

# Re-Imagining New Communities

## Children-Led Community Peace Labs



## The Child Peacebuilder Guide

### 10 Pillars for Practicing Peace

A Practical Framework for Children



Developed by Re-Imagining New Communities. Inspired by children participating in Children-Led Community Peace Labs ( CLCP-Labs).

by  
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*A practical guide inspired by children practicing peace in everyday life.*

## QUALITIES OF A GOOD PEACE BUILDER



Artwork by Abigael Wairimu, 11-year-old, member of CLCP-Labs. The artwork was first presented at the Dallaire Institute Global Conference on "Advancing Children's Roles in Peace Processes and the Vancouver Principles 2025.

# INTRODUCTION

Think about it. Whenever you type the term “Peace Processes” into a search engine, what appears are images of high-level negotiations in conference halls, policy forums, diplomatic roundtables and often military presence in fragile contexts. This is not accidental; these images reflect how peace is commonly framed and understood in global discourse. Peace is often portrayed as elite, institutional and distant from everyday life.

Yet in the everyday life of a schoolyard, a church/ temple/ shrine/ mosque, or a neighborhood, children are already practicing peace in ways that are immediate, relational and deeply transformative. When a child says “I will help you,” “I am sorry,” or “Come, let’s do this together,” they are not merely behaving well, they are exercising leadership. These acts by children remind the global community that peace is not abstract. It is built in daily interactions, small choices, and shared responsibility.

Re-Imagining New Communities advances this same conviction that sustainable peace must begin at the community level and must be child-centered and inclusive. Through the CLCP-Labs, the organization equips children and educators not only with conflict resolution skills, but with agency — the confidence to listen deeply, include others, apologize courageously, celebrate differences, and lead constructive dialogue.

This guide affirms a simple but powerful message- that children are not only future peacebuilders- they are peacebuilders now.

# **ABOUT RE-IMAGINING NEW COMMUNITIES**

Re-Imagining New Communities is an inclusive and values-driven peacebuilding organization based in Kenya dedicated to promoting peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and constructive dialogue within communities. The organization works from the belief that sustainable peace must be community-driven and must begin with children, while being strengthened through families, educators, and faith leaders.

Guided by the values of inclusivity, empowerment, respect, and collaboration, Re-Imagining New Communities develops practical interventions that equip individuals and communities with the skills and confidence to address conflicts constructively.

One of the organization's interventions is the CLCP-Labs, a program that empowers children in schools and community spaces to practice peacebuilding in their everyday lives. Through dialogue, creative expression, peer support, and leadership opportunities, children learn to listen, collaborate, resolve conflicts, and contribute positively to their communities.

Since its establishment in 2021, the organization has worked with children, educators, parents, and community leaders across multiple counties in Kenya, fostering environments where young people can actively participate in shaping more peaceful and inclusive societies.

# ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The Child Peacebuilder Framework draws from the reflections, experiences, and creative expressions of children who participate in the Peace Labs. Particularly, the framework was directly inspired by **Abigael Wairimu's** drawing (on page 1) on the qualities of a peacebuilder that she presented during the Dallaire Institute's Children Peace and Security Conference 2025. Her drawing highlights how everyday actions such as listening, helping others, apologizing and working together form the foundation of peaceful relationships.

The framework identifies 10 essential pillars of a peacebuilder that children can practice in their daily lives. These pillars are nurtured through the 4A learning cycle — Awareness, Attitude, Action, and Accountability — which encourages children to recognize situations of conflict, reflect on their responses, practice constructive behaviors and take responsibility for building respectful and inclusive environments in their schools, families, and communities.

At its core, the Framework affirms that when children are given meaningful space to learn, lead and collaborate, they become powerful agents of positive change within their communities.

## ***Using the Guide in Schools and Communities...***

This guide can be used by teachers and facilitators working with children to introduce children to the principles of peaceful living. Each quality can be explored through discussions, creative activities, storytelling and reflection exercises. Groups may choose to explore one quality each week, encouraging children to practice the lessons in everyday interactions. The guide is used alongside a facilitator manual and participant workbook.

# 10 PILLARS FOR PRACTICING PEACE

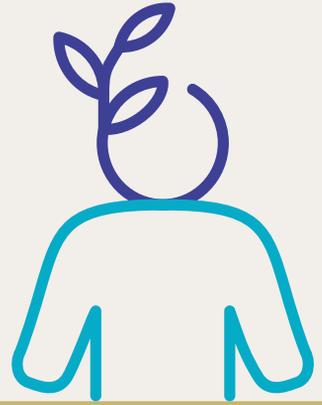
The Child Peacebuilder Framework is practiced through the 10 × 4A method shown below. The framework identifies 10 pillars of peacebuilding and each pillar is practiced through four steps: Awareness, Attitude, Action, and Accountability.

The pillars build on one another, beginning with personal awareness and values, and gradually expanding to cooperation, creativity, and leadership in the community. While the pillars are presented in sequence, teachers and facilitators may focus on different pillars depending on the needs and situations in their classrooms.

The framework is designed primarily for children aged 8–17, but many of the practices can be introduced earlier through simple reflection and guided activities.



## PILLAR 1: MINDFULNESS



<b>Awareness</b>	Peacebuilders notice their feelings and pay attention to others before reacting.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to stay calm and thoughtful.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I pause before reacting.</li><li>• I listen before responding.</li><li>• I breathe and stay calm during disagreements.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: What can I learn from what happened?

### **Key Lesson:**

Mindfulness helps children pause, listen, and respond thoughtfully rather than reacting impulsively during conflict.

