

COMMUNITY PEACE CENTRE – PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. PROJECT TITLE: ‘Community Peace Centre’, KERALA, INDIA

**PROJECT NEED: Funds for Land and Building for the
‘Community Peace Centre’**

2. ORGANISATION SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL:

2.1. Full legal name and address of the organization:

Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP)

Door no: 41/1964, First floor

Piyolli road, Ernakulam north

Kochi- 682018, Kerala, India.

Phone : 91- 484- 2369433,235188

Email: culturalacademy@gmail.com

Web Address: www.culturalacademy.org

2.2. Contact person and title:

Mrs. Beena Sebastian

Chairperson,

Phone: (off) 91- 484- 2369433

2.3. Registered under

Travancore Cochin Literary Scientific and Societies Act 12 of 1955

Date of Registration: 2 May 2001

2.4 Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

Date of Registration: 19 November 1999

FCRA Number: 052850423

2.5 Introduction of Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP)

Cultural Academy for Peace, an NGO established in 1984 has been committed to the empowerment and rights of women and children. CAP envisions a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life, focusing on a culture of nonviolence, determined to be in solidarity with people struggling for Human Rights. CAP brings together women Peace activists educators and community leaders striving to raise consciousness and create a culture of peace and social justice in Asia especially in India. For women there is a continuous struggle for justice from womb to tomb because women are the victim of unjust structures in the family society and the work place. CAP helps women to support themselves by providing environment to come up from village councils to negotiation tables.

The rehabilitation centres of Santi bahvan and Sakhi run by CAP offer services to victimized women and children around the nation in spite of geographical territory and language. CAP owns the record of rehabilitating and repatriating distressed Women and children from various corners of the country especially victim of domestic violence.

Activities like legal aid, counselling, training programs, human right interventions, women peacemaking programs and initiatives, promotion of interfaith dialogues etc. are a part of its functional area. Also CAP serves as Mediation and conflict management training centre as well as a resource centre. Referral services are also offered by CAP in times of need.

CAP's working area extends from grass root to International level through various projects and initiatives in its effort to spread the message of active nonviolence and human rights and thereby creating a peaceful and just society where equal opportunity is given for the underprivileged and the poor.

Recognizing the activities in this field CAP has been declared as Service Provider under the Domestic Violence ACT 2005.

CAP has an Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities from different vocations – Psychologists, Doctors, Lawyers, Police officials, District Administrators, Sociologists, HRD Specialists, the representatives of the target group (victim) etc. Its administrative office is situated in the city of Cochin in the state of Kerala in South India.

2.6 Activities of CAP

- i. Sakhi (Friend) - a Women & Children Rehabilitation and crisis intervention centre.



