



FIGHT FOR PEACE

2017 Annual Report

www.fightforpeace.net

ABOUT FIGHT FOR PEACE

Fight for Peace is an international NGO whose mission is to support young people to realise their potential, working with them to prevent violence in their communities. The organisation was founded in the Complexo da Maré favelas, Rio de Janeiro, in 2000 and today is present in 25 countries worldwide, working with young people through Academies, Safer Community Programmes and an Alliance of local partner organisations trained in the Fight for Peace methodology.

We believe the choices young people make are based on the opportunities and support they have access to, as well as the way they see themselves, how they relate to others, and how they see their future. That's why Fight for Peace invests in young people, offering integrated and holistic programmes in a safe environment.

Our Five Pillars methodology uses non-traditional methods to engage young people where conventional methods aren't working.

Through **Boxing & Martial Arts**, young people build strength and discipline, gain self-respect and learn that success comes through hard work and dedication.

We offer formal **Education** programmes for young people who are not at school, or who face difficulties in learning, and **Employability** support and training for young people to get access to the job market.

Through our **Support Services**, psychologists, youth workers and mentors help young people overcome issues they may have in their lives.

And our **Youth Leaders** help to design programmes, develop strategies and make decisions at every level of our organisation.

Fight for Peace uses a public health model which focuses on three levels of violence prevention.

At the primary level, we offer opportunities and support for the socio-economic inclusion of all young people living in communities affected by crime and violence. At the secondary level, we focus on individuals or groups identified as being at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime and violence. And, at the tertiary level, we support young people to disengage from crime and violence, and work to prevent them from reoffending or being victimised again.

Our work has both a local and global reach. We develop and implement holistic programmes that directly support young people at our Academies in Rio de Janeiro and London. Knowledge acquired is used to generate content and train other community-based organisations working in violence prevention around the world. We call this the Fight for Peace Alliance and, to date, we have trained more than 160 organisations from 25 countries around the world.

We also implement Safer Communities Programmes, where we work with local partners, governments, international agencies, donors and the private sector to generate collective impact for violence prevention across affected communities.

Through our Academies in Rio de Janeiro and London, our Safer Communities Programmes in Jamaica and South Africa and our Alliance of trained partner organisations, we have reached more than 250,000 young people in search of peace and a fairer society.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

During 2017, we faced moments of great difficulty due to increased levels of violence in Rio de Janeiro and London. Tragically, more young people from both our past and our present lost their lives to armed violence. As we work with our young people to build peace in the communities where we are present, we remember those young people who have been taken from their families and loved ones. Despite these extremely difficult moments, the dedication and resolve of our members, staff and wonderful supporters means that we reached the end of the year with much to celebrate.

It was a year in which Fight for Peace was included in a prestigious list of the Best One Hundred NGOs in Brazil and in which we commemorated the ten year anniversary of the opening of the London Academy. Highlights of the year included Ana Luiza, from our Rio Academy, being recognised as one of the BBC's 100 inspirational and innovative women for 2017 and our Fearless programme, featuring young people from Fight for Peace and Rede Globo journalist Carol Barcellos, leading the way in strengthening the image of women and encouraging more women and girls to participate in sporting activities.

Our athletes continued to succeed at the highest level. Two of our Rio Academy boxers, Rebeca de Lima and Wanderson de Oliveira, were selected to train with the Brazilian national team while, in London, Fight for Peace produced a National Weightlifting Champion and a British Universities Boxing Champion in Mohez Khan and Milambo Makani. We also staged our inaugural International Boxing Tournament, which pitted young athletes from Rio de Janeiro against counterparts from Moss Side Fire Station Boxing Club, a Fight for Peace partner organisation from Manchester, UK.

We grew both locally and globally in 2017. We reached more young people than ever before through our Academies, and expanded the number of partner organisations working collaboratively in the Fight for Peace Alliance.

Meanwhile, our Safer Communities Programmes in Jamaica and South Africa continued to develop their networks of partners, using a collective impact model to serve over 1000 young people in target communities affected by high levels of violence.

In addition, we held our first Life Champions programme in Stockholm, Sweden - the first stage in a mission to equip a global community of combat sports coaches to use their sports as a tool for youth development.

As we reflect on the events of 2017, we pay tribute to the wonderful work of our staff and young people and to the dedicated backing of our friends and supporters. Without this support, our work for a better world would not be possible.



Luke Dowdney MBE
Founder and CEO

ACADEMIES

Our Academies, in **Rio de Janeiro** and **London**, are fundamental to our work. They define and validate responses to risk factors identified by young people; develop and implement innovative pilot projects; deliver direct support to young people in their communities; serve as training centres for Fight for Peace Alliance partners; support the development and testing of training course content, and build local partnerships to provide additional services not covered by the Five Pillars methodology.

