

SPACE TO REIMAGINE

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR PROGRAMMES

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**ROSE CASTLE
FOUNDATION**

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WELCOME

Reconciliation means healing what is divided or broken. We live in a world defined more by divisions than shared responsibilities - yet there has never been more of an opportunity for communication across cultural, religious and communal borders.

At the Rose Castle Foundation, we celebrate the vital differences between our communities, while also encouraging shared responsibility for one another's wellbeing. We work specifically with people of different faiths and traditions whose backs are turned: who do not or cannot meet in their own context.

Our programmes enable face-to-face encounters between strangers, and even enemies, in a hospitable environment where socialising together is just as significant as trainings and practical workshops. Our programmes see negative stereotypes and misunderstanding give way to a re-humanising of the 'other'. Trust replaces suspicion. We support participants in identifying practical ways to serve their wider community in light of, rather than despite, their differences. In doing so, many discover that the flourishing of the other contributes to the flourishing of all.



We describe this transformation as moving those who are back to back, face to face - then turning outward, shoulder to shoulder, to serve the local and wider community. In doing so, we realise we have one another's back – looking out for each other instead of turning away. We intentionally look beyond tolerance – to resilient communities in which all can flourish. We work with people of all faiths and none, expanding an international network of reconcilers equipped to serve as catalysts of change and peacemakers in their communities. I warmly encourage you to join us in that vision.

CANON SARAH SNYDER, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

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OUR STORY

The roots of our global network of reconcilers lie in the grounds of an 800-year old castle in the borderlands between England and Scotland.

Rose Castle has witnessed over 800 years of conflict at the hands of changing political and religious allegiances and has played the role of both victim and perpetrator over centuries of border war. Today, Rose Castle is a landmark of exceptional hospitality, offering a unique space in which to reimagine and reconnect - with yourself, with others, and with the natural world.

Inspired by the castle's story, a journey from hostility to hospitality, Rose Castle Foundation was founded to accompany others on a similar journey, hosting programmes at Rose Castle and at other venues around the world where individuals and communities can come together across divides in order to reimagine and reconnect - with themselves, with one another, and with the environment.

Building on over 20 years of experience in the field, we have discovered that residential programmes are a vital tool for sustainable peace, cultivating hospitable relationships that aren't threatened by difference, committed to work for peace even in the most challenging circumstances. Where residential opportunities aren't possible, we offer unique virtual experiences that enable groups to build trust across divides and reimagine their role as reconcilers in a shared future together.

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THE PROBLEM

Global conflict and polarisation is growing year on year. Covid-19 has accelerated the deepening of divides.



Global peacefulness has declined 2.5 percent since 2008



More than 1/4 of the world's countries experience high incidences of hostilities motivated by religious hatred



The number of countries where religious groups are harassed by government or social groups is increasing year on year



25 million believers have been killed by anti-religious violence in the last 100 years



Terrorism and internal conflict have been the biggest contributors to the global deterioration in peacefulness



40% of all internal conflicts are due to exploitation of natural resources

Global Peace Index Report 2020; 2017 (https://visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_web.pdf); UN Environment Annual Report 2017 (web.unep.org); Pew Research 2016 (<https://pewrsr.ch/2Ko1yG5>)



It is vital to air our disagreements over public policy when the common good is ultimately being pursued. But when language deteriorates to an 'us' and 'them' war of words, we set ourselves on a potentially dangerous spiral. We stop seeing the 'other' as fellow human beings and instead build our own image of them, demonising them in the process.

Sarah Snyder

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OUR RESPONSE

A global network of reconcilers

Violence inspired by religious intolerance, fuelled by prejudice, misunderstanding and misrepresentation, is as much part of the 21st century as it has been for centuries. More than ever, public discourse needs to acknowledge the importance and increasing prevalence of religion at every level: local, national and international.

That's why we are committed to equipping individuals and communities, of all faiths and none, to promote the normalisation of religious diversity in public life through practicing the art of [disagreeing well](#).

