



Centre for Dialogue and Action FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)



Vision

Center for Dialogue and Action (CD&A) promotes peace through educational initiatives. The center exists to resource educators through curriculum, courses, and materials that promote dialogue, pluralism and peace building.

We are a service for educational institutions, civil society organizations, policy makers, and for Pakistan's civil services and the armed forces.

Celebrating
Diversity;
Respecting
Humanity



Background

Pakistan is a diverse land, home to ancient civilizations and various religious expressions. Within its tapestry are woven multiple ethnicities, languages, cultures making a dynamic social fabric. However, increased socio-economic pressure and the sharp rise in extremism diminishes our potential and threatens our shared land and history. Diversity is sometimes misunderstood for weakness, but it is actually a strength. CD&A exists to help inspire our national identity that exists in diversity.

The purpose of CD&A is to promote cultural and religious dialogue in order to promote greater integration and peaceful co-existence.



There is a general lack of understanding and ambiguity with regards to the subject of Pakistan's diversity: its religions, culture, ethnic history, and views of gender. The founder of Pakistan, the Quaid-e-Azam Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, envisioned a country dedicated to equal rights for all of its citizens with justice. This is a vision grounded in the universal concepts of '*ilm*' (knowledge), '*ādāb*' (propriety) and '*īnsāniyat*' (humanity). It is a vision that urgently needs to be reinforced today.

The Centre is affiliated with the Society for Dialogue and Action at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge from which it grew.

Goal

To infuse Pakistan's education curricula with an overt appreciation of diversity and to promote pluralistic vision of society through peace studies.



To promote good citizenship and peaceful co-existence

peace studies

Mission

We play a role in education and are developing peace-building courses (short and extended) and textbooks. These are produced for different educational levels (primary, secondary and higher) and address the subjects of diversity, dialogue, pluralism and peace-building.



These courses will also be employed to educate policy makers, media, civil services and the armed forces of Pakistan.



pluralism
peace-building
dialogue
diversity

Objectives

CD&A aims to strengthen civil society in Pakistan by introducing a curricula as a step to mainstream peace education in Pakistan.

- ◆ To prepare curriculum that can be used across Pakistan as a course but also modularly as stand-alone sessions to promote pluralism and diversity appreciation.
- ◆ To enable students, teachers and other civil society partners to understand and advocate universal human rights, pluralism and the value of diversity
- ◆ To promote peace, diversity and dialogue through education, research papers, seminars and workshops



Activities

The process of growth for CD&A is to develop courses. Once there are enough courses, it may become a minor and eventually a standalone graduate program.

- ◆ Develop students and teachers resources which can guide, supplement and inform the delivery of the curriculum
- ◆ Prepare and translate the course resources into Urdu and eventually other regional languages of Pakistan to garner broad support and dissemination
- ◆ Maintain and manage a virtual space that centralizes information for students, teachers and experts where they can also feel secure to engage in dialogue and research
- ◆ Equip teachers and civil society stakeholders to implement this curriculum in educational institutions and civil society organizations across Pakistan
- ◆ Develop networking and outreach with inter/national organizations to strengthen our objectives of curriculum delivery, development and production



Resources

CD&A prepares resource material for students, teachers and academics with an aim to provide a greater understanding of Pakistani diversity to build on peace education in the region. These are made available in English and also in regional languages. Knowledgeable input from history, religion, and linguistic experts is incorporated in order to create substantive materials and to present these according to local sensibilities. The resources aim to bring home the fact that Pakistani history is more than just kings and heroes, battles and conquests and historical buildings. It also comprises cultural, religious and literary traditions which are part of our society. Through this broad perspective, users of our resources will gain an understanding of the history of our society and culture and interaction with other parts of the world. These resources also aim to provide the point of views of the diverse populations of Pakistan.



cultural religious
literary traditions

Contact

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