In 2017, we worked with over 2,900 children and young people at our Academies, helping them to reach their potential, supporting their personal development and assisting them in accessing new and existing opportunities.

SUCCESS STORIES

For **Mariana***, a boxer who joined Fight for Peace six years ago, 2017 was a watershed year in her life. She returned to her studies via one of the Rio Academy's education programmes and began assisting in boxing sessions alongside her coach. *"I returned to my studies because I want to set a good example for my children, I want to act as a mirror for them and show them that the way to achieve our goals is through study and dedication. My dream now is to go to university and I know that here at Fight for Peace I will have the support that I need."*

The will to learn and grow was also fundamental for **Daiane***, a participant in one of our Rio Academy's employability programmes. *"I participate in Na Ativa, a programme that supports young people*

aged 16 to 29 from the Maré community to get qualified for the job market. It's more than just a job opportunity, it's an environment where we can grow, evolve and develop confidence and self-awareness. We work on our strengths and our weaknesses in order to help us improve. The programme is fundamental in supporting young people like myself to enter the job market and have the chance to develop professionally at a good company. I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity and experience that I am having thanks to Fight for Peace," says **Daiane**, who is currently employed as an apprentice at Sony Music.

Jessica*, a muay thai athlete and member of the London Academy Youth Council, underlines the importance of working with young people to support their development and allow them to be the best they can be. She believes that the work of Fight for Peace helps young people become more confident and better prepared to make informed choices. *"I started to train in the female only session and it was really, really good. Our coach is amazing, she pushes us but we love it because it benefits us. Doing the monthly personal development sessions at the Academy also helped me get over the initial feeling of being a bit intimidated in the muay thai class. In personal development, you see people in a different environment and it breaks down a lot of barriers and helps you see how people really are outside of the gym. I love these sessions at Fight for Peace, they make me feel more confident with my answers, views and opinions. At Fight for Peace you can make friends, you can bond, I have met so many people here. It is actually like my second family!"*

*The name of this participant has been changed to protect their privacy.