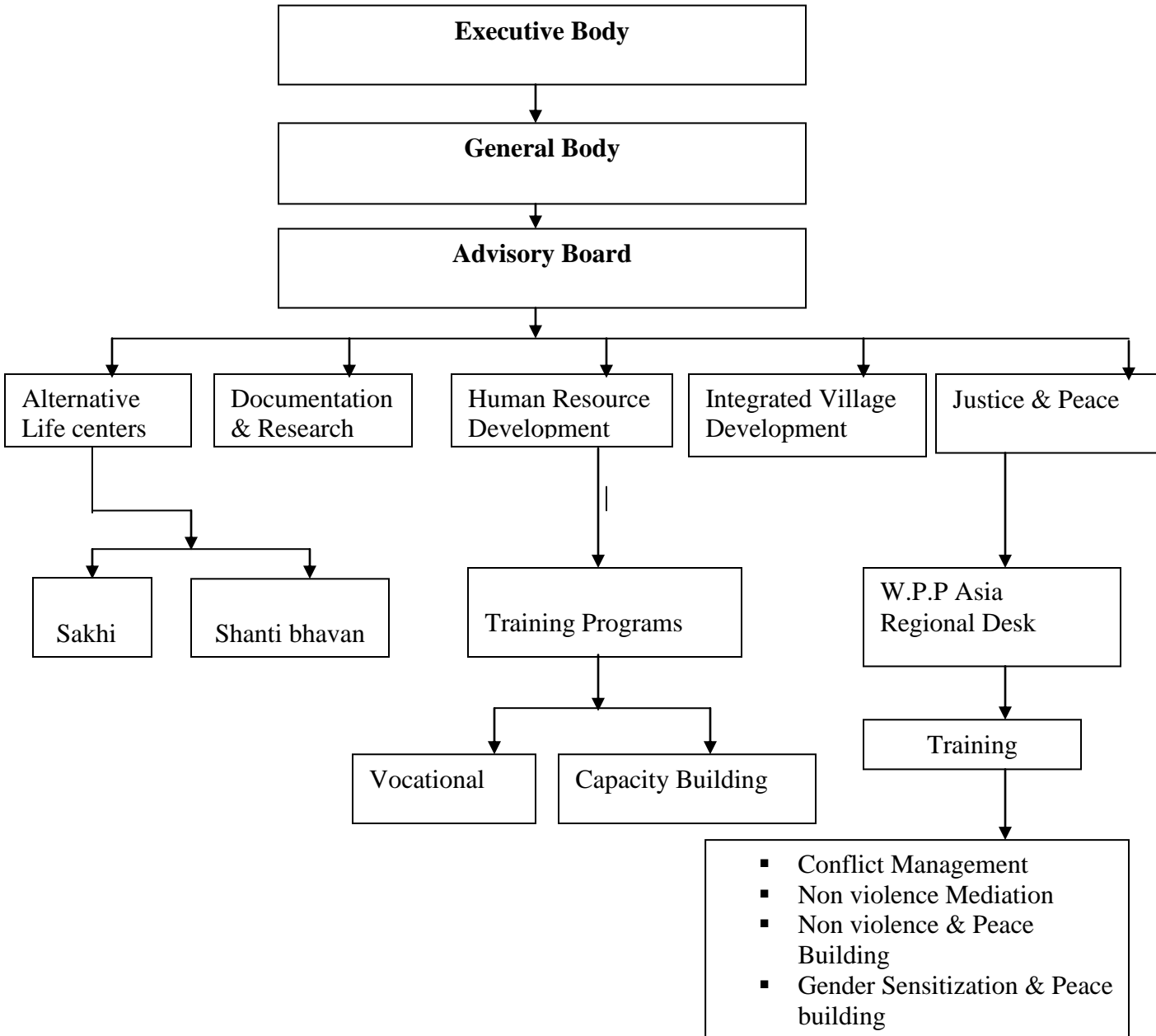
- ii. Partnership in Sexual Health (PSH) project, an AIDS awareness project run in association with Kerala State AIDS Control Society targeting 2 villages in the coastal region
- iii. Shanti Bhavan – Night shelter for women in association with the district corporation of Cochin – Government of Kerala, INDIA.
- iv. Gender sensitive active nonviolence training to various sections of society including Government officials, the Police force, lawyers, educationalists, religious groups, NGOs, grass root women and men etc.



- Non violent Conflict Management & Mediation Skill Training
 - Gender Sensitization & women Peace Building Initiatives and trainings
 - Vocational and life skill education for disadvantaged and victimized women and girls
- v. Sakhi – Counselling and mediation Centre And Legal Counselling centre
- vi. Information, Referral and networking Centre
- vii. Documentation & Research centre
- viii. Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP)
- Organizing training for women’s groups in active non violence, conflict resolution and reconciliation
 - Face to face contacts between women especially from enemy communities who are working for peace in conflict situations in order to exchange strategies and solidarity.
 - Promoting through consultation and publication, interfaith dialogue and reflection among women on religious role in conflict and conflict resolution.

- Publishing materials that document and analyse the successes and failures of women's efforts in reconciliation and peacemaking.
- ix. Peace and Justice Activities - CAP also functions as a regional centre for International Fellowship of Reconciliation and Women Peacemakers Programme. Under this head CAP has under taken various peace activities. Mediation and Conflict Management training and Gender Sensitization and Peace Building training are two specific and unique training programmes implemented as a initiative to create and sustain Peace, Democracy and Human Rights
- x. Integrated Village Development Programme (SPED II) : Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment and Decentralization Project focuses on the integrated village development through
- Gender Mainstreaming
 - Environment Consciousness Building
 - Capacity Building and Promoting Good Governance
 - Improving Health Status
 - Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives and Micro Enterprise
- xi. Targeted Response to Current Issues: In addition to its ongoing programmes, Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) supports peace and gender equality through targeted responses to current local and international issues. CAP has organized protests, media campaigns, and public education initiatives in response to issues pertaining to human rights, justice and conflicts.