To sustain this, we are mobilising a global network of leaders who are proactively contributing to sustainable peacebuilding efforts within their own spheres of influence, acting as catalysts for peace and reconciliation within their communities.

Where there is conflict, there is often a cry for change. We are equipping leaders to navigate conflict and disagreement in a way that fuels innovation and creative collaboration for the flourishing of all.



Over 84% people worldwide identify as religious. Religious communities have a vital role to play if global peace efforts are to be effective and sustainable.

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OUR APPROACH

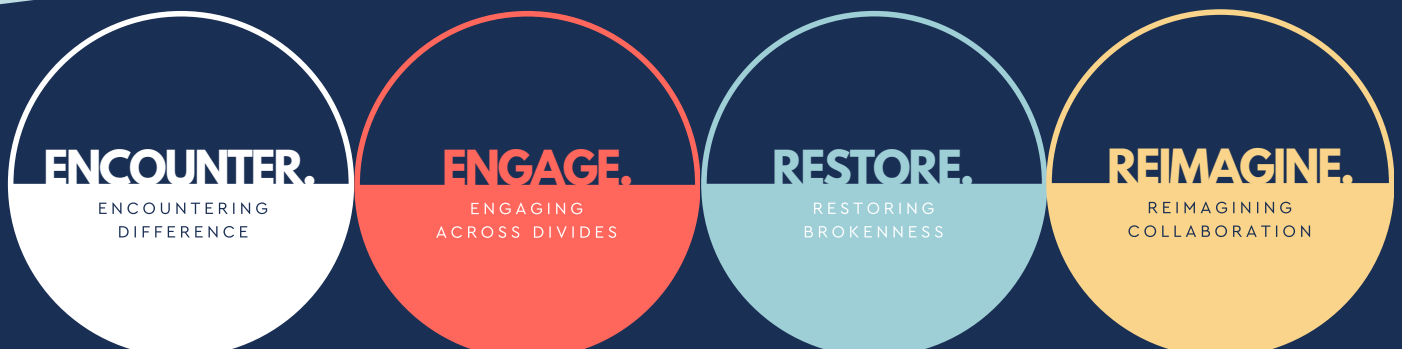
The journey to reconciliation

We accompany communities and individuals on a journey towards reconciliation, equipping them as proactive agents of reconciliation within their own contexts.

