ANNUAL REPORT
Working to overcome division and violence and promote the potential of young people in disadvantaged communities

www.fightforpeace.net
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MISSION STATEMENT

Fight for Peace uses boxing and martial arts combined with education and personal development to realise the potential of young people in communities affected by crime and violence.

N.B. This 2016 Annual Report summarises the activities of the Fight for Peace Group (Associação Luta pela Paz, Fight for Peace (UK) and Fight for Peace International) throughout 2016, including statistics and testimonies, which demonstrate the impact of the work done with young people around the world. Financial statements and annually audited accounts are available on request.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Despite challenges along the way, 2016 was a great year for Fight for Peace and one to remember for many reasons. Perhaps most notable, was the development of our partnership with the Olympic family via the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Brazilian Olympic Committee and the British Olympic Association and Team GB. This began with Fighting for Peace with an Olympic Spirit, a series of three short films made by the IOC about our work and three of our young people in Rio. A further three young people from Fight for Peace Brazil ran with the Olympic Torch, and Fight for Peace’s Paulo Ricardo was selected to receive the Olympic Cup from IOC President Thomas Bach at the closing ceremony of the 2016 Games. The IOC has been generously supporting one of our programmes since 2014 and it was an honour to further build this partnership.

During the Games, we held an event in partnership with the British Embassy and Consulate, and Team GB, at British House, a fitting venue for a speech from our beloved Ambassador and now two-time Olympic boxing champion, Nicola Adams OBE. In addition to Fight for Peace being an official charity of Team GB for the Games, the British Olympic Association partnered with us in 2016 for the implementation of a training course held at both our Rio and London Academies to help improve our coaches’ skill sets and develop internal pathways for our athletes into elite sport.

In April, Fight for Peace received the EMpower Champion of Youth Award from our long-term supporters and partners EMpower and it was an honour for me to accept the award in New York on behalf of our young people. In May, we hosted our first international conference, in partnership with UNESCO and supported by Globo and Biblioteca Parque, which included speakers from the USA, UK, Colombia, Brazil and elsewhere who shared experiences and discussed challenges and insights for the use of sport as a tool for violence reduction.

Thanks to the support of the IKEA Foundation, in 2016 we completed the pilot Special Scholarship Programme in Rio, helping young adults voluntarily leave a life of drug trafficking. 61% of participants completed the programme, 81% secured employment and 67% finished their primary and secondary schooling during the three-year process. In terms of recidivism, this is estimated to be three times more successful than prison in Brazil, and the project cost less per participant per month than a custodial sentence in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

After four years of fundraising and construction, our London Academy almost completed its £3million new-build and refurbishment, leaving us with only the hub and reception area to find a sponsor for. Huge thanks to funders including Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation, ICAP, Cabinet Office UK Government, Big Lottery Reaching Communities, Jack Petchey Foundation, Gerald Ronson Family Foundation, Fidelity Foundation, LandAid Charitable Trust, Leathersellers Company Charitable Trust, and John Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust.

With support from the IKEA Foundation and DFID, our Jamaica Safer Communities Incubator (SCI) team launched the Kick Out Crime and Violence programme in July, supporting our local partner organisations to work in one coordinated pilot programme for young people from six inner-city communities. In September, we signed an agreement with the Jamaican Ministry of National Security to collaborate and partner on youth inclusion and violence reduction programmes in Jamaica. We launched our second SCI office in November in Cape Town, South Africa, with big plans for 2017.

The UK Alumni Programme successfully delivered our alumni training course to local partner organisations from Derry-Londonderry, Belfast, Aberdeen, Southend and South-West England, while a Comic Relief funded external evaluation of our Global Alumni Programme highlighted its impact and innovation in training organisations in communities affected by crime and violence around the world.

After two years in the making, Red Rebel Films released a documentary about our work in Rio de Janeiro. Co-produced by Madonna and released by Journeyman Pictures, Fighting for Peace can be purchased on international iTunes and we screened the film in New York City and Los Angeles, in partnership with Credit Suisse and the LA Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development respectively. A big thank you to them and to our global partner Reebok for supporting the travel of the two young stars of the film, Douglas and Sugar, to be in New York for the screening. The year ended on a high with a visit to our London Academy from our Ambassador Nicola Adams, whose infectious smile did what it always does, and left the Academy buzzing!

On that note, may all of us here at Fight for Peace thank you for your friendship and support and for all you have done for us – without our friends and supporters, Fight for Peace would not be able to support the young people we serve.

Luke Dowdney MBE
Founder & Director
**2016 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Rio de Janeiro**

A total of 2,041 young people attended Fight for Peace in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, 41% of whom were girls; the highest percentage of female participation recorded in the history of Fight for Peace.

Highlights from Fight for Peace’s Five Pillars included:

**Boxing & Martial Arts:** The Open Access project benefitted a total of 1,918 young people through the following sports: boxing, capoeira, wrestling, judo, taekwondo, Brazilian jiu jitsu (BJJ) and muay thai.

2016 was an excellent year for the 402 competing athletes, with 338 medals won; 53% of these gold. The wrestling team was particularly successful, winning 91 medals.

Of Open Access participants surveyed:

- 92% feel more confident about themselves
- 78% are more engaged in their studies

**Education:** 67 young people participated in Pathways, a programme for young people who have been out of the school system for two or more years; 53 children participated in Learning Support classes. In all, 120 people attended the Education programme, benefiting from fast track primary education courses alongside personal development classes aimed at helping them build a base for educational and career progression. Fight for Peace also continued to provide education courses for ex-gang members as part of its Special Scholarship programme.

**Employability:** Of the 125 young people referred to job opportunities by Fight for Peace, 35% were hired. 1,441 people from Maré attended Fight for Peace’s job fairs, which offered guidance on documentation and general careers advice.

**Support Services:** The Support Services team carried out 631 mentoring sessions, identifying the individual needs of young people at Fight for Peace.

**Youth Leadership:** 20 new young people were elected onto Fight for Peace’s Youth Council in Rio in 2016, with each Pillar and all three Academies represented by at least one elected member. The Youth Council represented Fight for Peace at a number of events in 2016, including the launch in Sweden of the Save the Children film Rio Stories, which featured the organisation.

**Other highlights**

**Fighting for Peace with an Olympic Spirit**, a series of three short films made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), detailed the work of Fight for Peace and the lives of three of its Rio Academy members (Jo, Keyla and Jarde).

Three Fight for Peace young people (Raissa, Carlinhos and Roberto) were selected to carry the Olympic Torch during the Rio 2016 Torch Relay, while Rio Academy member Paulo Ricardo received the Olympic Cup from IOC President Thomas Bach at the closing ceremony of the Games.

During the Olympics, Fight for Peace held an event in partnership with the British Embassy and Consulate, and Team GB, at British House in Rio de Janeiro. The event included a speech from Fight for Peace Ambassador and two-time Olympic boxing champion, Nicola Adams OBE.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) partnered with Fight for Peace for the implementation of a six-month consultancy at both the Rio and London Academies to help improve coaches’ skill sets and develop internal pathways for athletes into elite sport.

Fight for Peace received the EMpower Champion of Youth Award. Fight for Peace Founder & Director Luke Dowdney accepted the award in New York on behalf of the organisation’s young people.

In May, Fight for Peace hosted its first international conference, in partnership with UNESCO and supported by Globo and Biblioteca Parque. The conference, named Sport, Youth Inclusion and Violence Prevention, included speakers from the USA, UK, Colombia, Brazil and elsewhere.

Red Rebel Films released a documentary about Fight for Peace’s work in Rio de Janeiro. Fighting for Peace, which was co-produced by Madonna and released by Journeyman Pictures, was screened in New York City and Los Angeles, in partnership with Credit Suisse and the LA Mayor’s Office of Gang Prevention and Youth Development.

**London**

A total of 1,348 young people attended Fight for Peace in 2016.

Highlights from the Five Pillars included:
2016 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Boxing & Martial Arts: This Pillar continued to deliver boxing, muay thai, Brazilian jiu jitsu (BJJ), Olympic weightlifting and fighting fit gym sessions as well as Twilight programmes. Judo was added to the Pillar in August while the Academy’s first female-only session, focusing on fitness and self-defence, began in September. A total of 1,231 young people attended Open Access sports, of which 452 were new members.

Of the young people participating in Open Access:
- 100% feel more positive about the future
- 91% feel fitter

Education: The Pathways Module 1 and Module 2 education programmes offer nationally recognised qualifications in English, Maths, Active and Healthy Living, Community Sports Leadership and YMCA Gym Instruction. In 2016, 32 young people participated in Pathways, of which 85% completed their course.

Of the learners that provided feedback:
- 75% feel more confident
- 63% report being less likely to commit a crime

Employability: The Employability Pillar supported 162 young people in 2016, 82% of whom successfully progressed into further education, employment and/or training. Additional opportunities provided to Fight for Peace members included an insight day at State Street Bank and a number of vocational courses staged at the Academy.

Employability progression outcomes included:
- 57 young people attended vocational or employability training
- 50 young people secured employment

Support Services: The Support Services team worked with a total of 429 young people, providing holistic support based on individual need. 92 young people benefitted from case work support while 300 mentoring sessions took place between Youth Workers and young people.