2.7 Organisational Structure of CAP:



2.8 Finance and Management of CAP

The day to day running expenses of CAP is mobilized through individual sponsorship, fund raising charity shows and also local government support for certain projects. Project based programmes are funded by the respective partner organisations/ network groups with whom the programmes are organised. The accounting is done by the Accounts Officers as per standard norms of Government of India and the accounts are scrutinized and certified by a chartered accountant. The treasurer is responsible for the proper use of funds and the Executive committee will oversee the work of the treasurer. The audited statement of account is submitted to the Society Registrar – Government of India and also to the Ministry of Home affairs and Social Welfare Department, government of India. Bank Account has been opened in the joint name of Treasurer and the Chairperson.

2.9 Partner and Network Groups

- International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), Netherlands:
Women Peacemakers Programme, supported by the Dutch Ministry
- Swedish Ecumenical Women’s Group, Sweden
- National AIDS Control Society, India: Partnership in Sexual Health
- Deepam Education Society for Health (DESH) Chennai, India: DESH Reproductive Child Health Project
- Save a Family Plan India & Canada: CIDA Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment, and Decentralization (SPED II)
- Sakhi Crisis Intervention Centre and Sakhi Counselling Centre
- Cochin Corporation: Shanti Bhavan Crisis Intervention Centre - Government of Kerala

- Social Welfare Board - Government of Kerala

2.10 Other Social Involvements

- ❖ CAP functions as the Gender Consultant for several governmental and non-governmental organisations.
- ❖ CAP hosts the International Fellowship of Reconciliation Women’s Peacemakers Programme (IFOR WPP) Asian Regional Desk
- ❖ CAP is an official service provider under the ‘Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, India’.
- ❖ CAP Chairperson was awarded the “1000 WOMEN FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2005” – A global initiative by the Switzerland government parliamentarians recognising the initiative and contributions of women in peace building. (www.1000peacewomen.org)
- ❖ CAP Chairperson was Nominated for the ‘NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2005’ as one of the “1000 WOMEN FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2005”
- ❖ CAP Chairperson was awarded the ‘SPIRIT OF ASSISI NATIONAL AWARD 2008’ by the ‘Franciscan Centre for Peace and Dialogue’ for ‘her tireless work among the women victims of violence both in the public sphere and in the private domain.’

2.11 Cultural Academy for Peace was represented at:

- United Nations World Conference in Beijing, China (1995)
- United Nations World Conference Beijing +5 in New York (2000)
- United Nations World Conference Beijing +10 in New York (2005)
- The United Nations Special Programme on Women and Culture of Non-Violence and Peace, Vietnam

2.12 CAP is a member of:

- The [Kerala] State Planning Committee Board.
- The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) - Women's Peace Makers Programme Asia Regional Desk board.
- Southern Regional Board member – Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSS India)
- Ernakulam District Police Committee on Prevention of Atrocities against Women, Government of Kerala, INDIA.
- Anti Corruption Committee – Revenue Department of Ernakulam District Government of Kerala, INDIA.
- Founder member of the Indo Tibetan Forum for Human Rights Kerala, INDIA
- The District Level Monitoring Committee to enforce the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act of 1995.

2.13 About the Chairperson

Beena Sebastian was born and brought up in an ecumenical community (Ashram) started with an objective to build a just society promoting a culture of peace justice and non violence. This is where she got her motivation to dedicate her life to the cause of spreading the message and spirit of peace and non violence. She got her inspiration from her parents Acharya K.K. Chandy and Mary Chandy, (one of the founding members of the Ashram) who committed their life to the ashram to build a just society where human relationships, values and human rights are nurtured and promoted. They were also the founding members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation India (FOR India).