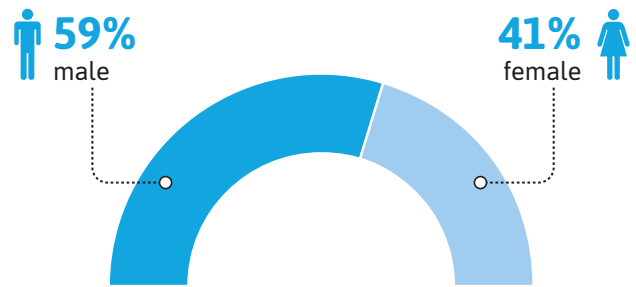


RIO ACADEMY

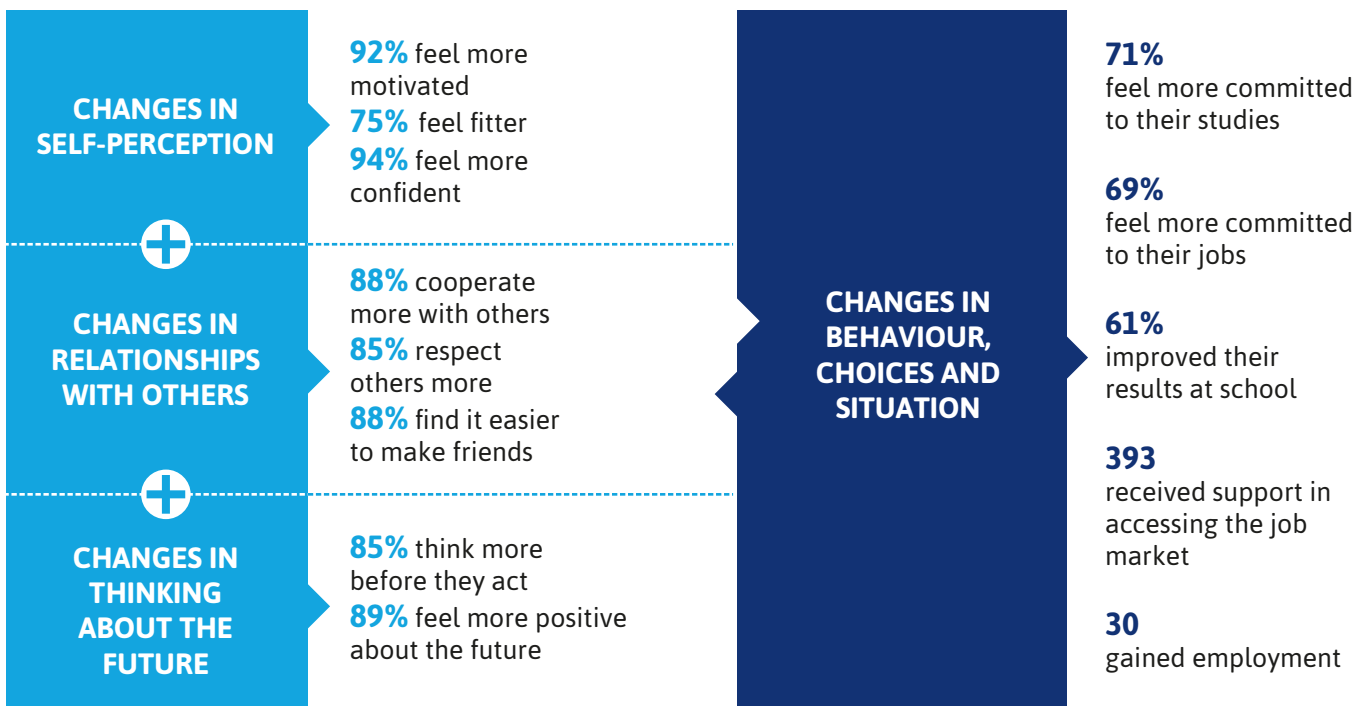
BOXING & MARTIAL ARTS

1,259 Boxing & Martial Arts participants

Boxing and martial arts training at the Fight for Peace Academy in Rio de Janeiro is open to young people aged 7 to 29 years old and is combined with weekly personal development sessions. These sports promote discipline, respect, self-control, a sense of belonging and increased self-esteem, and attract young people to participate in our programmes.



Every year a sample of Fight for Peace members complete self-report surveys as part of annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities. In 2017, Boxing & Martial Arts participants self-reported that as a result of coming to Fight for Peace:



These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

HIGHLIGHTS

231 medals won by Fight for Peace athletes

3 Maré United 2.0 projects were staged, using the Five Pillars model and offering cross-community sporting events, group training sessions and other exchanges to young people from different parts of the Complexo da Maré community. A total of 118 young people were impacted through these projects in 2017



EDUCATION



60 Learning Support students

63 Pathways students

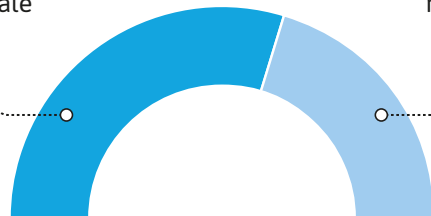
We offer support and educational opportunities for both young people who face difficulties in learning at school, and those who are not engaged in formal education. Through our Learning Support classes, we work with students aged 11 to 15 from formal school settings. The Pathways programme offers primary and secondary level education to young people aged 16 to 29 who have been out of school for more than two years, as well as individual support from our Support Services team to ensure that the learning experience is broadened and constant.



59% female



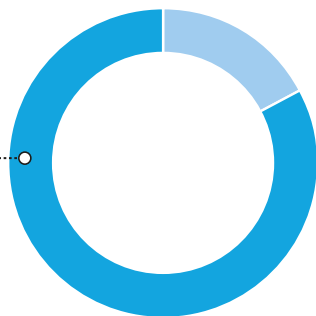
41% male



LEARNING SUPPORT

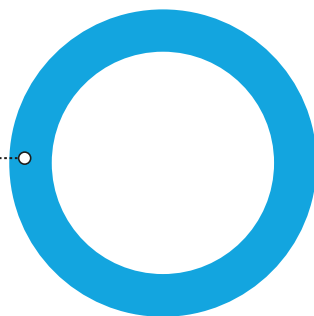
83%

improved their grades at school



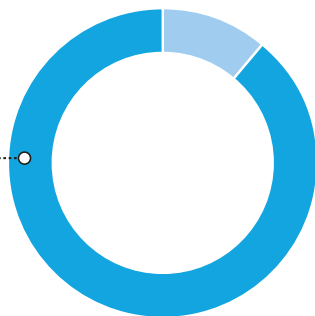
100%

passed their school year



89%

are more committed to their studies



PATHWAYS

14 young people passed the primary level course



EMPLOYABILITY



155

supported on
the Na Ativa
programme*

We offer support in gaining access to the job market through training, careers guidance, professional courses and referrals to job opportunities.

Employability participants completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:



These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

HIGHLIGHTS



1,090 people
received support at
Careers Fairs



610 people gained
job interviews through
employability support



52 people
gained
employment



RIO ACADEMY

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services team at our Rio Academy offers holistic support for young people to overcome issues they face at home, at school or in their personal lives.