Of those case work mentees that provided feedback:
- 91% are less likely to be part of a gang
- 73% are less likely to commit a crime

Youth Leadership: In 2016, 6 new members joined the Youth Council, with a total of 19 young people serving as Youth Councillors during the year. 9 training sessions took place covering topics such as presentation skills, confidence and public speaking while members of the Youth Council represented Fight for Peace at public events and during visits to the Academy.

Of those Youth Councillors that completed a questionnaire:
- 100% believe that the issues they raise are taken seriously by staff
- 88% are now more confident public speakers

Other highlights:

The London Academy received a number of visits in 2016. Among them, Fight for Peace Ambassador Nicola Adams OBE followed her record breaking medal haul at Rio 2016 by joining an Open Access sports session, passing on her knowledge to young female boxers and featuring Fight for Peace in BBC Radio 4’s Today programme which she guest edited. Brazilian World Cup winning footballer Raí also paid a visit to the Academy, interviewing young people and staff as part of a documentary series. In addition, Sports Coaching Specialist Andrew Gillott, a Consultant with the British Olympic Association, delivered two workshops to the Academy’s coaching team.

Fight for Peace staff and young people participated in various external events over the course of the year. Representatives from the Academy attended the Beyond Sport Awards and the TEDx TEEN TALK while Jack Petchey Achievement Award winner Abdul visited Parliament and met with East Ham MP Stephen Timms.

Refurbishment of the Academy offices was completed at the start of the year, providing additional office space, meeting rooms, bathrooms and kitchen facilities. Work on a new shower and toilet block adjoining the gym also began, part of the ongoing expansion of the Academy.

Fight for Peace London appeared in a range of local and global media throughout the year, with notable features on the Huffington Post website, on BBC radio and television and on the Brazilian TV network GNT. Young people and staff also featured in a Sport England promotional film on the power and impact of coaching.
**2016 Impact Highlights Continued**

***Fight for Peace International***

Fight for Peace International (FFPI) works to share Fight for Peace’s methodology through training, consultancy and partnerships, in order to scale approaches to youth crime and violence.

**The Global Alumni Programme (GAP)**

2016 saw the end of the initial intensive delivery phase of GAP, which started in 2012. Over that period 148 community based organisations (CBOs) from 25 countries took part in the programme, and collectively they are reaching over 240,000 young people in communities affected by crime and violence.

Over this period:
- 88% of CBOs strengthened their programming
- 86% of CBOs increased their broader organisational strength
- CBOs in 12 countries raised over £3.8 million, which they attribute to Fight for Peace’s support

In 2016, GAP was delivered to 45 CBOs in Mexico, Colombia, and the UK.

- 73% made changes to their programmes based on Fight for Peace’s Five Pillar model
- 64% made changes to their organisations based on Fight for Peace’s approach to using values, brand and space, community and engagement, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

A two-year external evaluation of GAP in Nairobi, Johannesburg, the UK and Jamaica, funded by Comic Relief and carried out by Framework Consultants, found that:

"Fight for Peace International are distinctive in terms of the clarity of their intervention, skills of the staff, their commitment to learning, and their thoughtfulness in terms of how to customise the initiative to ensure that it meets each organisation’s need."

**The Fight for Peace Alliance**

In October 2016, FFPI established the Fight for Peace Alliance in the UK for partners who have completed GAP. This dynamic community of practice will develop collaborative programming that can be delivered at scale as well as continuing to support partners to increase their effectiveness, sustainability and influence.

Progress in 2016 included:
- a branding project to create a name and visual identity for the network
- a needs assessment to identify initial training priorities
- delivery of activities including a webinar, one-to-one surgeries and developing fundraising bids
- design of two collaborative projects for partners working together to deliver services UK wide

**Safer Communities Incubator (SCI)**

The Safer Communities Incubator (SCI) programme aims to establish an integrated, multi-agency approach to delivering Fight for Peace’s methodology in hotspot communities in Kingston, Jamaica and Cape Town, South Africa. Over the course of 2016, SCI became fully operational.

**In Jamaica:**
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of National Security to support key violence prevention and reduction initiatives
- a pilot programme combining boxing and martial arts with personal development was delivered in six target communities to 65 young people
- a DFID grant was secured to roll out programming in the target communities
- a young female boxer on the programme won the Caribbean Amateur Boxing Championships in Barbados

**In Cape Town:**
- community mapping and consultation was carried out resulting in the selection of three focus communities
- an office and administrative base were established and staffed and an implementation plan developed
- relationships were developed with key local service providers and with local and regional government
Fight for Peace exists to realise the potential of young people in communities affected by crime and violence by creating new opportunities for them and supporting them to make the most of existing opportunities. Providing different opportunities for young people is not enough, however. Our Theory of Change is based on the assumption that a young person’s behaviour, situation, and the choices they make, are dependent on the way the young person sees themselves, how they relate to others and how they see their future. Therefore, we focus on personal development throughout our work with young people in order to have an impact in these essential areas. Fight for Peace creates an enabling environment within which this personal growth and development can take place, through our Five Pillars methodology and by living our values.
FIGHT FOR PEACE ACADEMIES

Fight for Peace’s Five Pillars model is an integrated approach which encourages young people to take up opportunities and develop themselves in different areas:

1. Boxing & Martial Arts (training and competition)
2. Education
3. Employability
4. Support Services
5. Youth Leadership

The Five Pillars model is implemented via interrelated projects and services within the Fight for Peace Academies in Rio de Janeiro and London. Current projects and services in both the Brazilian and UK Academies are:

1. Open Access Project (Atletas da Paz)
2. Pathways Project (Novos Caminhos)
3. Services: Individual Mentoring and Casework
   - Education & Employment Workshops
   - Careers Advice
   - Drop-in

The following diagram outlines how these are integrated within the Academies:

**Boxing & Martial Arts**

Boxing, capoeira, judo, wrestling, taekwondo, Brazilian jiu jitsu (BJJ) and muay thai are all offered to young people ranging from 7 to 29 years old in Fight for Peace’s Open Access programme, promoting positive values, helping participants acquire higher levels of self-esteem, concentration and respect towards others, as well as empowering them to aim for a better future for themselves and their families.

Throughout 2016, 1,918 young people attended Open Access activities at Fight for Peace in Rio de Janeiro, a 5% increase on 2015. In 2016, 41% of Open Access participants were female – a figure three times higher than in 2010, when the drive to include more girls in training began.

Separating the respective sports offered at Fight for Peace in Rio, 952 young people participated in boxing, 524 in muay thai, 280 in judo, 223 in capoeira, 175 in wrestling, 150 in BJJ, and 124 in taekwondo.

All young people enrolled in Open Access activities must attend weekly personal development sessions where they are encouraged to broaden their horizons and are given the necessary skills to do so.

Every year, Fight for Peace conducts an annual survey with all its participants to analyse the impact of its work. The results from the 2016 survey show that, after joining Fight for Peace:

- 86% of members feel more positive about their future
- 77% of members have better relationships with their family
- 62% of members improved their performance in school
- 43% of members say they are less likely to commit a crime

**Champions**

Fight for Peace members who show a natural aptitude in their respective sports are invited to compete if they wish to. By attending more intensive training sessions and with the guidance of Fight for Peace’s trained coaches, many of these young people can and do achieve high levels of competitive success.

2016 has been a great year for boxing and martial arts athletes. For the first time in Fight for Peace’s history, more than half of the medals won were gold. Athletes from the Rio Academy collectively won 178 gold, 111 silver and 49 bronze medals.
Boxer Michel Soares won two coveted titles at the Intercontinental and National Amateur Championships, as well as adding a further 19 victories to his record. Fellow boxer Wanderson de Oliveira is the current National Vice-Champion.

The judo team was placed in fifth position in the annual rankings of the Brazilian Judo Federation’s New Generation Circuit after winning 21 gold medals (compared to 18 in 2015). Clécio Soares, Paulo Vinicius Almeida, Jefferson Teixeira, Ewerton Leandro, Ewerton Lucas, Vitor Lima and Raissa Lima all won competitions during the year, a fitting reward for their dedication and skill. The judo team were also runners up in the Brazilian Judo Federation’s regional tournament.

Fight for Peace’s BJJ athletes gave an impressive performance by winning the North American Grappling Association (NAGA) tournament. Lucas Affonso and Luciana Neder won the most difficult category, and were awarded NAGA belts. A further 23 athletes won 6 gold medals, 12 silver medals, and 5 bronze medals.

The Fight for Peace muay thai team was placed in 5th position in the annual rankings of the regional muay thai league with Rio Academy member Katlyn Rose dos Santos crowned champion.

Quotes from Boxing & Martial Arts

“For me, Fight for Peace is like therapy, the best way to forget about my problems. Training hard makes me feel relaxed and empowered. I feel that my life has really changed since I started attending Fight for Peace – I am much calmer now, and I’ve also started to think before taking actions in my life, especially at home with my family, with whom I used to be really aggressive. I wish I could have started combat sport classes earlier... a shame I had a negative vision about it. Now that my vision – and my life – has changed, I am always talking to my family and friends and encouraging them to train as well, because it changes lives.”

