







The Nigerian city Kaduna saw several serious episodes of communal violence in 2000 and 2002, and there are ongoing outbreaks within and



Material produced during a project workshop

between Christian and Muslim groups. A small grant funded by the <u>Religion and Society Programme</u> and led by Colette Harris at the University of East Anglia has succeeded in lessening such violence, using a range of innovative methods.

One starting point was the recognition that it is mainly young men who engage in violence. The research team engaged young men in exercises where they had to explain what characterised 'real' men and women. When answers were given which stressed male power, bravery, and strength (and women's opposite characteristics) men and women were challenged to reflect again on real life examples. Assumptions about wide religious, ethnic and class differences – and entrenched resentments – were also articulated and explored. Many young men (and women) reacted well to such deep exploration. The hostility encountered amongst religious leaders, both between religions and among sects within religions, turned out to be much more of an issue than co-operation from young men engaged in violence.

Another technique was the use of formal dramas and more informal performances improvised during education sessions. Such enactments allowed differnt voices, positions and assumptions to be literally 'paraded' and held up for scrutiny. They made a significant impact those who participated and watched, and following the drama performances a number of different aspects of violence in and between the two communities significantly diminished.

Some of the young men involved in the participatory education project have been inspired to continue the project work; this has been less easy for women because of their home situations, but they are carrying on the work in informal ways in their own communities and families. Some have reported changed family relations, in particular a reduction in the amount of 'casual' violence within the home, particularly towards children. Muslim and Christian youth in the two target neighbourhoods, who had previously lived in hostility, are now collaborating more and working together to benefit the two neighbourhoods.

The project has briefed the Nigerian government on the research, and received some additional funding from the Programme for more impact work in Kaduna.

Find out more...

• Visit the project's website: http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/kaduna







- Read the policy briefing for the Nigerian government produced by the project:
 http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/uploads/docs/2010 05/1274873458 Policy+Briefing+-+Community+education+for+violence+prevention,+Kaduna.pdf
- Read a Nigerian newspaper piece about the project published in September 2009:
 http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/uploads/docs/2010 05/1274873807 1.136506!weekly trust newspaper clipping.pdf
- Another article from the New Nigerian paper is also available:
 http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/uploads/docs/2010_05/1274873651_1.136516!New_Nigerian_Newpaper clipping.pdf

You might also be interested in...

- The project led by Anne Haour and funded by the Religion and Society Programme looking at the emergence of Hausa identity in West Africa: http://www.liv.ac.uk/history/research/Hausa identity/
- John Mack's Religion and Society funded research into 'Belief and Belonging', Christianity, Islam and identity in Northern Kenya:
 http://www.religionandsociety.org.uk/research_findings/projects/phase_one/small_research_projects/page:2
- A book chapter entitled 'Gender matters: doing feminist research on religion and youth' co-authored by Giselle Vincett drawing upon her experience as a researcher on Phase 1 Small Grant 'Relational Religious Identities' published in the proceedings of the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Study Group's annual conference in 2010 by Ashgate: http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&title_id=9263&edition_id=11960&calcTitle=1.

Project Details

Award Title

Religion, identity, and violence in Kaduna State Nigeria

Team

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Dr. Abubakar Liman, <u>abualiliman@yahoo.com</u> – educator for the two groups of young men (November 2008-October 2009)







Shehu Salisu <u>shehu shehuus@yahoo.com</u> – data recorder for the Muslim group of young men (December 2008-July 2009).

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Dr. Kathrin Forstner K.Forstner@uea.ac.uk – building the website (October 2009)

Rebecca Arlek R.arlek@uea.ac.uk – translator for the website (October 2009)

Hauwa Salisu, no email address – educator and data recorder for the women's groups (August 2008-October 2009)

Dr. Samuel Kafewo - director for dramas, February - July 2009

Dr. Martins Ayegba - director for dramas, February – July 2009

Dr. Emmanuel Gyong – educator for Christian youth group (August-October 2008)

Dr. Binta Abdulkarim – educator for women's group (August-October 2008)

Dr. Tukur Abdulkadir – educator for Muslim youth group (August-October 2008)

University

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Research Partners

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Award Type

Phase 1 Small Grant

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