524 young people supported by our specialist team



55 external referrals



25 meetings with parents and guardians totalled over 300 hours

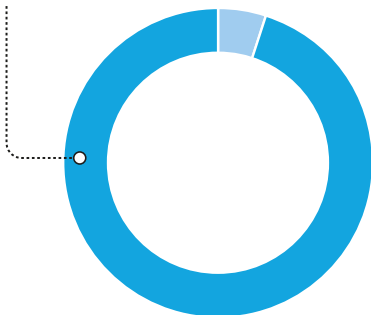


HIGHLIGHTS

Views of parents and guardians:

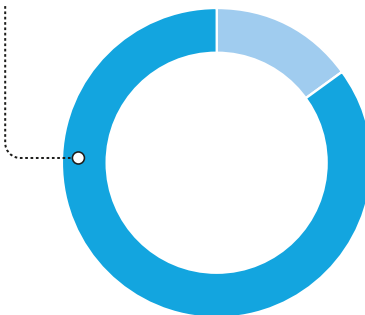
95%

of young people are more self-confident



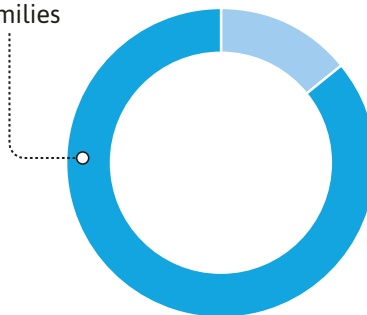
85%

of young people find it easier to make friends



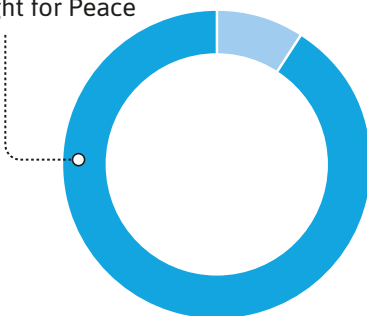
86%

of young people improved their relationships with their families



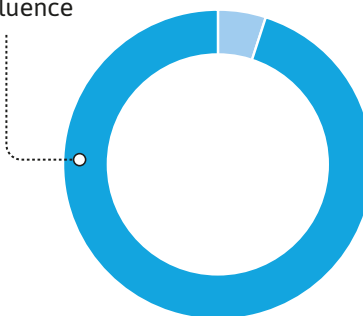
91%

of parents/guardians are satisfied with support provided to families by Fight for Peace



95%

of parents/guardians believe Fight for Peace to be a positive influence



LONDON ACADEMY

BOXING & MARTIAL ARTS




Boxing and martial arts training is open to young people aged 14 to 25 at the London Academy and is combined with monthly personal development sessions.

Boxing & Martial Arts participants completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:




These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

HIGHLIGHTS



Mohez Khan became the first national Olympic weightlifting champion at Fight for Peace



Milambo Makani was crowned British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) boxing champion