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 CONCEPT OVERVIEW

The Asian sub continent is known for its diverse identity in the form of geographic differences, availability of natural resources, races, religion, cultures, economies, politics, etc. Deprivation and exploitation of these diversities are the natural fallouts which provoke revolt and retaliation, which assume disastrous forms of violence. The history of Asia is marked with a variety of conflicts based on these diversities of the region which continue to reign even today – the recent terrorist attacks in India (multiple bombings in Mumbai, Bangalore, etc.), Pakistan (on the Sri Lankan cricket team), military tension in the Kashmir valley, the conflicts between the LTTE and Srilankan government, the communal riots in Assam, the religious conflicts in Kerala and Gujarat (Muslim and Hindu fundamentalists), the attacks and killing of Christians in Orisa and other parts of India, the brutal attack on young girls in pubs at Mangalore and Bangalore – all within the span of a year ! Communal conflicts especially in the southern parts have been commonplace since a very long time in history. Due to the emerging global commercialization and growing corporate sector, the agricultural farmers are given a back seat (considering that over 70% of India is farming). The economic struggles are cause for high suicide rates among farmers.

3.2 PROBLEM AND JUSTIFICATION

These conflicts have manifested themselves in extremely brutal and violent ways impacting ordinary civilians. The battlefields in these circumstances are not distant borders but primarily civilian areas: homes, markets, schools,

farms etc. And the repercussions leading to poverty, hunger, physical and mental traumas, leaving several widowed or orphaned. There are a very large number of organizations catering to the needs of the likes. However, the foremost outcome of such conflicts is the lack of an environment of peace and harmony. The concept of a ‘Community Peace Centre’ has evolved to cater to this need. Peace activists associated with the Cultural Academy for Peace have identified the establishment of such a ‘Community Peace Centre’ as an immediate need, in these parts of the globe inflicted with violence and conflicts, for which all here are working very hard.

We hope to establish the ‘Community Peace Centre’ where we can host our nonviolence education programs, peace initiatives and gender sensitization programs and also could offer space for peace activities to come together for rejuvenation across the borders. This centre would be a common, international platform for inter group dialogues, bringing people from both sides of conflicting areas together. This can be a centre for people to spend some quiet time or meditation. Such learnings and sharing could be disseminated through the Gurukula system. The Gurukulas were forest schools of ancient India, the seats of culture and learning where students and scholars from countries like China, Tibet, Japan and Sri Lanka came for study and research. We hope to revive the Gurukula system through the Community Peace Centre, offering a serene atmosphere, close to nature and an ecological setting.

3.3 TARGET POPULATION

The Centre will be a resource centre for community members in search of information, social services, or a peaceful place to meditate. In addition to

serving the local community, the Peace Centre will be a gathering place and resource centre for international peace activists, scholars, volunteers, and other guests. Visiting local and international peace activists will build their capacity through the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and skills. Youth volunteer programmes at the Centre will provide young people with a powerful service experience and the opportunity to learn about peace and reconciliation, active nonviolence, Gandhian philosophy and Gurukula system of learning.

3.4 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) is located in Kerala, a small state situated to the extreme southwest of the Indian peninsula. Flanked by the

Arabian Sea to the west and the

Western Ghats

mountain range to

the east, Kerala has

a moderate tropical

climate and a

coastline that

stretches for 580

kilometres. At 819

persons per square

kilometre, Kerala's

population density is

three times the

national average, with the highest concentration in coastal areas. The three



primary religious groups in Kerala are Hindus, Christians, and Muslims. Kerala is predominantly an agrarian economy.

CAP has selected Kochi, Kerala as its current location and site of the proposed Community Peace Centre for numerous reasons, including the region's pronounced socioeconomic need, vulnerability of women, and ideal geographic location. Although Kerala has enjoyed notable gains in the areas of education, health, and communal harmony, the state continues to struggle with a variety of social problems. At three times the national average, Kerala's suicide rate is among the highest in India. In addition, Kerala is plagued by the highest per capita rate of alcohol consumption in the country as well as alarming rates of drug abuse.

In addition to the demonstrated need for CAP's services in Kochi, the city is a fitting setting for the Community Peace Centre because of its ideal geographic location (local, national and international accessibility), availability of social services, and strong network of CAP affiliates. As the map indicates, Kochi is situated in the central region of Kerala, making it accessible from all parts of the state. In addition, Kochi is home to one of the state's two international airports as well as numerous train and bus facilities. Thus, the Peace Centre will be able to effectively serve both the local and international community from its proposed base in Kochi, Kerala. Also, Kochi's medical and legal facilities include a number of government and private hospitals that provide free or subsidized services, a family court, Kerala High Court, and a vigilant women's police force. Finally, CAP has been operating in Kochi for the past fifteen years. During this time, CAP has built a strong network of supportive individuals and organizations and

has developed a positive reputation in the community. These factors will ensure that CAP's efforts to improve upon and expand its services through the Peace Centre will be successful.

