

# PRINCIPLES AND DYNAMICS OF DIALOGUE





**GIVE ME YOUR HAND  
AND LET US LIVE IN PEACE**

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# THE NAKED TRUTH

(Kayode Olabanji, Msc, FCCA, LinkedIn, 19<sup>th</sup> century Legend)

- ▶ The Truth and the Lie met on the road one day. The Lie said to the Truth: *“It’s a marvelous day today”!* The Truth looks up to the skies and sighs, for the day was truly beautiful. They walked together for a while, until they reached a beautiful well.



# THE NAKED TRUTH, CONT.

▶ **The Lie told the Truth: “The water in the well is very nice, let’s take a swim together!” The Truth, once again suspicious, tested the waters and discovered that it was indeed, very nice. They undressed and started the bathe. Suddenly, the Lie jumped out of the well, puts on the clothes of the Truth and ran off towards a nearby village.**



# THE NAKED TRUTH, CONT.

- ▶ The furious Truth leapt out of the well and ran to find the Lie to get her clothes back.
- ▶ The Villagers, seeing the Naked Truth, were horrified and looked away with contempt and rage.
- ▶ The poor Truth returned to the well and disappeared, forever hiding her shame.
- ▶ And since that day, the lie travels the world, clothed as the Truth.



# WHAT IS THE COLOUR OF TRUTH?

- ▶ According to Conroy, the primary association of the color blue for most of recorded history was with truth a meaning that leaves a remnant in our language in the phrase "true blue." This was because blue is the color of a calm and clear sky, and it is in calm reflection that leads to truth.



# THE VISION OF DIALOGUE

- ▶ THE VISION OF DIALOGUE IS TO REACH THE TRUTH
- ▶ TRUTH IS BITTER BUT DIALOGUE IS ONE SURE WAY TO HEAL MEMORIES AND WOUNDED HEARTS.



# WHAT IS THE PRIZE FOR TELLING THE TRUTH?



SUFFERING?  
REJECTION?  
DISGRACE?  
HATRED?  
DEATH?



# DOES TRUTH HAVE A PRIZE?

» YES

NO

□ NAME THE  
PRIZE IF  
YES!