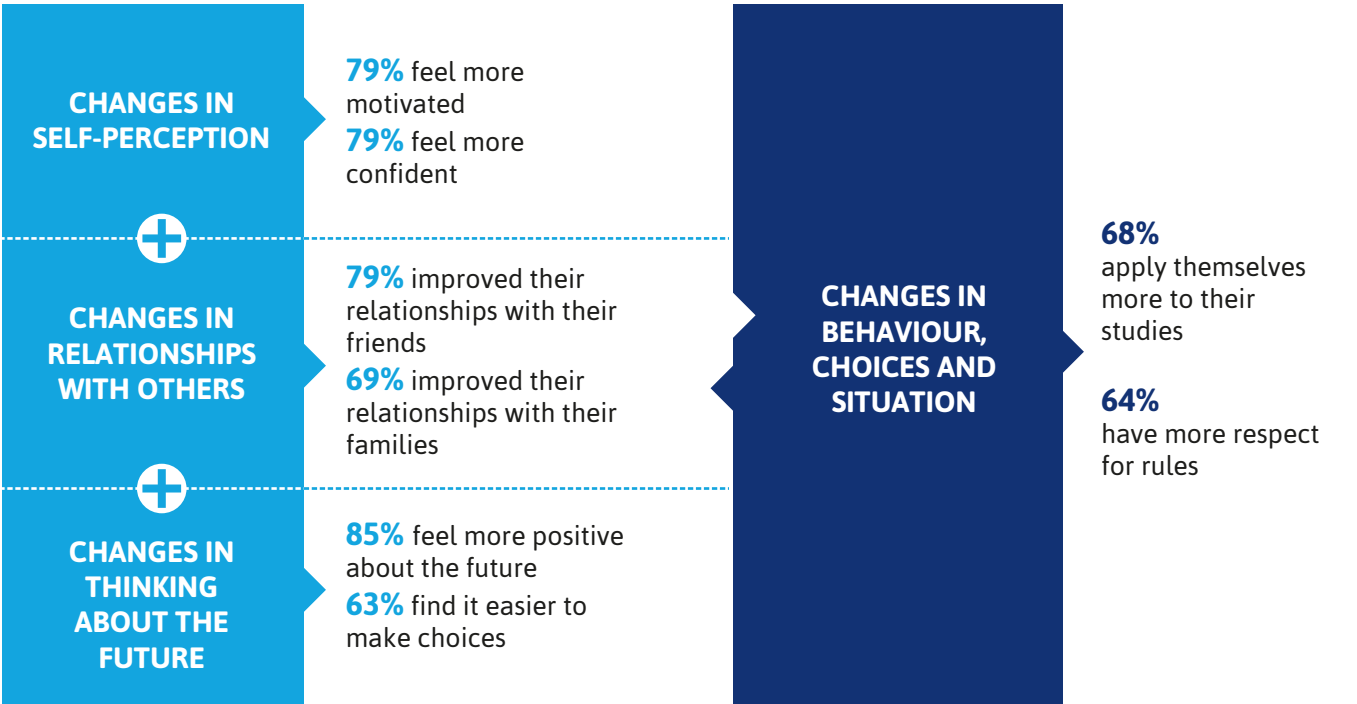


BOXING & MARTIAL ARTS

 **178** participants on the Twilight programme

Delivered at the London Academy, Twilight is an early intervention and alternative education programme for young people aged 7-16. Twilight combines boxing and general fitness with regular personal development sessions.

Twilight participants completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:



These statistics relate to a sample of participants.



Andy Aitchison

EDUCATION

 **30** young people participating on education programmes

At the London Academy, Pathways is aimed at 16 to 25 years olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The course offers two modules leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

Pathways participants completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:

CHANGES IN SELF-PERCEPTION

+

CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

+

CHANGES IN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

100% feel more confident

85% feel better about themselves and calmer

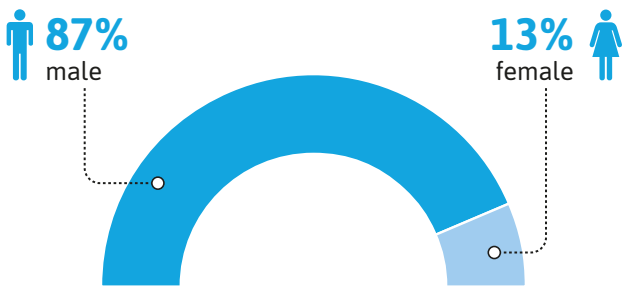
72% listen more to others

100% respect others more

100% believe that they have a greater chance of reaching their goals

100% think more before they act

These statistics relate to a sample of participants.



CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR, CHOICES AND SITUATION

54% of Pathways students passed their course

100% avoid getting into fights*

100% are less likely to join a gang or commit a crime*

*These statistics refer to those young people who reported having been involved in fights, or being likely to join a gang or commit crimes before joining Fight for Peace.



EMPLOYABILITY



101

young people supported

The Employability Pillar supports young people to gain access to the job market, as well as offering advice and guidance on careers and entrepreneurship.

Employability participants completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:



74% male

26% female



CHANGES IN SELF-PERCEPTION



CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS



CHANGES IN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

90% feel more confident

90% feel more independent

80% cooperate more with others

70% respect others more

80% believe that they have a greater chance of finding a job

90% feel more motivated

CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR, CHOICES AND SITUATION

86% progressed into employment, education, training, volunteering or work experience

70% proactively looked for work

70% feel better prepared to begin working

These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services team at the London Academy provides holistic support to young people facing issues at home, at school or in their personal lives.



340

young people supported by the Support Services team



22

sessions delivered to young women, aimed at raising confidence and increasing solidarity among participants



