at a better answer, you should start with a better question. This set of cards offers questions that might help to explore what needs to be done in order to create just and peaceful places and communities. We hope that it will also inspire you to experiment with the idea that questions might be more important than the answers, and therefore generate further questions about peace.

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