# DOES DIALOGUE ALWAYS DISCOVER THE TRUTH?

» YES

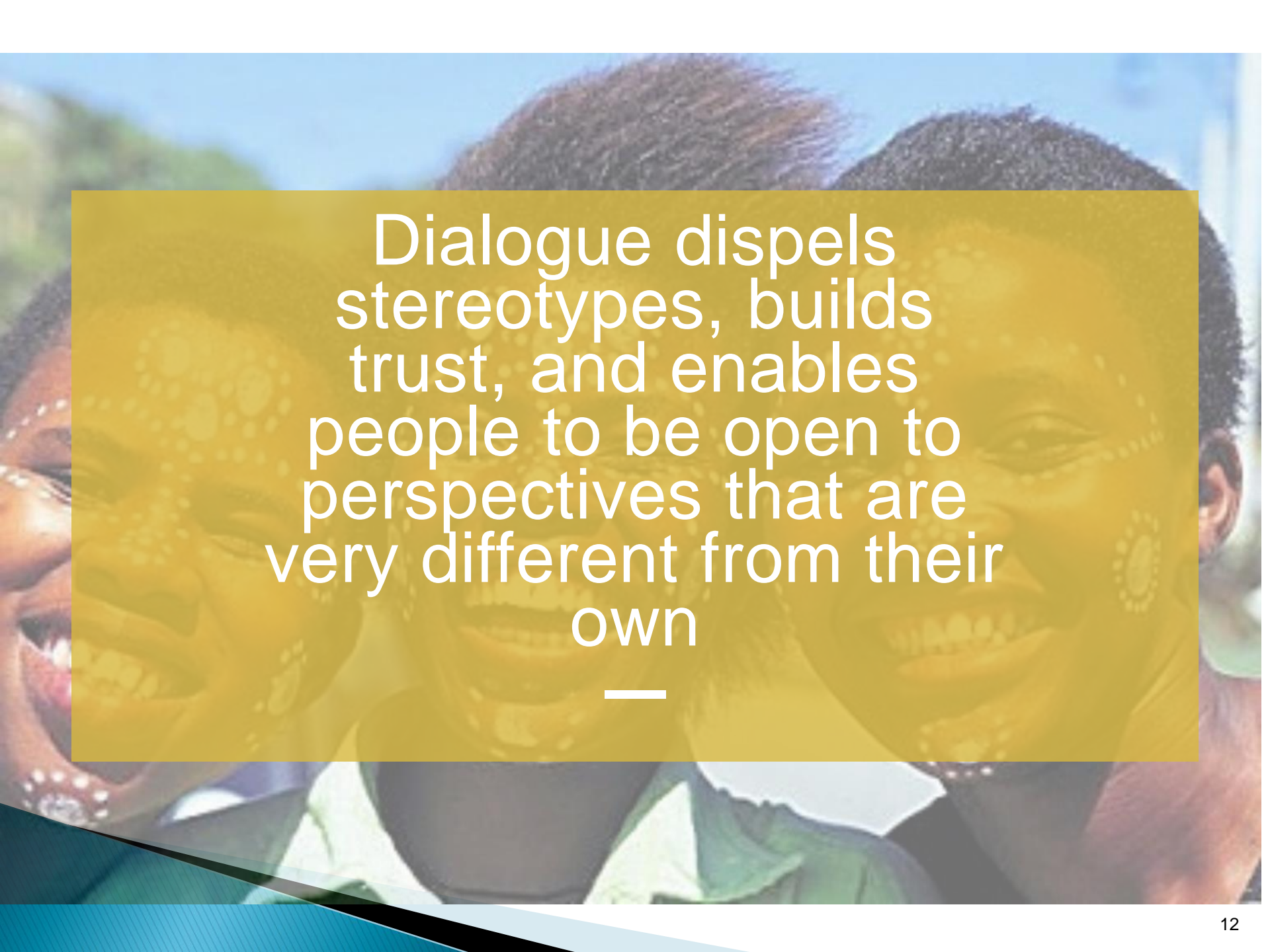
NO

IF NO, WHY DIALOGUE?

# WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

- ▶ Dialogue is a “conversation between two or more persons especially of a formal or imaginary nature; an exchange of views in the hope of ultimately reaching agreement.”
- ▶ Dialogue is not argument to win by all means but to seek understanding and truth.



A group of diverse young people, including a woman with white face paint and a man with a green shirt, are smiling. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing white text. The text reads: "Dialogue dispels stereotypes, builds trust, and enables people to be open to perspectives that are very different from their own". Below the text is a short horizontal white line.

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- ▶ Dialogue has been used to *help people resolve long-standing conflicts and to build deeper understanding of contentious issues.*

Dialogue is not about judging, weighing, or making decisions, but about understanding and learning to arrive at the TRUTH.



- ▶ (<https://storytelling.co.za/the-naked-truth-and-the-lie/>)

# PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE

- Intra-personal dialogue
- Inter-personal dialogue
- Intra-community dialogue
- Inter-community dialogue
- Intra-religious dialogue
- Inter-religious dialogue
- Intra-ethnic dialogue
- Inter-ethnic dialogue
- Intra-cultural dialogue
- Inter-cultural dialogue