Silvania, muay thai athlete

Quotes from Education

“The learning support classes have really helped me during the year, as my performance at school was really bad. They also helped me to move from my old school to a better one. My behaviour has also changed, especially at home, because the staff were always giving me advice and supporting me.”

Gabriela, Learning Support Class learner

“I used to be very shy with everyone, including my family... and always thought no one liked me. Taking part at Fight for Peace helped me change all of that! I have more responsibility nowadays, and I am very much committed to my future. I have a true ambition nowadays: I want to study hard to become a doctor and support my family through my work.”

Kauan, Learning Support Class learner

“When I first came to Fight for Peace I was completely outcast and closed to everyone’s approach. My self-esteem was very low, as the years passed, I had not done anything important with my life - nothing that I could be proud of. However, coming to Fight for Peace to resume studying made me believe that my dreams could actually become true, that I could have a better future. I just need to study and strive hard, but at Fight for Peace I’ve learned that I can achieve that!”

Ianca, Pathways learner

Support Services

A key element of the success of Fight for Peace’s projects in Rio de Janeiro is the individual support offered by the Support Services Pillar. Upon joining the project, all young people and their parents meet with a member of the Support Services team, who gathers important information on the background and needs of every member, referring them (if necessary) to further in house support. Such support includes Fight for Peace’s psychologist and lawyer, who are both available to offer guidance to each and every member whenever they might require assistance. Over the course of the year, the Support Services team also work to prevent members from dropping out of activities due to personal problems; helping them to face their issues and remain actively pursuing a better future for themselves and their families. This work is carried out by street outreach, by telephone and by home visits.
In 2016:

- 633 young people had one-to-one meetings with a youth worker
- 51 young people were referred to Fight for Peace’s network of partners for further support
- 50 meetings were held with groups of parents / carers throughout the year
- Members of the Support Services team attended more than 20 meetings held by different children and young people’s rights forums and councils

Support Services quotes:

“After my daughter joined Fight for Peace, her life has changed a lot! The Support Services staff have helped my family with several issues we faced, even referring us to other places where we could find specific help when they couldn’t provide it themselves. My daughter had a severe speaking impairment, but now we’ve found help from a speech therapist. Thanks to Fight for Peace, she is getting much better. She is always very happy to attend the boxing training, and I also see that she’s much more committed to all the things she does. I am really happy!”
Michele, Márcia’s mother (boxing and capoeira athlete)

Employability

In 2016, further progress was made in the area of employability. In particular, Fight for Peace’s Job Fairs, which are aimed at supporting young people from all over the Maré community, yielded encouraging results.

Over the course of the year, four fairs were held at the Rio Academies (Nova Holanda, Baixa do Sapateiro and Marcílio Dias), reaching more than 1,441 young people and other members of these communities. During the fairs, the local population was given support in acquiring employment documents and offered orientation and job referral services.

The Employability Pillar also continued to support participants to access work experience, training and employment opportunities. In 2016, the Information and Guidance Officer supported 125 young people, from which 44 young people successfully progressed.

A new three year employability project, named Na Ativa, began in July 2016 at Fight for Peace in Rio. The programme focuses on preparing young people to carry out professional roles and aims to see 856 young people aged 16-25 years old graduate across three levels by June 2019. A total of 21 young people graduated on the course in 2016.

Quotes from Employability

“The courses from the Na Ativa project helped me to identify my job related skills, learn many exciting things about the job market and get ready to face a job interview. I have also discovered many things about myself that I had never ever thought of, as every class brought new things to reflect on. Now I feel I’ve got all it takes to get to the job market, and I’m thankful for that!”
Luiz, Na Ativa programme participant

“I’ve learned a lot of things about the job market, especially about what they expect from me as a candidate. I feel much more confident to face any selection process nowadays!”
Carlos, Na Ativa programme participant

Youth Leadership

The Youth Council is a group of young people at Fight for Peace who have been democratically elected to represent members from each activity and project at the Academy. In 2016, 20 young people served on the Youth Council. The Youth Council act as intermediaries between Fight for Peace’s young people and staff, giving voice to any suggestions, complaints and queries. The Youth Council members also have an important role representing Fight for Peace at external events and during visits to the Academy.

Members of the Youth Council participated in Fight for Peace’s annual survey and the following results were discovered:

- 75% have regular contact with young people from Fight for Peace
- 75% feel much better after joining the Youth Council
- 100% say the Youth Council makes a real difference to Fight for Peace

Quotes from Youth Leadership

“In a few words: I feel complete! Fight for Peace has taught me everything I know about life, about sports and about what it means to be a woman – being proud of myself. It was here that I found out that I could reach higher goals in my life. The Youth Council was an amazing experience, and where I had my voice heard and recognised, influencing the organisation and being a role model for other young people. Now I listen to other people and respect their opinion as well. I am what I am thanks to Fight for Peace!”
Jo, Youth Councillor and muay thai participant
Parents and guardians

Parents and guardians of Fight for Peace members are invited to take part in quarterly meetings at the Rio Academies in order to maintain strong levels of communication and mutual understanding. The parents and guardians are also invited to participate in Fight for Peace’s yearly survey by answering questionnaires that aim to evaluate different aspects of young people’s development as well as how Fight for Peace is perceived in the local community.

Some of the results from the 2016 survey include:

- 100% say that the organisation has a positive influence on the community
- 100% say that their children are more confident
- 97% say their relationship with their children has improved
- 95% say their children are more optimistic about the future

Local partners


Local partners quotes

“Fight for Peace is one of our most valuable and innovative partners, whose holistic method of integrating martial arts and education has proven to be highly successful. Thanks to a compelling set of activities and values, Fight for Peace is providing a revolutionary and inspiring approach to education: only in 2016, 80% of the kids in the programme have improved in school and at home, avoiding the violence on the streets and social exclusion.”

Vincent Faber, Executive Director of the Trafigura Foundation

FIGHT FOR PEACE LONDON ACADEMY

Boxing & Martial Arts

Open Access sports are open to young people aged 14 to 25 years and take place every weekday evening from 5pm to 9pm. 2016 saw the number of sports on offer increase, with young people able to take part in boxing, muay thai, Olympic weightlifting, Brazilian jiu jitsu, judo and fighting fit gym sessions. Moreover, young women benefitted from the introduction of the first female-only sessions, which focus on fitness and self-defence.

A total of 1,231 young people attended Open Access sports, of which 452 were new members.

Personal development sessions continued to be a key element of Fight for Peace’s provision and were delivered during the evening sessions on a monthly basis. Topics covered during the year included confidence, relationships, motivation, and a debate night teaching discussion and critical thinking skills. The annual Awards Ceremony also provided a chance for young people to come together with staff, parents/carers and funders to celebrate the achievements of members.

Members provide invaluable feedback each year via self-completion questionnaires, the results of which enable Fight for Peace to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of its work. 108 Open Access participants completed a questionnaire in 2016 and reported the following as a result of attending Fight for Peace:

- 91% feel fitter
- 81% feel more confident and 88% feel good about themselves
- 100% feel more positive about the future and 89% feel more motivated
- 70% respect others more while 78% respect rules more

Open Access quotes

“I was introduced to Fight for Peace by a friend because I liked muay thai and he thought I would be interested in training at the Academy. Currently, I do lots of different activities at Fight for Peace including Olympic weightlifting, jodo, Brazilian jiu jitsu and muay thai. If I had to describe the organisation in one word, I would say family. Fight for Peace is really family orientated and everyone is very close to the friendly staff. Fight for Peace has helped me with depression and it has helped pull up my fitness and physical conditioning.”

Gerson, Olympic weightlifting athlete
“Fight for Peace is not a gym, nor a centre. It’s home, it’s a place where you can see yourself, try different things and challenge yourself. If you want to know what it feels like being appreciated, listened to and respected, Fight for Peace is a place for you. After joining and being in Fight for Peace for eight or nine years, I have developed into the person I am now. Fight for Peace helped me overcome a fear of public speaking and it helped me to be more open and motivated.”

Lydia, fighting fit athlete

Champions

All young people are encouraged to train irrespective of ability, whether they are interested in staying fit or want to compete. Those who express an interest in competing are given tailored support by their coaches, with thorough preparation provided prior to entering any competitions. 24 young people and three staff members represented Fight for Peace at competitions in 2016.

Highlights included Kingsley Crawford, John McFadyen and Jawany Scott being awarded their blue belts in Brazilian jiu jitsu by coaches Steve O’Keeffe and Jackson Sousa. Bart Hovarth and staff member Lethius Charles made their professional debuts in muay thai after many amateur fights representing Fight for Peace. Finally, in November, Joe Concepción and Eniola Akingbesote were the Academy’s first junior boxers to represent Fight for Peace at a home England Boxing show.

Champions quotes

“Fight for Peace has an environment that makes anybody and everybody feel welcome and comfortable, interacting with one another no matter what each individual comes here for whether that is education, mentoring, boxing or, in my case, martial arts. Fight for Peace has helped me develop as a fighter by allowing me to learn and improve on my skills through training, dedication and the commitment that the coaches show.”

Jawany, Brazilian jiu jitsu competitor

“What do I like about boxing? I like winning, I enjoy it. When I compete, first of all I feel a little bit nervous but after that when I get inside the ring and I start boxing I don’t feel nervous any more. I started boxing about nine months ago and now I am more built and more experienced and fitter.”