71

mentoring sessions with at risk young people

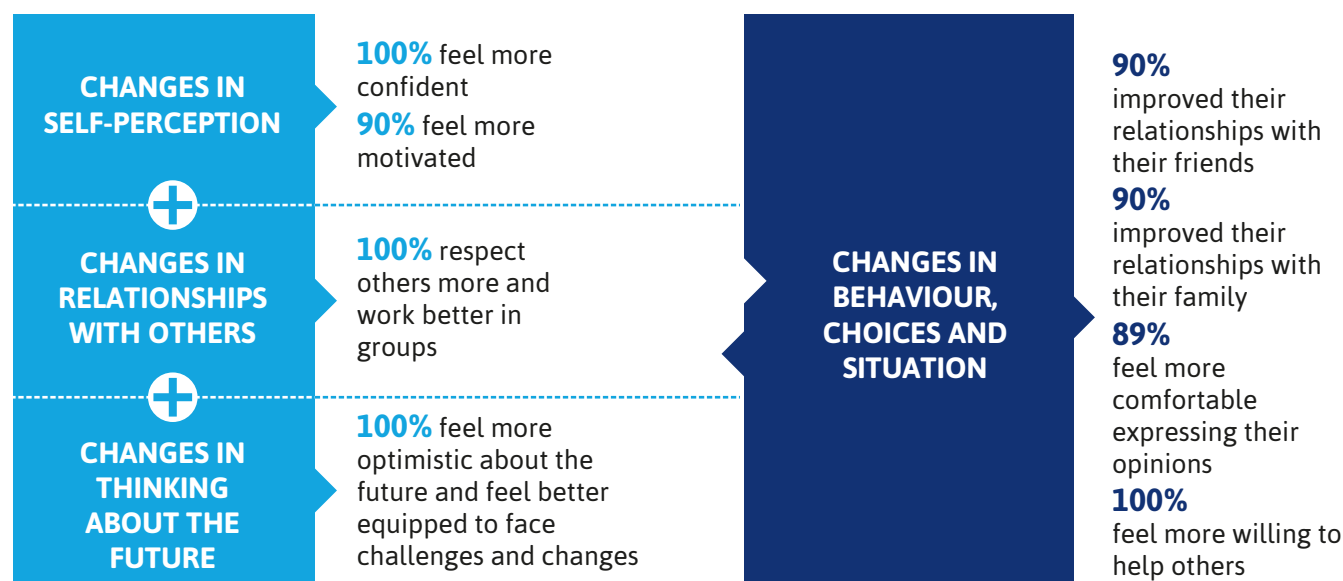


307

mentoring sessions with athletes and members

YOUTH COUNCIL – RIO DE JANEIRO

Youth Councillors completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:



These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

“ The Youth Council has changed me a lot. I’ve become more mature and have learnt about a range of different things. The experience has opened my mind and helped me understand certain things that previously I hadn’t understood and hadn’t even wanted to know about. I became a more responsible person, learned to listen to others more and realised that I’m not always right. My time in the Youth Council is ending, but I am ready to help the new young people who are going to take my place. ”

Elias*, Rio Academy Youth Council member.

“ Being part of the Youth Council in 2017 changed my perception of Fight for Peace - it helped me better understand the other areas of the organisation and what they were trying to achieve. Through meetings, new experiences and training sessions, I improved my public speaking skills and learned how to listen to others and to debate. I also learned to be responsible with the things I commit to. In general, it contributed to my personal development. ”

Roberta*, Rio Academy Youth Council member.

*The name of this participant has been changed to protect their privacy.



YOUTH COUNCIL – LONDON

Youth Councillors completing annual evaluation surveys in 2017 self-reported that:



These statistics relate to a sample of participants.

“ Being on the Youth Council has changed my views and the way I see things. It's been a great experience for me to learn and grow, to help and support other young people and help us move forward as an organisation. ”

Jake*, London Academy Youth Council

“ The Youth Council to me is the middle person between staff and the members. It helps people who are too shy to talk to staff as they are more comfortable communicating with other young members. The Youth Council means a lot to me as it has helped me build more understanding of what a real job feels like and has given me valuable skills. ”

Samuel*, London Academy Youth Council

*The name of this participant has been changed to protect their privacy.



THE SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Created to support young people engaged in armed groups (or criminal activity) in Rio de Janeiro to break ties with crime and violence, the **Special Scholarship Programme** has proven to be cheaper than prison and two to three times more effective in terms of recidivism.

Over a period of 18 months, participants receive: support to identify their high priority support needs and determine capacity to enter the programme; formal education qualifications (primary or secondary level); careers advice, job skills training and access to the formal job market; individual mentoring; additional support services through legal, medical and psychological assistance; and an on-going financial stipend for successful participation in the project.

“Entering the programme gave me a new chance in life.”

Programme participant

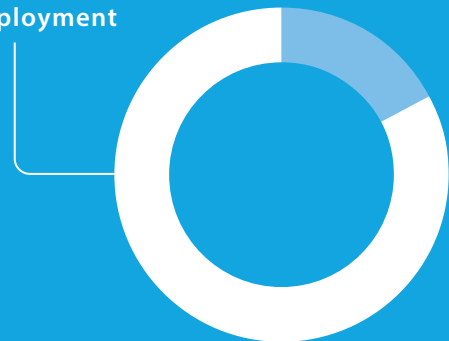
“With the support of the programme, I got my documentation together and got a job. Unfortunately, this opportunity didn't work out but I didn't lose hope. Soon after I got another job and I am still working there almost two years later.”

Programme participant

Since June 2017, Fight for Peace has been working with a second Special Scholarship Programme group, due to end in June 2019. A new evaluation will follow completion of this second stage of the programme.

The Centre for Security and Citizenship Studies (CESeC) at Cândido Mendes University carried out an external evaluation of the first Special Scholarship Programme between 2014 and 2016. The evaluation found that during this time:

83% of participants secured employment



67% of participants completed primary and/or secondary education



61% participants did not reoffend



FIGHT FOR PEACE ALLIANCE

The **Fight for Peace Alliance** is an ongoing community of practice for organisations who have undergone training in our methodology. This global network provides a platform from which approaches to reducing youth violence, that are developed and tested at our Academies, can be codified into principle-based content and scaled globally through Alliance members.