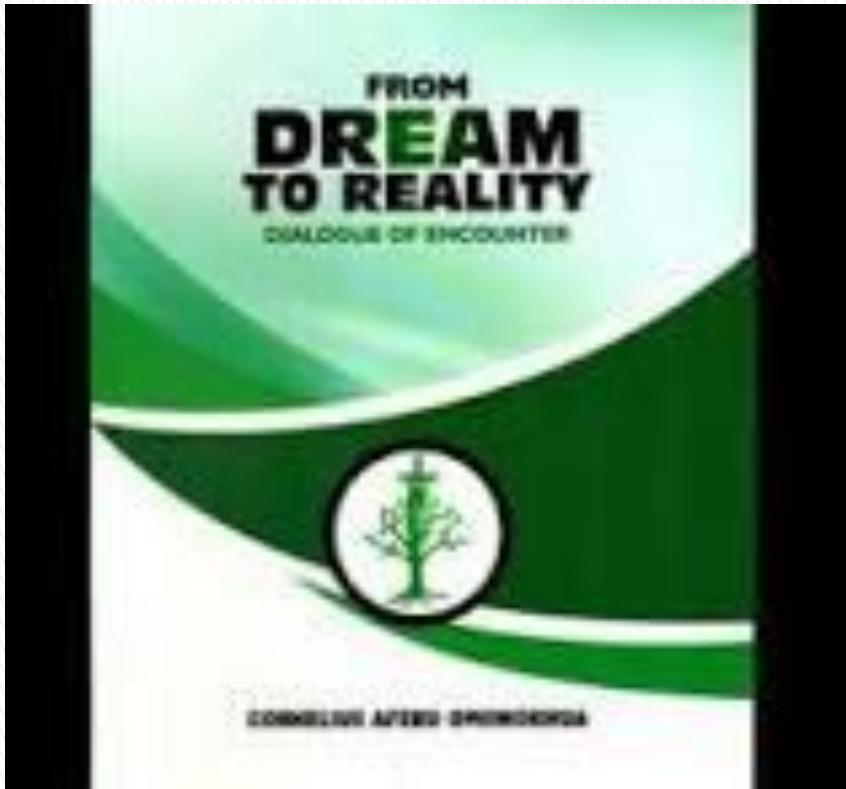
# FORMS OF DIALOGUE



1. **Dialogue of Life:** At the level of daily life in the family, school, place of work etc.
2. **Dialogue of Social Engagements:** The collaboration between Christians and other believers to promote the integral development and liberation of people.
3. **Dialogue of Theological exchange:** With specialists who articulate the beliefs and practices of various religions to seek deeper understanding.
4. **Dialogue of religious experience:** Is concerned with persons, rooted in their own traditions, who share the spiritual riches of another as regards prayer, meditation, contemplation etc.
5. **DIALOGUE OF ENCOUNTER:**

# DIALOGUE OF ENCOUNTER

## CORNELIUS AFEBU OMONOKHUA



AFRICAN CONTEXT



NIGERIAN CONTEXT



# THE ABNORMAL PERSONALITY A CHALLENGE TO DIALOGUE

- ▶ In dialogue, you may be talking to a wrong person or you may not even know that you are suffering from some inherited abnormalities that is making you detestable to others. A person with abnormal traits lives in a dream world. Dialogue between people in the real world and in the dream world is an uphill task.

MOSAB HASSAN YOUSEF

"SON OF HAMAS"



# MOSAB HASSAN YOUSEF

Mosab Hassan Yousef was born in Ramallah, a city 10 kilometers north of Jerusalem. His father, Sheikh Hassan Yousef, is a Hamas co-founder who spent many years in Israeli prisons.



# MOSAB HASSAN YOUSEF

- ▶ As long as we continue to search for enemies anywhere but inside ourselves, there will always be a Middle East problem.