Eniola, boxing competitor

Twilight programmes

Twilight provision is designed as a preventative programme for those aged seven to 16. It combines boxing and personal development sessions with the aim of providing participants with a positive diversionary activity, a chance to make friends, regular contact with positive role models, and a chance to address issues that impact on their lives, such as self-belief, bullying and considering the consequences of actions.

Twilight provision comes in two forms:

1. Targeted Twilight sessions are run in partnership with external organisations, typically local schools or pupil referral units, and run for a set number of weeks. These programmes aim to address pre-identified issues such as anger management or risk of exclusion from school.

2. Drop-in Twilight sessions take place three days a week and are open to all young people aged seven to 14. The key aims of these sessions are to create a sporting habit for life and to create a positive environment where members feel able to open up about personal issues and work to overcome them.

278 young people attended Twilight sessions in 2016 – a significant increase on the previous year. Those who completed a questionnaire reported the following:

• 62% find it easier to make friends
• 54% feel that their relationship with family has improved while 46% remained the same
• 83% feel better about themselves and 86% feel more confident

Twilight quotes

“I like Twilights because you can socialise with other people and I like meeting other people and other personalities, enjoying how other people like to interact. Boxing releases all that pent up anger that I have. I learn technique, that it is not just about swinging, like being out on the road fighting. I have been boxing now for a while, when I started, I was a little bit reckless but now I have just changed, less reckless and I am more about behaving. I like coming here to Fight for Peace to meet new people and see new faces and chat to people my age and older. It changes me as a person, instead of me just being outside thinking everyone wants a fight everyone wants this everyone wants that, I see the world as a different thing not just somewhere where all people can’t get along. It doesn’t matter if you like green, blue, white, you know what I am saying? You can all get along instead of always wanting to fight.”

Capone, Twilight participant
“I like coming to Fight for Peace because here we get to do boxing and sometimes, if I have had a bad day or something or if I need to get something off my mind, I can just come here and do boxing and I won’t think about it anymore. At the end of the sessions I feel tired because of all the exercises that we have had to do. I think that the coaches are really good and they teach us really well.”

Khadija, Twilight participant

Education

The Pathways education programmes provide an opportunity for young people with few or no qualifications to re-engage with education outside of mainstream provision. The courses offer nationally recognised qualifications, including English and maths. Crucially, the courses combine personal development, mentoring, and sports training in order to equip participants with the knowledge and skills they need to secure employment.

A total of 32 learners took part in the three Pathways programmes, from which 85% completed their course. At the point of entry, 71% were not in education, employment or training, 25% had offending histories or were gang affiliated, and an additional 43% were at risk of offending, gang membership or exclusion.

Pass rates for the three courses ranged from 68-71% for English and 67-76% for maths. 78% of participants on Module 1 courses gained their Active and Healthy Living Award, while the YMCA Gym Instructor qualification for those on Module 2 is pending at the time of writing.

20 learners provided feedback at the end of their course, and they reported the following benefits as a result of attending Pathways:

- 75% feel more confident and 100% are more positive about the future
- 70% now find it easier to tell people how they feel and 65% find it easier to make friends
- 63% are less likely to commit a crime and 60% feel that they are less likely to be a victim of crime

Pathways quotes

*Pathways was a really good course, very helpful. It’s helped me so much. From wanting to do nothing, I wasn’t bothered about anything, and now I feel like I could do so much, I could push myself to anything and help myself with anything. I wanted to get onto a course at college but I wanted to go to a higher level so getting the grades from here to my course was something that was what I wanted to do. Pathways will help me get onto a Health and Social Care course and then after the Health and Social Care course get onto a Nursing course at Greenwich University. The best part of the course for me was the classmates, they are just so friendly and helpful and here for one another.”

Shamsia, Pathways Module 1 learner

“i think that the Pathways course is amazing. It is really eye opening, it helps people that don’t really have a vision for the future because the thing is you can put someone in a college but college helps you and then when your time is up that’s it you get up, get out of the door and you are done. But with Pathways, Alex and Allyson [Education staff] will actually help you out for however long you need and it’s not just Alex and Allyson, it is the whole Academy, if you need to talk to anyone they are always just there. The thing about Pathways, something I really like is that you can talk about anything, like a lot of people have different issues but all the staff were really open and supportive to everyone. Right now I want to become a writer, when someone wants to become a teacher, a lawyer, a doctor or someone wants to become a businessman it’s really different and to have an environment where everyone can go and everyone can try to gain something from it I think that that is really special. I feel like the whole process itself, not just the lessons help you find where you stand in life as well.”

Abdul, Pathways Module 1 learner

Employability

One-to-one guidance continued to be the primary method of support for young people in the Employability Pillar during 2016. The support provided varied greatly as each young person’s needs are taken into account, but typically members received help creating or improving CVs and covering letters, assisted job searches and employability skills training.

169 young people received guidance in the Employability Pillar, 82% progressing on to paid or voluntary employment, training, apprenticeships, internships or further education. Of these, 82 young people secured either part time or full time employment as a result of support given.

A total of 43 Fight for Peace members participated in vocational courses at the London Academy in 2016. These courses were a Passenger Service Agent course, a Flight Dispatch course, a Sports Massage Therapist course and a Security Industry Agent course.

26 Employability Pillar beneficiaries completed a questionnaire to provide feedback on their experience. The findings were as follows:

- 100% feel more positive about the future
- 88% feel more motivated
- 85% believe that they can achieve their goals
Employability quotes

“When I came to Fight for Peace I came in, I spoke to everyone and everyone was so friendly, you wouldn’t believe that it was my first day! I was like wow! The staff said I could do anything so I chose to do fighting fit and boxing, that’s how I started. Then I discovered that Fight for Peace can also help you get a job so I met the Employability Coordinator, and I had some appointments, job hunting and everything. As far as the job hunting went, I started off in the retail sector but that wasn’t for me and so I started working in the security industry, working as a steward. At Fight for Peace you get help in different ways, whatever you want they will help you. You learn how to represent yourself in the interview, and we also went to State Street Bank in Canary Wharf to practice job interviews, learning some dos and don’ts and how to write a great CV. Fight for Peace is like my home. You can’t even describe the way people get treated here.”

Aba, Employability participant

“I’ve been always really interested in sports massage and physiotherapy so I decided to take part in the Sports Massage Therapist course at Fight for Peace. It was an amazing course, professional and well organised - the teacher was really passionate and always available. I expect to work as a Sports Massage Therapist really soon, and broaden more knowledge to improve my technique and my experience. I really need to say thank you so much to Fight for Peace.”

Silvia, Employability participant

Support Services

The Support Services team worked with 429 young people, providing holistic support based on individual need. Key services provided by the team in 2016 included:

- A one-to-one session with a youth worker for young people new to the Academy in order to start building relationships and begin to identify additional support needs. 137 sessions took place in 2016.

- Mentoring sessions with a youth worker during evening sports sessions, which take place every four months. These meetings focus on how the young person is progressing with the intention of identifying if any support is needed and generating referrals. 300 sessions took place.

- Intensive case work for those young people most in need of support, consisting of regular mentoring sessions plus additional support as required e.g. home visits. 92 young people benefitted from case work, with 31 receiving ad hoc or emergency support.

As a result of these services, numerous internal referrals were made, including 22 to education, 61 for employability support, 44 for mentoring, and nine to the Youth Council. Furthermore, all Pathways learners received weekly mentoring support while another 15 young people attended external programmes, including a residential organised by Street Games and a LIFEbeat programme.

Case work mentees who provided feedback reported the following as a result of their mentoring:

- 100% feel calmer
- 100% feel more positive about the future
- 88% find it easier to cooperate with others and 72% have better relationships with their family
- 91% are less likely to be part of a gang and 73% are less likely to commit a crime

Support Services quotes

“At first I came down to Fight for Peace to get away because I come from a rough background, I come from an abusive background and everything. It was kind of like I needed to get away sometimes so this was my getaway. It has definitely made a big difference, I feel like I can deal with my problems much better. Some people don’t have family and stuff like that but Fight for Peace is like having a family there for you so whatever you are going through you can always come here and talk to someone, there is always someone to talk to.”

Naima, Support Services mentee

“I heard about Fight for Peace when they came to my school and they helped me to channel through my anger not only just working physically inside the gym but also mentally through a focus on my education to keep me on the straight and narrow. Society today really judges us because we are young, we get misunderstood and it’s not fair on us. But we are not all bad, we are here and we want to do well but we are not given enough options to move forward and progress in life so Fight for Peace gives you the tools, the skills and the qualities so you can be the best that you can possibly be to give you a fighting chance in society today.”

