



Umtapo Centre

Mobilising schools and communities in the struggle for true freedom and justice

Paying particular attention to women and youth, Umtapo is engaged in the struggle for justice and peace in historically disadvantaged communities of KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Eastern and Western Cape. The organisation was originally established as an NGO in 1986 to address the rise of internecine violence within the black community.

Transformation, empowerment and social activism underpin its three core organisational processes of conscientisation, mobilisation and advocacy.

Conscientisation or critical awareness-raising incorporates participatory training courses, materials development, awareness raising workshops and public seminars.

Mobilisation takes place through the establishment of Peace Clubs of which there are 350 predominantly at secondary schools, Children's Peace & Empowerment Forums of which there are 53 based at primary schools, Tertiary Peace Forums at universities and Ubuntu Community Forums. Prior to new clubs being established, camps are provided that help representative scholars understand the meaning of peacefulness and the contributory factors resulting in peacefulness. It is then decided what is relevant to that particular school and the broader community. Clubs and forums have internally appointed office bearers who report to an educator liaison.

Peace Club members usually achieve an average pass rate that is around 20% higher than that of the national average. The Department of Education in the Eastern Cape has adopted and covers the cost of the programme at all of its schools. Peace Clubs have been instrumental in mobilising members to act in various ways to deal with challenging circumstances they are faced with.

Advocacy/lobbying is achieved through building partnerships and networking locally and abroad.

In the past year, Umtapo has supported 1200 beneficiaries aged 10 to 60 and continues with its valuable work in participatory development.



UMTAPO CENTRE

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