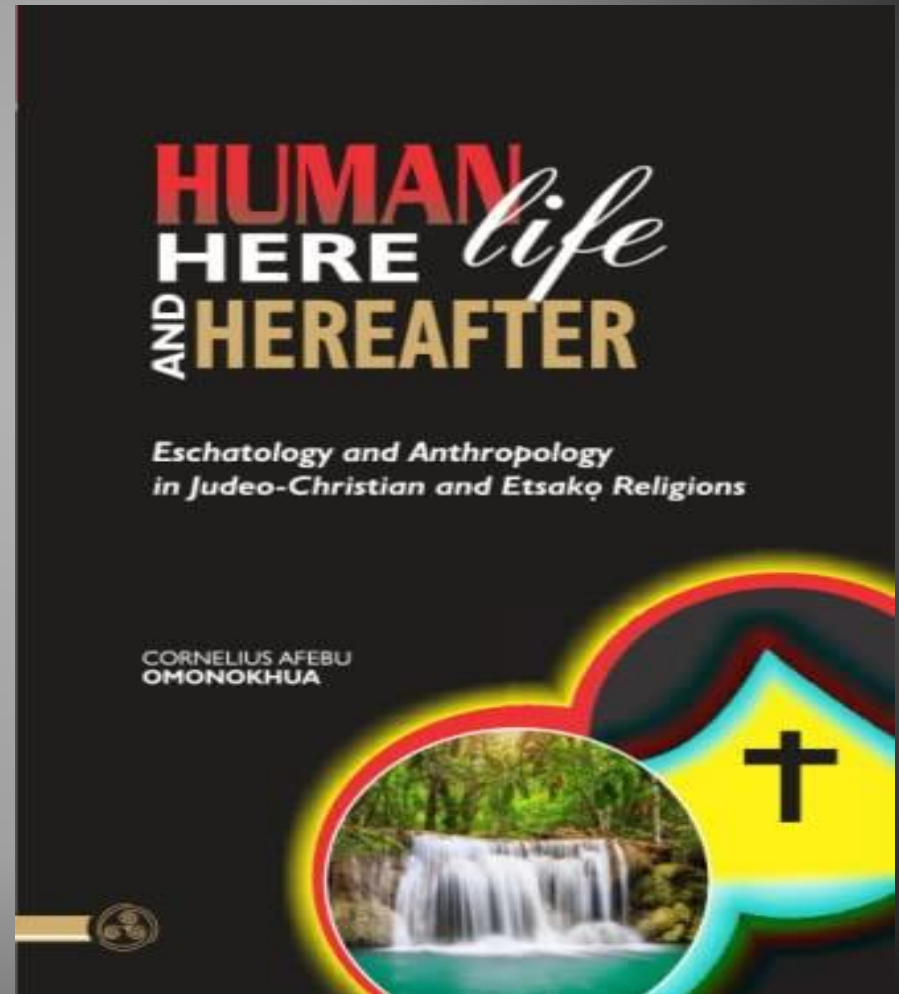
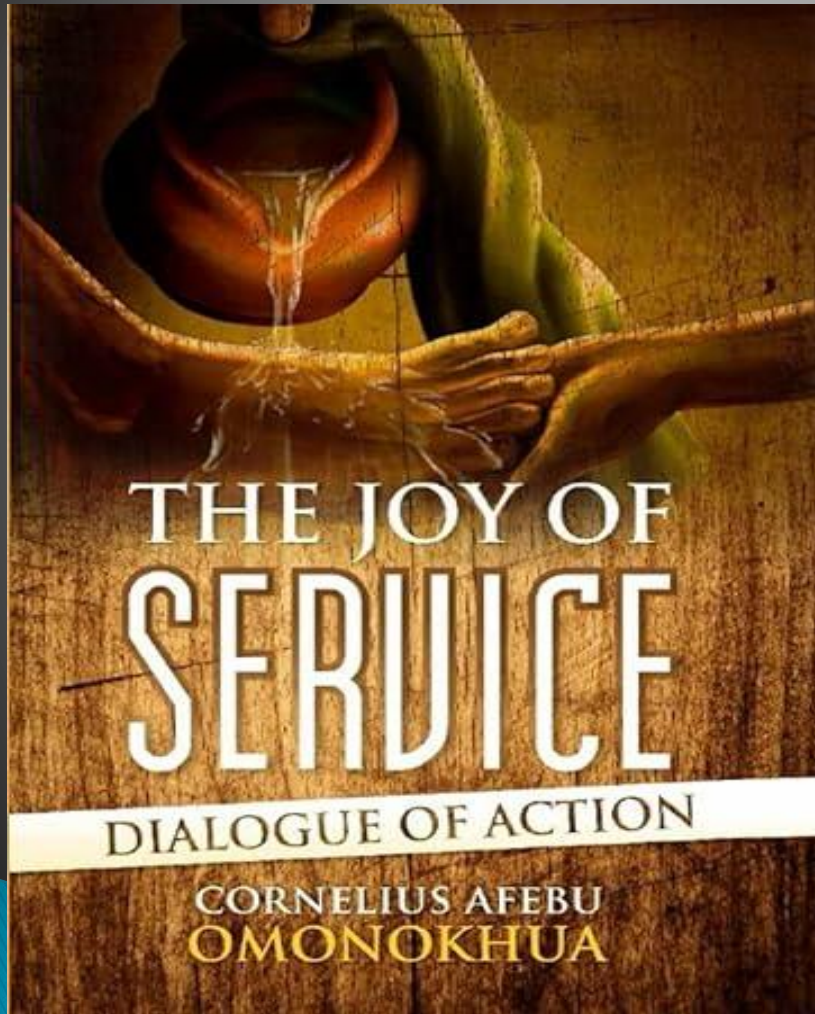


The book, "*Son of Hamas*" by Mosab Hassan Yousef, a gripping account of terror, reveals that there is something abnormal in the act of killing people in the name of religion or an ideology but the agents of death think that they are doing the right thing which for them is the zenith of faith. In dialogue, a partner with this level of faith does not compromise, because for him, it is either you accept his views or you forget it. This calls for a patient study of the family and cultural inheritance of a partner in dialogue.