Jack, Support Services mentee

Youth Leadership

The Youth Council represents all members of Fight for Peace and keeps staff informed of their feedback and suggestions. Youth Councillors attend staff meetings and host visits to the Academy. They also receive training so that they are better equipped to carry out their duties. In 2016, nine training sessions took place, covering topics such as presentation skills, confidence, and public speaking.
Six new members joined the Youth Council in 2016, with a total of 19 young people serving on the Youth Council during the year. Of those who completed a questionnaire for 2016:

- 88% believe that their performance at school/work has improved
- 88% are now confident public speakers and 100% are confident mentoring another young person
- 75% feel confident responding to abusive behaviour
- 100% believe that the issues they raise are taken seriously by staff

Youth Council quotes

“For me the Youth Council is an opportunity to develop the skills you have and the ones you never knew you had. The Youth Council also means the voice; the voice of those unsure or unable to speak. The Youth Council has helped me with social and work skills which shaped me into the person I am today. It has given me a chance to become a role model to other people and to help and mentor other people to achieve their goals and aspirations. I was given a lot of help and guidance by Fight for Peace and through the Youth Council I want to give back.”

Eduard, Youth Councillor and BJJ athlete

“The fact that Fight for Peace has given me a position in the Academy where I now have the responsibility to make decisions is brilliant. I always wanted to implement ideas I had to improve the Academy and further help the members and now I have that ability. Through joining the Youth Council, I now have greater confidence in my decision making, leadership skills and feel so much more comfortable in social situations and formal situations such as interviews and meetings.”

Shamus, Youth Councillor and BJJ and judo athlete

Building Development

2016 saw the elements of the development completed during 2015 come into full use, with the following benefits:

- The ‘Blue Box’ Education and Training Centre enabled the introduction of Brazilian jiu jitsu and judo due to the new dojo, with the training room hosting numerous courses and activities, including a new cohort of UK AP organisations and Passenger Service Agent, Flight Dispatch, Sports Massage Therapist and Security Industry Agent courses.
- The extended weights and equipment room now houses an Olympic weightlifting platform and a wide range of equipment that have greatly enhanced the fighting fit gym sessions.

More recently, the office space has been completely refurbished providing everyone with a much improved, purpose-built work space, increasing capacity and providing bright and modern facilities for staff members, volunteers and young people.

2016 saw work commence on the new build shower block which incorporates male and female showers, changing rooms, lockers and new toilets. These facilities are more spacious, lighter, more modern and more environmentally friendly than the existing ones. They are due to open shortly.

Local partners


Local partners quotes

“When I visit Fight for Peace there is always a warm welcome and a sense of belonging. The young people and staff are engaged, connected and receptive. Fight for Peace have an acceptance and understanding of children and young people’s needs in North Woolwich. Considering there are no youth clubs in this area and concerns with gangs and drug use, Fight for Peace provides the main safe place to go, engage, be seen, heard, get fit, and get support. This is a great model for prosocial learning, self respect and gaining confidence. It is also a place for making friends. When walking past the Academy and young people are leaving, they are buoyant and chatting in an uplifting, contained way. This is the kind of place...
which grows aspirations and self belief, which may have been squashed due to previous life situations. Quality social and emotional support from the mentors, as well as the guidance to get qualifications are valued resources.”

Emma Crace, Chair of North Woolwich and Silvertown Neighbourhood Forum

“I have been working closely with Fight for Peace for over five years, and continue to be amazed on a daily basis by their effectiveness. No challenge is too difficult, and the atmosphere between staff and young people is second to none. I have referred hundreds of kids to Fight for Peace over the years, and while not everyone has been a success the vast majority have been, which is an amazing achievement when you consider that most referrals have failed elsewhere.”

Peter Wilson, Police Officer at Trident Central Gangs Command

Fight for Peace International

Fight for Peace International (FFPI) works to share Fight for Peace’s methodology through training, consultancy, and partnerships, in order to scale approaches to youth crime and violence. The Fight for Peace Academies design and test approaches in our communities in Rio and London, and the Fight for Peace International team codifies the most effective approaches into principles based content that can support partners to implement programming in their communities. In 2016, this was implemented through three projects: the Global Alumni Programme (GAP), the Fight for Peace Alliance and the Safer Communities Incubator (SCI).

The Global Alumni Programme

GAP supports CBOs by providing a combination of intensive training in Fight for Peace’s methodology, and a package of consultancy inputs to help them adapt it to be effective in their communities. CBOs are selected based on their access to young people involved in or affected by crime and violence, their capacity to adapt Fight for Peace’s methodology to strengthen or grow their programming and organisation, and their commitment to contribute to and participate in the Fight for Peace Alliance locally and internationally.

GAP is delivered to CBOs in city based cohorts so as to build strong local communities of practice that can share resources, collaborate on service delivery and represent a compelling network to local funders. Every CBO that is selected to become part of GAP is already a leader in their community; Fight for Peace’s support is designed to help them increase their impact and speed up their development.

Selected CBOs receive:

• Five-day intensive training in all Fight for Peace principles and practices
• 12 months of bespoke consultancy to support adaptation of the FFP model

• Access to the Fight for Peace toolkit, containing a wide range of delivery-ready tools and templates
• Membership of the Fight for Peace Alliance, providing opportunities for peer learning and partnership with other aligned CBOs around the world
• Use of the Fight for Peace Alliance brand, and Fight for Peace’s research led evidence base to build credibility with supporters and funders

In 2016, GAP was delivered through three channels:

• The Global Alumni Programme (GAP) – for CBOs outside of Brazil and the UK
• Rede Brasil – for CBOs based in Brazilian cities with high levels of violence and disadvantage
• UK Alumni Programme (UK AP) – for CBOs based in UK cities that are ranked high on the index of multiple deprivation

Impact at a Global Level

Across the 45 CBOs being supported by Fight for Peace International trainers and consultants throughout 2016, a wide range of changes were made to programme design and delivery based on Fight for Peace’s Five Pillar model:

• 41% of CBOs added or strengthened their boxing and martial arts programmes
• 61% are supporting young people with their education
• 57% are helping young people to access employment
• 69% are providing support services and delivering targeted personal development or life skills programmes for young people

Progress was also achieved in terms of increasing CBOs’ strength and sustainability based on Fight for Peace’s organisational model:

• 24% are taking a more holistic approach to their work with young people
• 48% are networking with other alumni locally and internationally to share skills and resources, and increase impact
• 42% have improved their Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) approach

23 GAP partners who participated in evaluations in 2016 ranked the top three impacts of joining GAP as being:

1. Giving access to new contacts
2. Increasing the quality of the work with young people
3. Helping to build a stronger foundation for the organisation’s future
In addition, over the course of GAP, Fight for Peace has helped CBOs in 12 countries to raise over £3.8 million to introduce new programming, scale up successful approaches, bring new/specialist staff on board, work with new target groups, and upgrade their facilities and equipment.

Fight for Peace International supports GAP partners to evaluate the impact of their programmes using tools based on those used in Fight for Peace Academies. Some highlights reported by partners who carried out evaluations this year include:

In Colombia, 62 young people participating in programming delivered by an alliance of four partners in Cali self-reported that the programmes had had the following impact:
- 81% are less likely to join a gang
- 87% feel more positive about the future

In Brazil, 110 young people participating in Rede Brasil organisations’ programmes completed self-report questionnaires:
- 97% cooperate with others more
- 79% have better relationships with their families

In Liverpool (UK), 30 young women joining Team Mushin’s Women’s Project for the first time completed pre and post questionnaires designed to measure changes in self-perception, relationships with others, and sense of personal safety. By the end of the project:
- 53% had improved self esteem
- 66% were more motivated

Impact snapshots from organisations supported in 2016:

The Vulcan Centre in Hull, UK, secured investment from Children in Need to open a youth club which will provide a space for young people who come to the boxing club to meet with mentors and youth workers and be introduced and referred into more structured activities. They also secured investment from Sport England for equipment for a weights gym, offering new services to young fighters. They have established a youth council and articulated their organisational values. They have also secured contracts with five new schools to provide an alternative education service that will include boxing and personal development.

ASCAI in Minas Gerais, Brazil, recruited a female black belt taekwondo trainer and launched martial arts activities which combined sports with personal development activities. They also designed and implemented a youth council structure for participants and representatives from other local youth movements to contribute to the organisation’s management and to provide a broader platform for young people’s voices.

ASCOPP in Minas Gerais, Brazil, refurbished a space to make it more appealing to older participants, and introduced martial arts and personal development sessions. In their first few months of implementation they engaged approximately 100 young people that they were not previously working with.

SIDOC in Cali, Colombia designed and launched a programme called Boxeo para la Reconciliación (Boxing for Reconciliation). This is the only combat sport based programme being used as a post conflict approach in Colombia.

In Mexico, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation funded three partners: TRASO, Utopia and Insade. TRASO will be delivering a family focused boxing project called Capaz. Utopia are delivering an after-school education club to run alongside their Lima Larina activities, targeting the children of recyclers. Insade will train sports coaches to deliver boxing and martial arts based activities in schools. The official launch of the Laureus investment took place at TRASO with Laureus ambassadors Carlos Puyol and Lennox Lewis.

Strike Academy in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland, secured investment from the Prince’s Trust for a new Kickboxing and personal development programme, and are delivering month long life skills themes in their Academy. They have strengthened two satellite projects in interface areas by including personal development sessions and creating referral channels from the satellite clubs into the main gym, enabling members from communities in conflict to train together. They have also recently been commissioned to deliver weekly kickboxing sessions in a pupil referral unit (PRU) unit in Derry-Londonderry.

