

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Peace Works Zimbabwe

#C8QTWRRGTY submitted on 17 December 2023

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

Peace Works Zimbabwe is seeking a grant of £4320 from the Trust to fund the work of Alternatives to Violence Zimbabwe (AVPZ). AVPZ provides free training in conflict resolution and non-violent communication to both community groups and teachers. Members of community groups are given transformational skills and teachers are encouraged and supported to set up and run Peace Clubs in their schools, providing many students with skills of peace-building, conflict resolution and peer mediation.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

Alternatives to Violence Zimbabwe was set up in 2015, by Bulawayo Quakers, to undertake peacebuilding work in the community and in schools. The pool of AVP trainers is now wider than just Quakers and by December 2022 there were 14 experienced and 23 'apprentice' facilitators. Originally supported by Friends of Hlekweni (FoH) the funding of this work since 2021 has been carried on after FoH's closure by Peace Works Zimbabwe, set up by Don Rowe, who had been the FoH Trustee responsible for the peace programme.

There are currently two programmes currently being funded. Firstly, AVPZ offers free courses in conflict resolution and violence prevention to community groups, such as church leaders, women's groups, NGO leaders, youth groups, prison officers and so on. Secondly, AVPZ trains teachers in the use of AVP skills and then encourages and supports them in running Peace Clubs in their schools.

In establishing this second programme, PWZ has brought together two concepts not previously combined: AVP training and the idea of Peace Clubs in schools. Peace Clubs were first developed in Zambia in 2006. However, the materials, in our view, are not well targeted for young people because they are adult materials adapted for secondary and primary schools, rather than being created in 'bottom up' fashion with the developing needs of young people in mind. This is why Don Rowe has worked with two local members of AVPZ to write a Peace Clubs manual for Zimbabwe secondary schools, to be published in December/January 2023.

A network of eight primary school Peace Clubs was initially created in 2016, followed by over 25 secondary schools between 2019 and 2021. To date, we estimate that 50 or 60 Peace Clubs have been set up, but we cannot be sure how many are running regularly. (Some clubs have been set up 'by word of mouth', or as teachers move from school to school. At the same time, other Peace Clubs 'fail', some of which have been revitalised by AVPZ interventions.

This project is very timely because, in 2019, corporal punishment was banned by law. In addition, and surprisingly, perhaps, the new school curriculum, introduced in 2015, provides opportunities for teachers to deal with issues of peace and conflict in every primary and secondary grade/year but the Zimbabwe government has not yet provided any guidance at all to teachers on what to teach, how to teach it, or how to approach peace-building as a whole-school enterprise. An internal Ministry of Education document suggests a lack of expertise and resources to be the main reasons for this situation.

This is why PWZ believes there we have a unique opportunity at the present time. Despite the difficulties the country faces and the strain under which the education system labours, teachers are keen to gain the skills offered by AVP and many are enthusiastic about setting up Peace Clubs in their schools. Further, Peace Clubs and peace-building skills are becoming recognised as of considerable value by the school authorities. In August 2023, 15 District School Inspectors from the Bulawayo Metropolitan Province attended a two-day training course in AVP, run by AVPZ, and were reportedly

impressed at the possibilities this approach brings with it.

It is hoped that the ideas and methods in the new manual will be able to influence good practice in Zimbabwe, and, perhaps, beyond. AVPZ is expanding its operations as more people become trainers, and, last year, they opened a second hub in Harare. Other new hubs are becoming established. In this way, capacity for training teachers across the country is beginning to increase.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

A - Quaker work and witness

B - Peace-building and conflict resolution

1.3a Quaker work and witness

Peace Works Zimbabwe is a Quaker charitable organisation. We are an adopted concern of Milton Keynes Meeting and of Luton and Leighton Area Meeting (LLAM). The money we raise is held in a restricted account of the Area Meeting. PWZ has applied to be a Quaker Registered Body but we have not yet had confirmation of this.

1.3b Peace-building and conflict resolution

We aim to raise money to support peace-building and conflict resolution in Zimbabwe. The beneficiaries include community and church leaders, prison officers, vulnerable youth and women, and so on. The work with teachers and students ranges from primary, secondary and, recently, tertiary education sectors. By encouraging teachers to pass on their skills to students, there is a huge 'multiplier' effect.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Zimbabwe (ZW)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

When PWZ was set up, we did so with an initial three-year plan, which will be reviewed by the end of December 2024 - it is not envisaged that PWZ will close at this point. We are hoping to find long-term support for these AVPZ projects, and we are encouraging AVPZ to do the same in Zimbabwe, especially through its links with Brethren in Christ Church and the Mennonites.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

All AVP courses, whether for teachers or in the community are routinely evaluated by the facilitators and feedback is gathered. Summary reports of these are forwarded to PWZ regularly, based on these reports, along with financial accounts. It is hoped to carry out a more systematic, academically rigorous evaluation of the project at some point, but this has not happened yet. The AVPZ coordinator reports to PWZ on a quarterly and annual basis.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
5 x two-day AVP courses @ GB£720 each (US\$900)	£4,320	\$900 is currently the average cost of courses. Food and transport help are included for participants, plus an honorarium for trainers.
	£0	
TOTALS	£4,320	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
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Income in 2023 is from individual Friends, Local Quaker Meetings, Quaker Trusts with some other non-Quakers Trusts. Irish Friends and Swedish Friends (last year) have also been generous supporters.	£25,000	£26,520	Best estimate up to 10/12/23
	£0	£0	
	£0	£0	
TOTALS	£25,000	£26,520	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£4,320

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£30,000

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

2.6b Upload File

<https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2023/12/PWZ-Accounts-for-2022-signed.pdf>

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting
50528862
089028

3.1 Your name

Donald Rowe

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07929092753

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Clerk to the Peace Works Zimbabwe committee

3.4 Your email address

peaceworkszim@gmail.com

3.5 Organisation name

Peace Works Zimbabwe

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

Charitable organisation, or committee, working within Luton and Leighton Area Meeting Charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

We raise money, largely in the UK amongst Friends, and also receive support from Irish and Swedish Friends, to fund peace-building work in Zimbabwe, namely on AVP courses in the community and,

more crucially in our view, in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Firstly teachers are trained in AVP L1, and secondly, they are encouraged and supported to run Peace Clubs in their schools.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Peace Works Zimbabwe, The Quaker Centre, 1, Oakely Gardens, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes MK15 9BH

3.9 UK telephone number

07929092753

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1173865 (Luton and Leighton Area Meeting)

3.11 Year established

2021

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.peaceworkszimbabwe.net>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

N/A

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Quakers