To understand the human person, physical anthropology examines the features of the human body which often show relationships between different groups of people or races.

# ESCHATOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

## CORNELIUSS AFEBU OMONOKHUA



Cultural anthropology studies the life style of a people while social anthropology examines the way people live together in organized societies with their customs and rules.

ethnology focuses more on particular societies or distinct groups. This comparative study of cultures can assist those who are charged with the task of dialogue to enquire how people with different cultural background can live together in peace and harmony. The findings can also give some understanding about the character content and belief of a partner in dialogue in the struggle for a peaceful co-existence.

# DIALOGUE AND BLACK BOX THEORY

- ▶ If a person who is hiding your treasure is helping you to look for it, you can be sure that you may have an endless search in vain. Some people think that no one can have access to their hidden secrets. Hence they may be smiling at you while in the depth of their minds, they are thinking of how to eliminate you. Eg, Act 1, Scene 4 of William Shakespeare Macbeth and Duncan.



# MACBETH AND DUNCAN



KING MACBETH



MACBETH KILLING DUNCAN

# WHAT IS CONFLICT?



- ▶ Conflict is a disagreement between two parties whose objectives are perceived to be incompatible. It may appear neutral, natural and normal.



# LEVELS AND STAGES OF CONFLICTS

- ▶ **Intra personal conflict**
- ▶ **Intra group conflict**
- ▶ **Inter personal conflict**
- ▶ **Inter group conflict**

# CONFLICT ANALYSIS

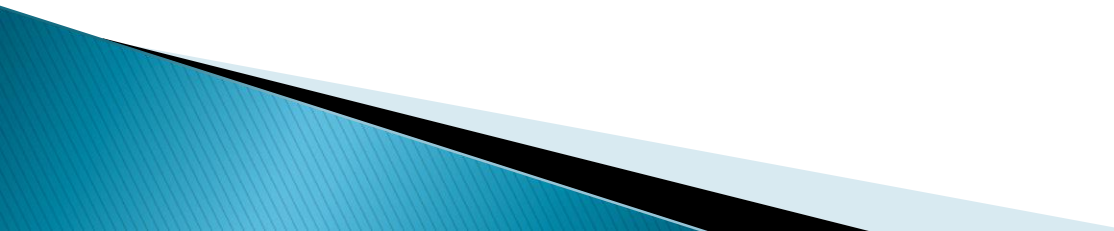
In conflict there are always several causes to a particular problem. This means that there could be several solutions and several options; so there is need to identify these options and choose a particular action.

- ▶ Identify the problem,
- ▶ diagnose the causes,
- ▶ choose a solution option,
- ▶ take a specific action and be committed to it.

# CONFLICT ANALYSIS CONDT.

- ▶ Let us identify the history of the problem and the conflict tree in Africa:.
- ▶ How do you analyse the present terrorist conflict in Africa?
- ▶ What is the history of banditry?
- ▶ Are terrorists and bandits partners in dialogue?

# CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

- ▶ The lay Christians and Muslims have a role in conflict transformation because they form part of government at all levels.
  - ▶ The village heads
  - ▶ traditional rulers
  - ▶ Local Government chairmen
  - ▶ State governors
  - ▶ They have to come together to analyze a prevailing conflict.
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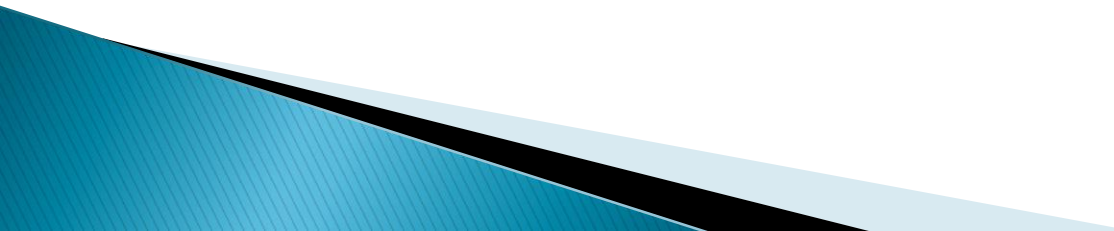
# WE CAN EXAMINE THE STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY AS FOLLOWS

