



A Testimonial from Kenya

© Written by Fred Witteveen and Georgina Veldhorst

In 2007 Kenyans were traumatized by post election violence. Many of the participants in the violence were unemployed youth. This is not the first time post election violence has occurred in Kenya. Kenyans still remember what occurred in 1992 and 1997.

In Kenya's Rift Valley tensions between ethnic communities have existed for decades. After the 2007 election a group of youth from the Reformed Church of East Africa aspired to create change. At their annual Christmas camp the youth leadership launched a peace movement. They engaged Georgina Veldhorst and Fred Witteveen, now located in Kenya, to train them in Deep Democracy. Last February 18 young people took basic DD training. They immediately began to use the tools in their work places, and in community and church meetings. They began to meet youth in other communities to talk about the need for peace. Two follow up trainings were provided in August. Together with Myrna, we tested a new video based DD curriculum and received feedback from the youth. Going forward we are partnering with the RCEA youth department to training 12 youth leaders to become certified DD instructors who will provide DD training to local committees.

What have been the results so far? Community leaders have noted increased engagement of youth within their communities. The youth are networking and collaborating with other local peace organizations. Two weeks after the August training the youth mobilized a peace march to Eldoret, a town that continues to simmer with unresolved post election tension. 1,000 youth participated. The decision to march was made using DD