In 2017, Alliance member **Transformación Social, A.C. (TRASO)** won the Communities Award at the inaugural Beyond Sport Mexico Awards, held in Mexico City. This prestigious award recognised the impact of TRASO's CAPAZ, Campeones de la Paz programme, which empowers young people aged 7 to 11 and their families by combining boxing training with psychological group therapy, citizenship classes, human rights and parenting skills training. *"Being part of the Fight for Peace Alliance allowed us to focus our strategy, create and implement a new methodology and build new national and international relationships that today mean we are a strong and sustainable organisation"*, explains TRASO's Coordinator, **Héctor Colin**.

Working since 2009 with young people aged 8 to 18 years old from Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, **Association Filhos de Bimba – Lebanon** was trained in Fight for Peace's methodology in 2012 and, in 2017, began working with Fight for Peace consultants on the revamping of the organisation. By restructuring their strategies, Filhos de Bimba have developed a clear, consistent organisational image and a solid organisational structure. By having a solid structure, Filhos de Bimba will be able to create new projects and attract new opportunities, including new stakeholders, improved facilities, and scale their operations. *"Up to now, the process has been going smoothly. The Fight for Peace team is very motivated and motivating, helpful and knowledgeable. The support Fight for Peace provides to young organisations is crucial. We wouldn't have been able to do it without their support"*, highlights Co-Founder and Director **Nassib El Khoury**.

*The name of this participant has been changed to protect their privacy.

In the UK, Fight for Peace supported Alliance member **Redditch Boxing Academy** to engage young women at high risk of exclusion from a local secondary school, through a co-designed programme that combines boxing and personal development. Through bespoke one-to-one surgeries and tailored training sessions for front line staff, delivered by Fight for Peace consultants, the two organisations worked in partnership to create a series of personal development activities specifically identifying the needs of the target group of young people. Fight for Peace was able to further support Redditch Boxing Academy to develop and implement Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) strategies to record the positive impact of the programme. The successful delivery of the boxing and personal development sessions resulted in requests for additional support from the local school in engaging at risk young women.

Having begun partnering with Fight for Peace in 2015, Alliance member **UTOPIA**, working in disadvantaged communities in Mexico City, has made substantial progress in formalising its methodology and, in particular, its focus on its core pillars of Education and Combat Sports. Director **Jesús Villalobos** has seen the impacts of this progress on the lives of young people like **Javier***. *"Aged five years old, Javier began selling products on the street and collecting and recycling rubbish to support his family. This routine was damaging Javier's health and, at this time, he began to drink as is the norm for many recyclers his age. Javier was intrigued when he came across a group of young people doing taekwondo and this led him to join the UTOPIA sports programme"*, explains Jesús. *"Javier excelled in martial arts and began receiving educational support at UTOPIA. He was also able to develop his clear leadership potential. Working closely with staff, Javier has challenged us to be more youth friendly which has led to us designing more robust strategies. At UTOPIA this gives us great inspiration"*, notes Jesús.



FIGHT FOR PEACE ALLIANCE

163

organisations trained
to date (2017)

07

new organisations
trained in 2017

39,034

young people
impacted in 2017

Present in

25

countries through
Alliance members



SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMMES

Fight for Peace **Safer Communities Programmes (SCP)** operate in **Kingston**, Jamaica and **Cape Town**, South Africa and use collective impact methodology to integrate multiple services and actors in urban violence hotspots where capacity and resources are scarce. Via a local team on the ground, Fight for Peace acts as a backbone organisation working in partnership with government, international agencies, donors, the private sector, and community-based actors, offering training and capacity building, facilitating communication and helping to scale initiatives.

SUCCESS STORIES

16 year old **Isaac*** lives in Parade Gardens, one of six participating communities on the Safer Communities Programme in Kingston. He began participating in boxing and personal development sessions on the programme in an effort to control his anger and become calmer. It's making these changes at the individual level that Isaac believes will help make communities safer. *"I used to get robbed walking home from school when I was younger and I wanted to be able to defend myself. I now feel more confident walking through the streets. My coach has*

helped me to be calmer and stay focused on what is important", explains Isaac. Having recently completed a Boxing Coaching Assistant course staged by Fight for Peace and the Jamaica Boxing Board of Control (JBBC), Isaac has been able to gain paid work assisting coaches in combat sports sessions. *"I want to teach what I have learned so [young people] don't have to do bad things and get into trouble. I want to give youth support and respect and help them, respect them to build them up."*

Josh* joined the Manenberg People's Centre (MPC) karate programme in the hope of learning fighting skills that he could use to both defend himself and gain respect. Growing up in Manenberg, a participating community on the Safer Communities Programme in Cape Town, fighting on the streets was common for the 18 year old. Josh's coach quickly noticed his potential and provided guidance and support to channel his anger and energy, combining life skills with physical training. *"The coach introduced karate to us not just as a sport but as a way of life",* says Josh. *"I needed to learn self-control. I learned that I could talk myself out of a fight, knowing that I was not showing fear, but exercising control."*

*The name of this participant has been changed to protect their privacy.