## PILLAR 2: GRATITUDE



<b>Awareness</b>	People cooperate more easily when they feel appreciated.
<b>Attitude</b>	"I choose to notice and value the good in others."
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Say thank you.</li><li>• Recognize effort.</li><li>• Appreciate when someone helps.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did I appreciate someone today?

### **Key Lesson:**

Practicing gratitude strengthens positive relationships and encourages children to recognize the contributions of others.

# PILLAR 3: CURIOSITY



<b>Awareness</b>	People often see situations differently and conflicts can happen when perspectives are not understood.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to stay curious and try to understand others.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask questions to understand both sides of a disagreement.</li><li>• Explore different ways to solve a problem together.</li><li>• Show interest in others’ ideas and viewpoints.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did I try to understand the situation before reacting?

## **Key Lesson:**

Curiosity encourages children to explore different perspectives and seek understanding before responding, preventing misunderstandings, and supporting constructive dialogue.

## PILLAR 4: RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

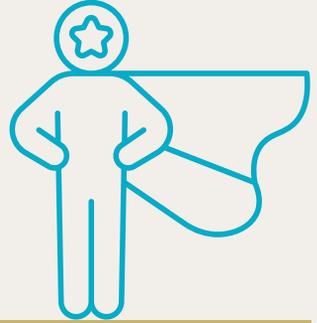


<b>Awareness</b>	Words can heal or hurt.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to speak and listen with respect.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use polite language.</li><li>• Listen fully when others are speaking.</li><li>• Avoid insults or hurtful words.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did my words help or hurt someone today?

### Key Lesson:

Respectful communication allows children to express ideas, listen to others, and address disagreements without harm.

## PILLAR 5: COURAGE



<b>Awareness</b>	Silence protects harm.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I can be afraid and still choose to do what is right.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speak up when someone is treated unfairly.</li><li>• Stand against bullying.</li><li>• Apologize when I make a mistake.</li><li>• Share my thoughts respectfully.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did I stand up for someone’s dignity today?

### Key Lesson:

Peacebuilding requires moral courage to speak up, defend fairness and challenge harmful behavior respectfully.

## PILLAR 6: TEAMWORK

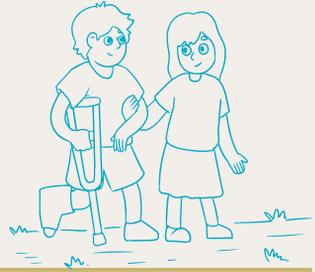


<b>Awareness</b>	Peace challenges are easier to solve when people work together.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to cooperate and include others.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work in groups.</li><li>• Invite quieter individuals to participate.</li><li>• Share leadership roles.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Who didn't get a chance to contribute today?

### **Key Lesson:**

When children solve problems collectively rather than individually, there are stronger reconciliation outcomes.

## PILLAR 7: HELPING EACH OTHER



<b>Awareness</b>	Small problems can grow when no one offers help.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to care for and support others.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help peers who are hurt or upset.</li><li>• Share materials when someone needs them.</li><li>• Check on classmates who seem lonely.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Who felt supported because of me, today?

### **Key Lesson:**

Mutual support encourages children to care for one another and respond constructively when challenges arise.

## PILLAR 8: CELEBRATING EACH OTHER



<b>Awareness</b>	Peace grows where people feel valued.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I choose to celebrate and appreciate others.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clap for effort.</li><li>• Celebrate when someone apologizes.</li><li>• Recognize courage and kindness.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did anyone feel invisible today?

### **Key Lesson:**

Recognizing and celebrating others builds trust, strengthens belonging and promotes cooperation.

## PILLAR 9: CREATIVITY



<b>Awareness</b>	Conflicts often repeat when people cannot imagine new solutions.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I believe I can think of peaceful solutions.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw possible solutions to a problem.</li><li>• Act out peaceful responses through role-play.</li><li>• Create stories that show peaceful ways to resolve conflict.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did my idea help reduce harm or improve the situation?

### Key Lesson:

Creative expression enables children to imagine peaceful solutions and transform difficult experiences into constructive dialogue.

## PILLAR 10: CHILD LEADERSHIP

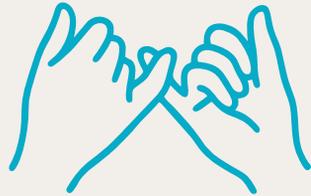


<b>Awareness</b>	Children often understand aspects of conflict that adults may overlook.
<b>Attitude</b>	“I believe my voice and ideas can contribute to positive change.”
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead peace lab activities.</li><li>• Speak respectfully in school meetings and other appropriate gatherings.</li><li>• Suggest solutions to improve relationships and resolve conflicts.</li></ul>
<b>Accountability</b>	Ask: Did I use my voice to help improve the situation?

### **Key Lesson:**

Re-Imagining New Communities recognizes children as active contributors to community decision-making.

**CHILD**  
**PEACEBUILDER**  
**PROMISE**



- I will help when someone is in need.
- I will listen before I answer.
- I will celebrate others.
- I will say sorry when I hurt someone.
- I will work with others.
- I will bring ideas.
- I will choose courage every day.

## **...AND THIS IS HOW PEACE BEGINS**

Did the 10 x 4A Guide help you rethink peace?

The everyday actions of children like helping a friend, apologizing sincerely, or inviting others to join, demonstrate that peace is both a discipline and a shared responsibility. These practices may appear small, but they shape cultures of trust, inclusion and accountability within communities as illustrated through the drawing.

The 10 × 4A Guide affirms children as active contributors whose moral clarity, creativity, and courage strengthen social cohesion from the ground up.

In its simplicity, this guide teaches us that if global peace architecture is to be credible and enduring, it must recognize, and elevate child-led peacebuilding as foundational.

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Faith and Helping Children Thrive Without Violence course \_  
Expression workshop Kenya



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