The Fight for Peace Alliance

Through GAP, Fight for Peace has created a rich community of almost 150 organisations across 25 countries. All those organisations have been through a rigorous selection process, and have been trained to adapt and deliver the Five Pillar methodology.

Fight for Peace’s vision for the GAP community was always for it to become an international network that pools evidence and presents a unified voice for alternative approaches to youth crime and violence around the world. Fight for Peace International have managed to retain contact with 89% of GAP partner organisations, and via a number of ad hoc and formal activities, have continued to provide support to organisations beyond the 12 months of their support package.

In October 2016, Fight for Peace was delighted to secure funds from the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, and their partner Mercedes Benz, to establish the Fight for Peace Global Alliance; an ongoing, dynamic, productive community of practice that supports members to increase their effectiveness, sustainability and influence. Members will be supported to:

- Further develop their programming and their organisations through webinars, one-to-one surgery style consultancy, in-country training workshops, and access to online tools
• Communicate with peer-clubs locally and internationally via social media and in-person exchange visits, and develop their profile through Fight for Peace communications channels
• Develop collaborative programming based on Fight for Peace approaches, and wider areas where members are experts, that can be delivered in multiple sites and cities by members working together
• Mobilise resources via fundraising capacity building, connections to opportunities, and direct support with programme design and bid writing

As Alliance members increase their organisational effectiveness, the young people they work with will experience positive changes in their personal development, progressions in education and employment, and the likelihood of involvement in crime and violence.

This project is in its early stages and initially just focused on the UK, but progress in 2016 included:
• A branding project to create a new name and visual identity for the network
• A needs assessment to identify initial training priorities of the network
• Delivery of first support activities including a webinar, one-to-one surgeries, and developing fundraising bids
• Design of two collaborative projects, currently being presented to investors, that would see alumni working together to deliver services UK wide

Prior to securing funds to formalise the Fight for Peace Alliance, further support was provided to GAP partners in South Africa on two fronts: capacity building support in Cape Town via the BT Supporters Club / Comic Relief, which ran from 2014-2016 and provided a two year extension to the GAP support in the city; and by securing investment for GAP partner Fight with Insight (FWI) in Johannesburg. The latter investment, also via Comic Relief, was used to support the organisation to sustain and scale its activities over the period 2015 to 2018.

Supporting Alliance partners in Cape Town

Over the course of 2016, Fight for Peace continued to develop the support provided to partners in the city. Inputs included strategic organisational development, staff capacity building, fundraising, network strengthening and leadership mentoring. There was also increased focus on programme development, which has led to partners implementing new sports activities.

As a result of these inputs:
• Cape Flats YMCA has launched a martial arts project delivering karate sessions in five schools in the Cape Flats. The project has been so successful that the original target of 65 participants was exceeded by 600%, eventually growing to 391 participants
• A new boxing club was launched at Oasis, regularly attended by 20 young people from an informal settlement in the Phillipi area
• A life skills programme was launched for young boxers at Future Champs gym with sessions delivered in partnership with Oasis
• Boxing sessions for 2,130 learners in five Heideveld schools were delivered by young coaches trained by UK AP partner Chris Shimwell
• After school boxing clubs were created at four GCU schools

Where possible, partners carried out monitoring and evaluation of the changes experienced by young people attending activities. Highlights included:
At Oasis, of the 13 young people who participated in the Plickers evaluation session:
• 89% said that boxing has helped them feel healthier and fitter
• 92% said that boxing training has made them feel more positive about their future

At GCU, of the 248 young people (55% female) who completed self-report questionnaires at Welcome Primary School in 2016:
• 76% reported feeling more confident
• 83% reported improved self-esteem
• 87% said they respect other people more

This project ended in September 2016 but was succeeded by the Safer Communities Incubator programme which allows the relationships established, programing developed and capacity strengthened to be capitalised upon and continued. Looking back over the course of the BT Supporters Club grant, Fight for Peace considers the most significant achievements to be:
• The successful design implementation of an holistic support programme for grassroots partners that could offer an instructive model for other INGO / CBO partnerships
• The growth of GCU, doubling staff capacity within two years
• All projects supported by the Bridge Funds continuing beyond initial funding, with the aim of the funds being to catalyse and initiate long-term programming
• A UK-based alumni partner, Chris Shimwell, spending three weeks in Cape Town training GCU young people to offer entry-level boxing sessions
Supporting Alliance Partner Fight with Insight in Johannesburg

In 2015, Fight for Peace secured investment from Comic Relief to develop and strengthen Alliance partner Fight with Insight (FWI). Fight for Peace retains 10% of the grant to provide MEL support, but all other funds are regranted to FWI for their activities in Johannesburg.

In 2016 FWI delivered:

- Open Access gym sessions to 532 young people (481 males and 51 females), working at a prevention level with young people who attend boxing and martial arts sessions combined with a life skills programme (based on the Department of Education’s Life Orientation Curriculum)
- Alternative youth justice provision to 18 young men, working intensively with young people in conflict with the law, referred by justice agencies, to reduce criminal behaviour and overcome issues such as addiction and mental health problems
- Support to eight at-risk young men with a one-to-one course of life coaching to build resilience, reduce risky behaviour and increase capacity to take up opportunities
- Support to four talented young male boxers with role model potential to be trained as coach mentors, providing career development and increasing the capacity and effectiveness of FWI
- Nutrition provision to all young people when they attended activities, and health and nutrition education in line with the Department of Social Development’s Early Intervention programme

As a result of these activities:

- 100% of young people on court diversion successfully completed their court mandated programme
- 77% of regular participants did not commit any unlawful offences or risk taking behaviour during their participation in the programme
- 92% of regular attenders self-reported feeling more able to bounce back and move forward positively

Participant stories:

Little S, Fight with Insight member

When Little S first started attending boxing classes, he constantly had a runny nose and struggled to concentrate for longer than a few minutes during the boxing sessions. As a result, he was naughty and seen as disruptive. Through boxing, Little S’s physical fitness improved and he gained access to doctors, as part of the grading and pre-fight medical checks that are required, who prescribed medication for his asthma. Throughout the boxing sessions, the coaches applied the principle of consequence to action as a consistent form of discipline, and Little S’s behaviour started to improve. In the life skills sessions, Little S learnt about rules and why they are important, behaviour and how it affects others, and goal setting. Little S has become a focussed and healthy boy, who is able to participate in a full session of boxing and life skills with very few disruptions.

FP, Fight with Insight member

(FP’s story is told by a letter of thanks from one of FWI’s partners)

The Sophiatown team deeply appreciates the way you have integrated FP into the boxing club. He suffers from the emotional and neurological consequences of exposure to severe trauma in early childhood, and continues to live in conditions of such extreme poverty that he has never been able to experience material or emotional stability and security. As a result, he has a long history of learning and behavioural problems which have alienated him from teachers, peers and other potential support systems. The boxing club, however, already seems to have made a big difference to FP. His mother reports that he is much better behaved and much more respectful towards her and his younger siblings. For the first time in years, he put some effort into studying for his exams, and no longer hangs around with the gangsters in the building. He spends much more time at home, especially on the boxing days when he comes home tired but content.

In addition, at an organisational level, the following developments have been reported or observed:

- FWI now has the largest amateur boxing squad in Gauteng, consisting of 45 active boxers, some of whom are being considered for national teams
- FWI is gaining significant recognition in academic and health professional communities, particularly Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry and Neurology
- As a result of an increased profile in the academic world more universities have become interested in using FWI as a placement site. As a result the programme has benefited from more social work and psychology students than estimated

Through this project, the Fight for Peace - FWI partnership has continued to generate rich mutual opportunity and learning:

- Fight for Peace commissioned FWI to support partners in Cape Town to develop capacity around Child Safeguarding, which demonstrated the potential for learning within the global network
- FWI supported Fight for Peace to develop a closer understanding of working with vulnerable young people in South Africa that has been helpful when setting up the Safer Communities Incubator office
- This kind of grant-based relationship has not been entered into with a GAP partner before, and will build the case to channel funds to more partners around the world
Safer Communities Incubator

The Safer Communities Incubator (SCI) project aims to establish an integrated, multi-agency approach to delivering the Five Pillar methodology in hotspot communities in Kingston, Jamaica, and Cape Town, South Africa. The project is designed as a pilot that will generate a codified model that can be replicated in other cities around the world that are affected by high levels of youth violence.