**TOP LEVEL:  
THE  
AFFLUENCE**

**MIDDLE CLASS: NOT AS PROTECTED  
AS THE TOP LEVEL BUT THEY CAN  
BE INFLUENCED BY THE TOP**

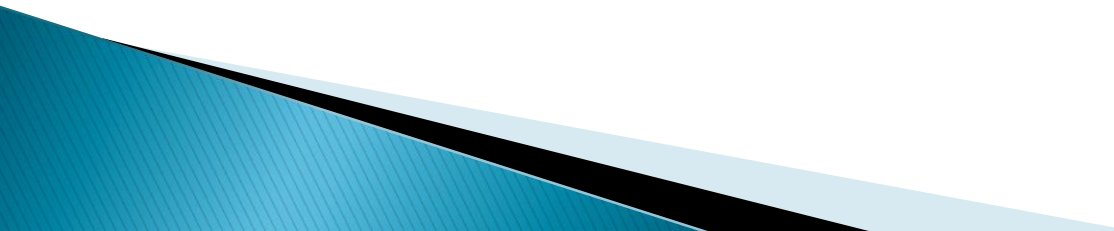
**BOTTOM CLASS: THEY ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE  
BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO PROTECTION**

Conflict transformation should start from the individual. The transformation of any society depends on the level of the positive change of attitude of each individual person. This actually should be the beginning of grass root transformation.





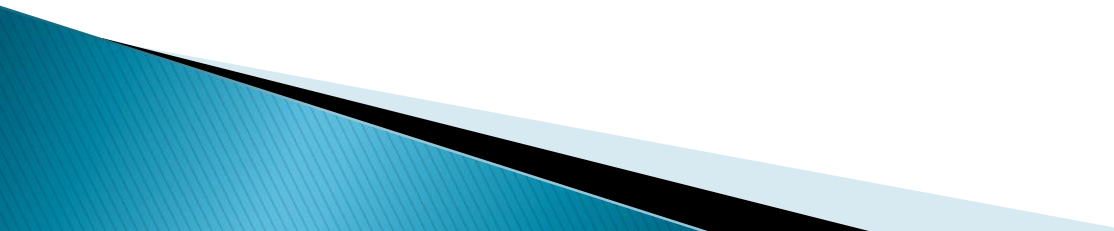
Every aggrieved person need help to reach a level of personal avowal with a genuine disposition to ask:

- “Who am I?
  - Where am I?
  - Where am I going to?
  - Why am I not happy with myself?
  - Why am I always conflicting with others?
  - What does life mean to me?
  - Who is God to me?
- 

- What is my mission on earth?
- What is my ultimate vision?

ONCE INDIVIDUALS HAVE PEACE WITHIN THEMSELVES, WE CAN THEN GUARANTEE A SOCIETY AND NATION ADORNED WITH PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

The next stage of conflict transformation is the harmony and relationship that should exist between the top level, middle class and grass roots. The tools for this relationship are service delivery and human rights. Those at the top level should be seen to be transparent in all the arms of governance: Executive, Legislative and judiciary.




# RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation includes healing of memory,
- **being at peace with self, God and neighbour.**
- We must not reduce ourselves to the level of causing violence.
- If you throw a stone into the market, the stone may hit your own mother:
- Reconciliation with self is psychological; it is the peace that the world can not give (*John 14, 27*).
- **Reconciliation with neighbour is liturgical (*Matthew 5, 23-25*) and**
- **Reconciliation with nature is ecological (*Psalms 85, 10*).**

# INGREDIENTS OF RECONCILIATION

## MERCY AND COMPASSION

- *WHAT IS MERCY IN ISLAM?*
- *WHAT IS MERCY IN CHRISTIANITY?*
- **CAN “MERCY” GET TRUTH, JUSTICE AND PEACE?**
- **MERCY** demands nothing. It is **unconditional**. It diffuses tension and prevents *an eye for an eye* syndrome.

- **Mercy** invites forgiveness; humility; graciousness.
  - Almost all religions call on the God of mercy and compassion.
  - There is no peace without justice. Let us give chance to others to open their hearts for us. Conflict has never brought success and progress to a person, community or nation.
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# CONCLUSION

- ▶ IT IS ONLY DIALOGUE THAT LEADS TO PEACE AND HAPPINESS. LET US TRANSFORM ALL OUR CONFLICTS AND MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