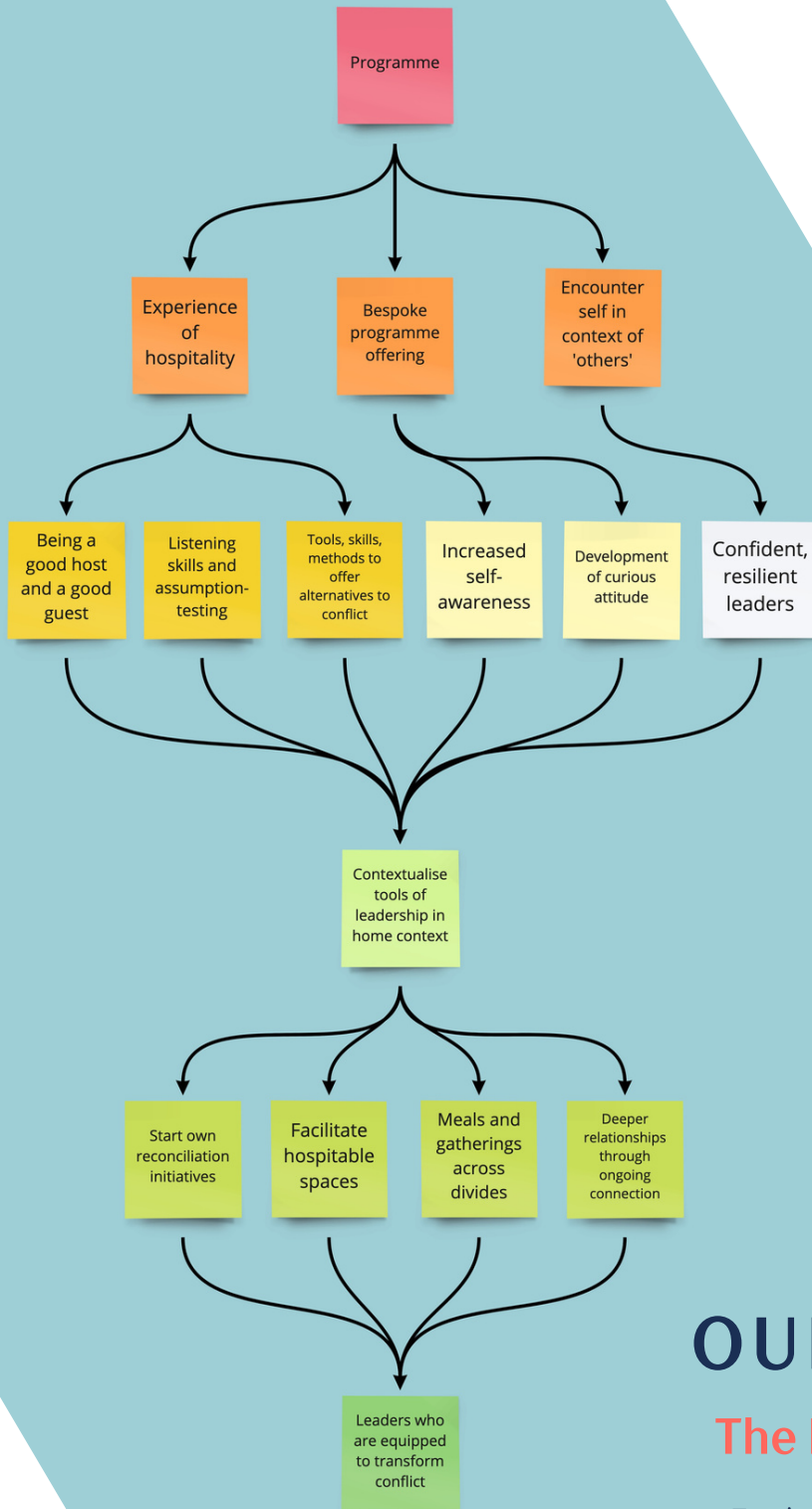
Our journey goes through 4 connected phases:

- 1 Encountering, those we do not know or understand
- 2 Engaging, with the differences that keep us apart
- 3 Restoring, brokenness within ourselves, with one another, and with the environment
- 4 Reimagining, our role as reconcilers in a shared future

Throughout all of these phases, we explore the 'habits of a reconciler' that encourage sustainable change through daily practices. The goal of every programme is to inspire groups to think beyond the status quo and reimagine their role in building a future where all can flourish. A crucial part of that journey is learning the art of disagreeing well.



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OUR PEDAGOGY

The RCF Theory of Change

Equipping leaders to transform conflict starts before the programme and ends long after it. In this graphic you can see a visual representation of our 'theory of change': how we lead participants on a journey to reconciliation, of which the programme is just the start.

OUR VALUES

At the heart of Rose Castle Foundation is a culture of welcome that accepts each person as they are, humbly and with respect.

Modelling deep to deep encounter across difference starts within our team, working as a diverse community that draws out the depths and differences of what each member brings into the space. This shapes the programmes we run and determines the attitude with which we approach our partnerships, inspiring a global network of leaders that reflect the values we're committed to living out each day:



Community

Built on trust, personal relationships and genuine care where each member grows freely and holistically.



Humility

An openness and curiosity towards brave encounters, learning in equal measure from our weaknesses and strengths.



Risk-taking

A spirit of initiative and innovation that respects differences and invites collaboration.



Integrity

A commitment to practice habits of reconciliation in our own contexts and to model a sustainable approach to the environment.



Reflection

A mindful approach to the rhythms and grounding nature of prayer or daily reflection, which roots us to our distinctive beliefs and values.