The Cape Town element of the project started in July 2016 and has been in a set-up and planning phase for the remainder of the year. Progress includes:

- The appointment of an existing GAP team member as Project Lead for the city
- Recruitment of two local staff in Project Coordinator and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer roles with the full team in place in October
- The establishing of an office and local administrative base via Safety Lab, a Cape Town based violence reduction organisation known through GAP
- Community mapping and consultation resulting in the selection of three Cape Flats communities to focus on: Gugulethu, Manenberg, and Mitchells Plain
- Relationship development with key service providers in those locations as well as with key actors in Cape Town City Government and the government of the West Cape
- Development of a project implementation plan that will see Open Access prevention activities in the three communities alongside more intensive intervention programming

The office in Jamaica was established at the end of 2015 and fully staffed by March 2016. As a result, activities are further developed than in Cape Town. Key progress achieved in 2016 includes:

- The piloting of a collective impact Sport for Development programme in six target communities in Kingston reaching 65 young people, co-designed with GAP partners and new delivery partners and including boxing, capoeira, taekwondo and wrestling, integrated with personal development and weekly cross community get togethers
- 100% of participants completing an end of programme feedback survey reported that the programme was fun, that they respect their coach, that they feel respected by their coach and that they want to keep training in their chosen sport
- The creation of champions. A young woman who tried boxing for the first time through the programme in May 2016, went on to win the Caribbean Junior Women's championship in December
- The signing of an MoU with the Ministry of National Security to support key violence prevention and reduction initiatives. The MoU includes programme delivery collaboration with the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) to work with at-risk young people in six target communities, MEL capacity building support to CSJP to introduce a new case management information system, support to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to integrate sport for development approaches into activities for wards and inmates of juvenile and adult correctional facilities and support to the DCS to strengthen reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for young people re-entering the six target communities through referrals to Fight for Peace-supported boxing and martial arts programmes.
- The securing of a DFID grant to roll out boxing and martial arts based programming in six target communities. This support is aligned to the MoU signed with the Ministry of National Security to strengthen and extend the work of the CSJP in key hotspot communities and includes activities to strengthen the multi-agency delivery of holistic programming for at-risk young people, through active participation in relevant stakeholder networks and regular convening of partner networks. Fight for Peace regranted all funds to partners in the six communities for delivery of regular boxing and martial arts and personal development programmes.
- The provision of capacity building support to GAP partners and new partners, including organisational development and capacity building inputs, MEL systems, tools and training, networking and collaboration support to enable partners to work together and support to codify partners’ methodology so they can develop internal and external training resources.

Fight for Peace in the media 2016

Throughout 2016, Fight for Peace featured in a wide range of websites, magazines, newspapers and television programmes. Some of the highlights include:

January

- Jornal o Dia - Life lessons in the Complexo da Maré
- Jornal o Dia - The Maré Warrior
- Sky Sports - Boxing giving kids a chance
- You Can Be the Change - Organisation Nominations: Fight for Peace

February

- Forbes - The future of business lies in hybrid social finance partnerships
• Business Fights Poverty - Hybrid social finance partnerships that drive change and success
• Channel News Asia - Olympics give Rio slum kids hope for survival
• Daily Maverick - Rio: Beneath the spangles and the samba, a recurring cycle of dearth and excess
• Ashoka - Future business lies in hybrid social finance partnerships

March
• Beyond Me - Support our support services

April
• IOC - Fighting for peace with an Olympic spirit on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
• Reuters - Fight for Peace
• Rio 2016 - Sport for peace: IOC support social project in the Rio 2016 host city
• International Judo Federation - Judo For The World: Brazil

May
• United Nations - NGO Fight for Peace stages conference in Rio de Janeiro on sport and social inclusion
• Sport Film Festival - Fighting for Peace
• Canadian Sport Film festival - Fighting for Peace
• Boston Globe - The Big Picture: Fight for Peace Academy
• UNESCO - Fight for Peace holds International Conference

June
• BT Sport - Fight for Peace (South Africa)
• Positive News - The Rio residents’ fighting to keep their communities
• G1 Globo - Everyday Athletes series shows fighters’ routine
• Reuters - Brazil’s favela kids eye Olympic glory

July
• Sport Up/Between the Lines - Building community and brighter futures after school in Mexico
• LaInformacion.com - Model Adriana Lima gets in the ring for a good cause
• Laureus - Supermodel Adriana Lima spars with Rio kids from Laureus project ahead of Olympics
• IWC - Gloves against crime: IWC brand ambassador Adriana Lima boxes with Laureus kids in Brazil
• Laureus Real Heroes - Luta Pela Paz – Brazil – The Boxer Who Did Not Fight Back

August
• GNT - London after the Games
• Laureus - Fight for Peace member chosen to star in the Rio 2016 closing ceremony
• JUNICLARE - Fight for Peace member chosen to star in the Rio 2016 closing ceremony
• Vogue Magazine - A knockout for violence. Englishman Luke Dowdney transformed his NGO in the Complexo da Maré, Rio, into a global example
• Financial Times - Brazil’s favela kids eye Olympic glory
• Olympic.org - Rio bids the world a fond farewell
• O Globo - Athletes’ Olympic success inspires new generations
• El Mundo - Fight for Peace offers an alternative to drug trafficking for the children of the Maré favela in Rio de Janeiro
• Publico - The hook that saves lives in the Maré favela
• El Universal - Fight for Peace. A gym working against violence
• Financial Times - Project gives favela children Olympic dreams
• O Globo - Norwegian NGO inspires and prepares young people for the job market

September
• BBC - Knife crime / How gang life started
October
• UNICEF Jamaica - Sport for development and peace. Jamaica chosen in global research project
• Huffington Post - Fighting for Peace: The London boxing club working to keep youths out of gangs

November
• Newham Recorder - Debutants impress on Fight for Peace show
• The Wharf - Fight for Peace stages final boxing show of 2016 in North Woolwich
• Sport England - Coaching in an active nation

December
• Newham Recorder - Olympic champion visits Fight for Peace club
• BBC - Nicola Adams guest edits the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme

Fight for Peace’s notable mentions

“I was delighted to be involved with Fight for Peace in 2016 as the organisation’s Ambassador. Participating in events over the year in London and Rio de Janeiro with Fight for Peace, and also attending a training session at the London Academy just prior to Christmas, gave me the chance to meet a number of young people who are benefitting from the work Fight for Peace and its committed staff are doing. These young champions are succeeding in the boxing ring and martial arts gym and are also using the skills we all acquire through sport to make positive changes in their lives, with the help of Fight for Peace’s education, employability, leadership and personal development programmes.”
Nicola Adams OBE, Double Olympic Champion and Fight for Peace Ambassador

“I feel so privileged to have worked with Fight for Peace in both Rio de Janeiro and London. Not only do I care a great deal for the work that they do, the coaches are wonderful to interact with; thoughtful, curious, and open-minded. Most importantly, they are committed professionals with a desire to continually improve for the benefit of the young people whom they coach and support. I have worked with coaches on five continents in professional, Olympic and Paralympic sports and it’s my view that the guys at Fight for Peace have a world-class commitment to their development and practice.”
Andrew Gillott, Coaching Support Specialist and Coaching Consultant to Team GB

“Being here in Rio and meeting the children that Fight for Peace are making so many changes in their lives, improving their self-esteem and showing how much they are capable of, it is a beautiful thing. I feel very honoured to have a chance to be in the ring and share my passion with these children.”
Adriana Lima, Brazilian Supermodel

“Fight for Peace has its heart and head in the right place. With deep empathy and understanding, they embrace kids under the toughest circumstances. But their approach also aligns nicely with what the science tells us about youth development and violence reduction. Finally, they are relentless on implementation and savvy about communication. Rarely do you see all these strengths in a single organisation.”
Thomas Abt, Senior Research Fellow with the Center for International Development at Harvard University

with education and personal development to realise the potential of young people in communities affected by crime and violence. They earned invaluable trust in violent and hostile communities enabling them to provide young people with opportunities they would otherwise not have access to—leadership development, employment, safe havens, and family communication and guidance. FFP looks to develop new partnerships and collaborations in Brazil that will help increase funding and investment to make this powerful and needed programming sustainable and everlasting.”
Nason Buchanan, Gang Reduction and Youth Development Unit, Los Angeles Mayor’s Office

“The Ministry of National Security acknowledges the work being done in Jamaica by the Fight for Peace organisation, and welcomes the opportunity to formalise our relationship with today’s signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Fight for Peace and the Ministry. Crime and lawlessness are global issues that confront every country and we need to be able to share ideas and best practices with each other in order to overcome this common enemy. The collaboration with Fight for Peace is an excellent example of this approach. As a Ministry we are fully committed to the collaborative approach and regard our international and local partners as important members of our coalition to create a safer and more prosperous Jamaica. The Ministry pledges its full support to Fight for Peace along with your local partners and facilitators.”
Hon Robert Montague MP, Jamaican Minister for National Security
Visits and social events at the Rio Academy

January

Fight for Peace is honoured to receive visits from the President of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee, Andrew Parsons and Brazil Director at Human Rights Watch, Maria Laura Canineu.

February

Fight for Peace receives visits from the Director of Beyond Sport, Alexandra Chalat and Gabriela Davies, of the British Consulate in Rio de Janeiro.

March

Dr. Gloria Valeria da Veiga (UFRJ Faculty of Nutrition), Nico Messner (International Judo Federation) and students from the University of Virginia all visit the Rio Academy in March.

Fight for Peace staff participate in the 2016 Sport Relief Mile.

Fight for Peace launches its Instagram profile.

Representatives from the International Judo Federation visit the Rio Academy to shoot a film on the life of judo athlete Raissa and on the programmes offered at Fight for Peace.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) pays a visit to the Rio Academy and records a film in commemoration of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

President of the Jamaican Wrestling Federation, Kevin Wallen, and President of McKay Taekwondo, Jason McKay, join Fight for Peace Founder & Director Luke Dowdney in participating in an interview on Jamaican TV channel CVM.