4. PROJECT PLAN

4.1 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Community Peace Centre will allow Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) to strengthen its existing programmes while pursuing additional initiatives. The objectives and activities described below are meant to supplement CAP's current services, rather than to replace them. The Community Peace Centre will enable CAP to expand its objectives and activities to include the following:

- To enhance CAP's organisational functioning by housing services, administrative staff, and project staff at one central location.
- To house a 'Peace and Non-violence Study Centre' which would be a resource centre and training institute for nonviolence, peacebuilding and mediation
- To host platforms for networking of National and international peace groups to come together for discussions and mediation.
- To provide a retreat and resource centre for local and international peace activists, scholars, and volunteers.
- To provide a safe haven for women and children in distress and a refuge for community members in search of information, social services, or a peaceful place to meditate.

- To provide on-site non violence and mediation training, awareness generation and capacity building programmes through the Gurukula form of education.
- To organize youth volunteer programmes that provide young people with a powerful service experience and the opportunity to learn about peace and reconciliation, active nonviolence, and Gandhian philosophy.

4.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL SPACE

The Community Peace Centre will house Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) programmes in a peaceful and natural environment away from the main city. The Peace Centre grounds will provide a soothing respite from the stress of daily city life. The layout and structures would be built using environmentally friendly concepts and materials.

The main building will accommodate:

- Public gathering spaces
- Programme offices
- Resource centre / library
- Meditation area
- Conference rooms
- Confidential counselling quarters

The property will also include:

- A guest hostel - for groups attending trainings and special events
- Accommodation for visiting peace activists (national and international)
- Dining rooms with kitchen and pantry facility

- The surrounding grounds will be covered with trees and space for flower and vegetable gardens where visitors and residents can relax.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The project possesses no serious or minor threat to the bio diversity of the area except for the place where the building is to be set up. The building itself is to be eco friendly with a built in rainwater harvesting system. The water resources will also be utilized from the harvesting system and will not cause any damage to the water tables in the area. The premises will be a plastic free zone. Also a self sustained waste management system would be set up.

4.4 PROJECTED BUDGET

Since this is the first step towards the setting up of the peace centre, the primary requirement is now to obtain the physical infrastructure in the form of land and building at Kochi, Kerala INDIA. The following is a breakup of the estimated cost in the Indian Rupees and in Euro at the prevailing rates.

	In INR (Rs.)	In Euro
Land		
30 cents @ Rs. 100,000 per cent	30,00,000	46153
Building costs	15,00,000	23077
TOTAL	45,00,000	69230

We anticipate obtaining the remaining funding from other resources locally and other funding agencies.

4.5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Secure funding through public and private grants, donations, and loans.
- Purchase land in Kochi, Kerala with access to public transportation facilities and social service agencies.
- Obtain all required government permits.
- Retain architect and construction contractor to plan and execute development.
- Complete infrastructure development at the shortest possible time with minimal cost and most efficient and effective architecture in an eco friendly, self sustained manner.

4.6 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The experienced and qualified members of CAP's Executive body and General Body will continue to govern and manage the Community Peace Centre as per legal requirements to set up such an institution.

The operations and functioning of the centre would be carried out through participatory methods.

4.7 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In order to ensure the sustainability of the project the plan is to:

- Seek local and central Government support
- Mobilize Local, National and International Resources
- Avail Volunteer's help

- Ensure the involvement of the community members
- Raise local fund through charity shows, exhibition, sales etc
- Avail the existing resources from Governmental and Non Governmental sectors.

5. CONCLUSION

Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) has advocated tirelessly for peace and gender equality on the local, national, and international levels. The proposed Community Peace Centre will allow CAP to build upon its current services by providing safe housing, social services, a resource centre, and training facilities to women and children, local and international community members, activists, students, and scholars. Kochi is the proposed site of the Community Peace Centre due to its ideal geographic location and the pronounced need for CAP's services. CAP's reputation in the community and strong network of supporters and affiliated organizations will ensure the Peace Centre's ultimate success. CAP is in need of financial support at this time in order to realize its potential and make the Community Peace Centre a reality.