

MATPED

This is an anti-violence project in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe and is supported by Milton Keynes Quaker meeting.

Violence is endemic in Zimbabwe, but many people lack conflict resolution skills and a conscious commitment to build peace in their personal relations and in wider society. Peace Clubs in schools teach these skills at an early age, they influence whole school cultures and offer a different vision to many young people.

Rather than using external AVP facilitators the project will train local teachers in five schools to run the Peace Clubs themselves and to commit to building more peaceful schools by working across the whole school with senior school leadership and with other staff.

The project has run two teacher induction days, which have also been attended by officials from the local district education office. The induction sessions and the free materials and resources provided the teachers with essential practical skills and much greater confidence to implement a program of peace-building in their schools with pupils and colleagues. All the teachers were refunded their travel costs from the project budget and were provided with breakfast on arrival and lunch during the day.

Contact has also been made with a local MP who is also a deputy Minister for Education, the Honourable Mr Edgar Moyo, MP for Matopo North, with the hope of promoting the impact and benefits of the project and the AVP approach.