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THE RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

The importance of the residential is in the in between, at least as much as the content.

Residential programmes with RCF can happen anywhere. We can bring our team to your home context, or a location of your choice. We also have available for booking a range of venues across the UK, including in rural Cumbria, catering to groups of different sizes and needs. Rose Castle is currently available for bookings from Autumn 2021.

It's sitting around the meal table, where you have a sudden sense of belonging, with people who are really different to you, because you're all enjoying the same meal. It's joining in prayer times. It's having 'elephant in the room' conversations one on one, where you can ask people really challenging questions, because you're there in the same space, and it seems natural to do. It's relaxing in the company of people that you've not usually relaxed with, particularly those people who are literally the opposite to you and everything you hold dear. It's recognising that you can sit and have a cup of coffee, or listen to them play the piano, or watch a film, or go for a run.

The residential experience is living out the art of disagreeing well: discovering that it really is possible to live honestly and openly with people who may be very different to yourself. It is realising that the context of difference actual refines and deepens our own identity, making us all better versions of ourselves.



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THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Transforming conflict in the 21st century cannot be done only by meeting face-to-face.

Leadership now means committing ourselves to spreading positive behaviour online as infectiously as fake news. We think we've found a key – something we're calling digital hospitality.

Our virtual programmes and workshops are designed around the same principles that shape our residencies. Except they happen in our virtual Rose Castle.

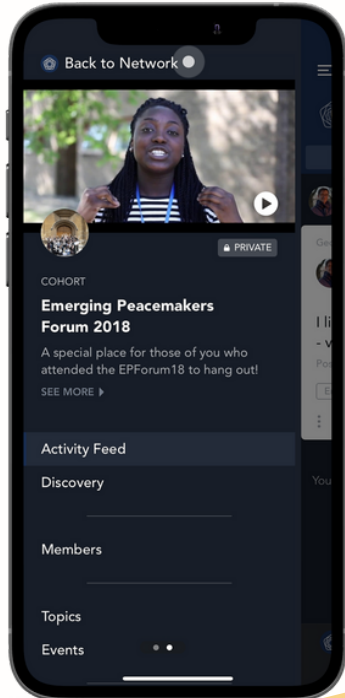
Facilitating interactive collaboration using a digital whiteboard tool called Miro, we focus on small group settings and breakout rooms, where participants feel more comfortable opening up, challenging one another, and sharing from their places of real difference in ways that you wouldn't do in an ordinary Zoom meeting.

Your programme could be entirely virtual, or be a mix of virtual and residential elements

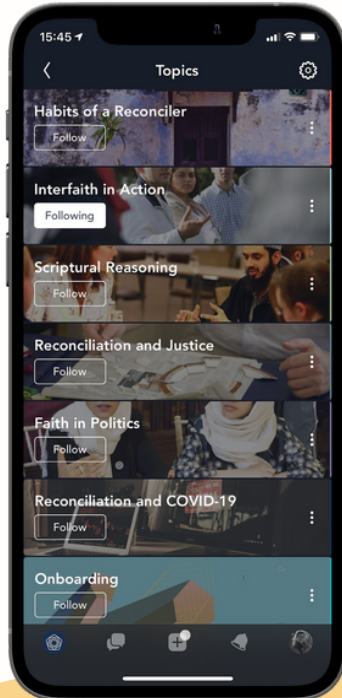


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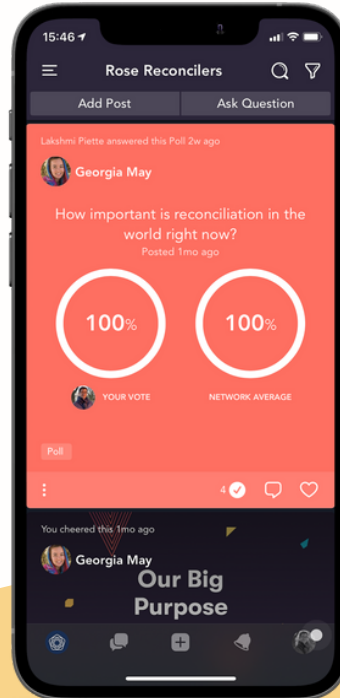
Cohort-only space