The sports coaching team at Fight for Peace in Rio completes a six month training and consultancy programme on the development of high performance athletes in partnership with the British Olympic Association (BOA).

April

Fight for Peace athletes begin attending nutrition workshops via a partnership with the Josué de Castro Institute of Nutrition at The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

Head of Tinder - Latin America, Andrea Iorio, visits the Rio Academy.

Fight for Peace Founder & Director Luke Dowdney appears on Jamaican TV programme Smile Jamaica.

The Fight for Peace wrestling team wins three gold medals at the Arnold Classic Brasil 2016 competition.

Fight for Peace boxers win six gold and four silver medals at the Copa Cláudio Coelho competition.

Fight for Peace muay thai athletes win eight gold and seven silver medals in the Second Round of the Carioca Muay Thai League.

May

Fight for Peace, in partnership with UNESCO, hosts the Sport, Youth Inclusion and Violence Prevention international conference in Rio de Janeiro.

Freestyle wrestling is added to the sports offered at the Rio Academy.

Fight for Peace Project Coordinator Ana Carolina is featured in the book Generation Favela, written by journalists Marie Naudascher and Hélène Seingier and illustrated by Alexandre De Maio.

June

Patrice Cholley, from the International Olympic Committee, Stephen Lock, from Speyside, and students from Turabo University (Porto Rico) and representatives from JP Morgan all visit the Rio Academy in June.

Fight for Peace stages a Martial Arts Tournament in Maré featuring boxing, muay thai and taekwondo.

Fight for Peace members participate in a presentation of the Olympic and Paralympic medals at the Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro in the presence of International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.
Fight for Peace receives a visit from representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). During the visit, Fight for Peace had the chance to present its work to two judo legends - sensei Yuko, coach at Instituto Reação and two time world champion and bronze medalist at the London 2012 Olympic Games, Yoshie Ueno.

**July**

Thays Prado, from UN Women and students from the University of Tennessee visit the Rio Academy in July.

Model Adriana Lima participates in a Vogue magazine photo shoot with Fight for Peace athletes.

Fight for Peace receives a Certificate of Recognition from the city of Los Angeles.

Fight for Peace participates in the Tereza de Benguela Seminar in commemoration of the International Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean Women’s Day at the Maré Arts Centre.

Fight for Peace’s Roberto Custódio is named a Laureus Real Hero and his story is featured on the organisation’s website.

**August**

Paulo Junqueiro, President of Sony Brasil, Nick Bittel, Chief Executive of London Marathon Events, Nilvo Caixeta, from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Casey Rotter, from UNICEF USA, Gerard Scheij, from O&A, Guy Abraham, from Performics, Tina Davis, from CitiBank and Jackie Harkness, from Glideslope, all visit the Fight for Peace Rio Academy in August.

Fight for Peace launches its Fight For It fundraising campaign.

Roberto Custódio, Carlos Viana and Raissa Lima carry the Olympic Torch in the streets of Rio de Janeiro.

Fight for Peace staff and young people participate in an event at British House in Rio de Janeiro in which Founder & Director Luke Dowdney speaks on the subject of sport as a tool for violence prevention.

Fight for Peace Ambassador Nicola Adams wins her second Olympic gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Paulo Ricardo, a Fight for Peace Rio Academy member, is selected as one of the recipients of the Olympic Cup at the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

**September**

Anroux Marais, Western Cape Minister of Sport (South Africa), Kobus Marais, a South African Member of Parliament, Géline Yvon, from Fundação Trafigura, and Patience Shikwambana, from the South African Olympic Committee, all visit the Rio Academy in September.

Fight for Peace members attend Rio 2016 Paralympic events.

Fight for Peace is shortlisted for a Beyond Sport Award in the Sport for Conflict Resolution category.

Fight for Peace participates in an event in Ceará, Brazil to celebrate 50 years of ChildFund Brasil.

Michel Soares is selected to represent the Brazilian National Youth Boxing Team.

**October**

Michel Soares is victorious in the final of the Continental Youth Boxing Championship in Costa Rica and becomes Continental Youth Boxing Champion.

The Rio Academy receives a visit from Maurice Machenbaum, from Fight for Peace partner WISE.

Representatives from Fight for Peace participate in the Laureus Sport for Good Summit 2016 in Heidelberg, Germany.

Fight for Peace Rede Brasil Project Coordinator Diana Currie is selected to participate on the US State Department’s Global Sports Mentoring Programme.

Fernanda Portieri, from Fight for Peace Global Partner Credit Suisse, visits the Rio Academy.

Fight for Peace athletes win three gold medals at the LITERJ Troféu Brasil de Taekwondo competition.
The Brazilian Judo Confederation invites Fight for Peace athletes to celebrate International Judo Day at their Rio HQ together with Brazilian National Team Coach Rosicleia Campos and Olympic medalist Erika Miranda.

Diana Currie represents Fight for Peace at the espnW Sport Summit in California.

Thirteen Fight for Peace athletes participate in the Copa Eder Jofre boxing competition, resulting in eleven victories and two defeats.

November

Fight for Peace hosts screenings of Fighting for Peace, a film documenting the journey of two Fight for Peace boxers from Rio de Janeiro, in New York and Los Angeles.

The Fight for Peace boxing team wins the South - South East Boxing Tournament, with three Rio Academy athletes each winning a gold medal.

Fight for Peace Founder & Director Luke Dowdney presents on the Sport and Peace panel at the IV International Week of Sport for Social Change, hosted by REMS.

Fight for Peace receives a visit from Thays Prado, UN Women One Win Leads to Another Project Coordinator.

Fighting for Peace wins the Jury Prize at the Baghdad International Film Festival.

Visits and social events at the London Academy

January

A new fifteen member Youth Council for 2016 is unveiled at the London Academy.

Fight for Peace members participate in the TEDx TEEN TALK at the O2 in London.

February

Young people complete an Emergency First Aid Course at the London Academy.

March

Brazilian jiu jitsu athlete Sophie Newness wins a gold medal in her competitive debut at the Southend BJJ Open.

Fight for Peace stages a boxing show at the London Academy featuring boxers Elyas Azize Laszlow Varga and Khalid Hakimi.

A Passenger Service Agent employability course is held at the London Academy.

April

Representatives from the Vulcan Centre, a UK Alumni Programme partner in Hull, spend the day at the London Academy.

Fight for Peace boxer Khalid Afgorilla Hakimi secures a victory at the Dagenham Boxing Show.

Head of HR HSBC UK, Andrew Fox, delivers a workshop on effective communication to the London Academy Youth Council.

May

Credit Suisse’s Louis Williams leads a personal development workshop on finance and budgeting at the London Academy.
World Cup winning Brazilian footballer Raí visits the London Academy to interview staff and young people as part of a documentary aired on the GNT television channel.

Nine athletes represent Fight for Peace at a muay thai show held at the London Academy.

**June**

Eight young people from the London Academy complete an SIA Door Supervisor course as part of Fight for Peace’s Employability Pillar.

**July**

Fight for Peace attends a celebration to mark the expansion of UK AP partners The Bulldogs Boxing Club training facilities in Port Talbot, south Wales.

UK AP Cohort 4 training programme is staged at Fight for Peace in London, welcoming four new organisations onto the programme.

Head of London Academy, Denise Carroll participates in a Comic Relief roundtable discussion exploring how sport can play a role in helping women and girls fulfill their potential.

**August**

Staff from the London Academy visit Fight for Peace UK AP partners in Northern Ireland, sharing skills, knowledge and experiences.

Members from the London Academy visit the Millennium Mills development project in Silvertown, east London.

**September**

Fight for Peace project Maré United and Fight for Peace Global Alumni Programme partners Grupo Internacional de Paz are included on the official shortlist for a Beyond Sport Sport for Conflict Resolution Award.

Members of the London Academy travel to south Wales for an Inter Alumni Day hosted by UK AP partners The Bulldogs Boxing Club.

Coaching Support Specialist Andrew Gillott delivers a workshop to London Academy coaches on creating optimum environments for developing high performance athletes.

**October**

State Street host Fight for Peace young people at an insight day held at their offices in Canary Wharf.

The Huffington Post visits the London Academy to shoot a mini-documentary on the work of Fight for Peace.

**November**

A Sports Massage Therapist employability course is held at the London Academy.

Fight for Peace stages its yearly Job Fair.

The achievements of London Academy young people are recognised at the Fight for Peace Annual Awards Ceremony.

London Academy Youth Councillor Abdul Wahed wins a Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Award and visits the UK Parliament to meet with Member of Parliament Stephen Timms.

Jawany Scott, John McFadyen and Kingsley Crawford gain their Brazilian Jiu Jitsu blue belts at a grading in east London.

The London Academy stages its second Boxing Show of 2016, Joe Concepción, Eniola Akingbesote and Musa Mohammed all making their debuts in the ring.

**December**

Dylan Oke, Hamsa Ahmed, John Kafunda, Zsolt Czike, Robertas Mariokas and Deividas Krisckinas all represent Fight for Peace at a Muay Thai Interclub event held at the London Academy.

Coaching Support Specialist Andrew Gillott delivers a second workshop to Fight for Peace London coaches.

Fight for Peace Ambassador Nicola Adams attends a fighting fit session at the London Academy accompanied by a crew from the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme.
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