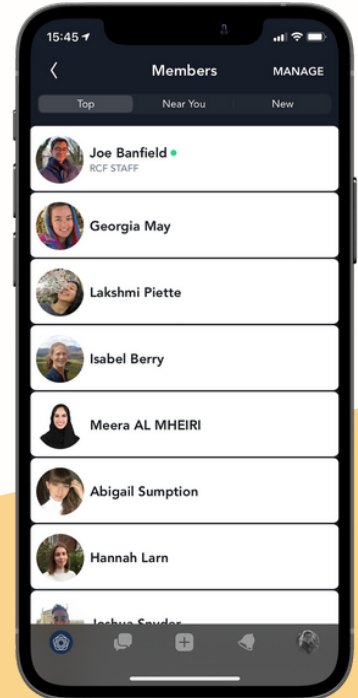
Regular events



Open conversations



Network directory



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Rose Reconcilers is the online community space where we host our alumni, facilitating connection across a truly global network of reconcilers.

We are mindful that a programme, whether virtual or residential, is only temporary. Sustainable peacebuilding, however, requires long-term thinking and resilient relationships. That's why we invite all participants in our programmes to join Rose Reconcilers, a community space accessible via a web platform, or an iPhone and Android app. Rose Reconcilers helps facilitate connections within our global network of reconcilers through cohort-only spaces, regular events, open conversations, a directory of all alumni, and access to the RCF staff team. The online space is integrated with our offline alumni support systems such as buddy pairing and regular reunions.

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OUR PARTNERS

We have formed partnerships and other collaborative relationships with universities and organisations across a wide range of contexts.

From Princeton to Islamabad, we have a sensitivity to culture and religion. Our deep to deep approach means that, while we aim for participants to experience different viewpoints, we are anthropologically sensitive. When we're working with different groups, we seek to cultivate people within their tradition.



DEV SANSKRITI
VISHWAVIDYALAYA

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CASE STUDY



Dean Alison Boden

At Princeton University, Alison Boden, Dean of the Office of Religious Life, had been noticing growing divides. Then, in October 2019, she brought a group of students to Cumbria in the UK for a programme facilitated by the Rose Castle Foundation.

“

It's been such a joy to work with Rose Castle Foundation. While they're giving instruction, they're also modelling what it means to be a reconciling agent, not just because there might be a need for reconciliation within the parties who are receiving the instruction, but because it's very clear that the whole of who they are has become so committed to the reconciling project, to training people to be agents of healing, for others, for the communities that are closest to them, to communities that will be further away. I know I've learned so much and ... I want to grow up to be just like you guys!

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YOUR JOURNEY

How can you connect with the Rose Castle Foundation?



PARTNER

To us, partnerships are about more than co-creating programmes and workshops - our partners are those with whom we build trusted relationships for the longer term. Our partnerships point of contact is Georgia May. You can reach her at

georgia.may@rosecastle.foundation



COLLABORATE

When it comes to potential collaborations, our doors are open. If you're interested in working with us, but have a vision outside of what we've outlined here, we want to hear from you. For collaborations, please contact Hannah Larn, via

contact@rosecastle.foundation



JOIN

Interested in peace and reconciliation? Want to join an active community of peace practitioners and thinkers? Our network is at the cutting edge of faith-based reconciliation worldwide. Sign up today and you'll be the first to hear about opportunities, resources, and other news from the field. Go to

www.rosecastle.com/rcf/join-today



DONATE

Donating to the Rose Castle Foundation will directly help deliver our mission to equip a global network of active reconcilers. Your support will have a transformative impact on the reach of RCF to those who need our help the most right now. Support us today at

www.rosecastle.com/rcf/support-rcf



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