KINGSTON



CAPE TOWN



SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMMES

CAPE TOWN



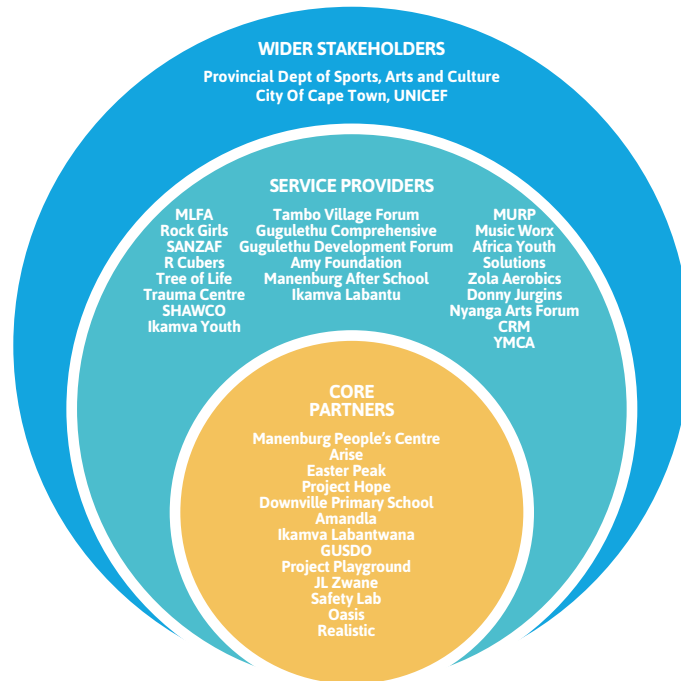
24 partners



137 adults impacted in 2017



540 young people impacted in 2017



KINGSTON



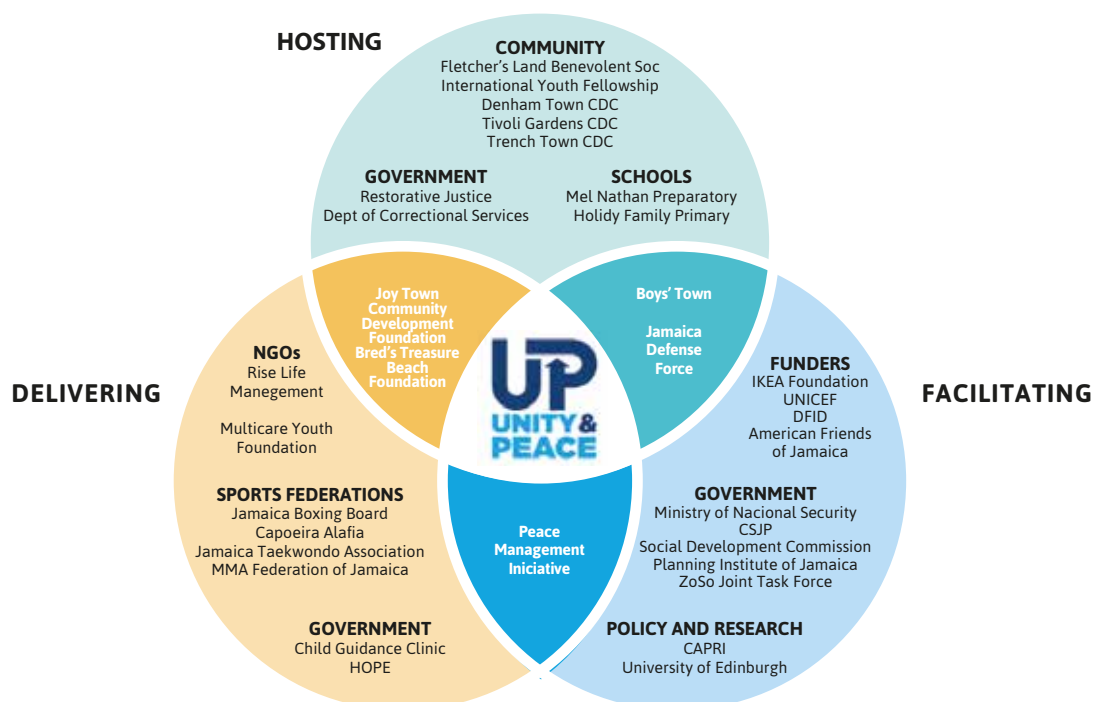
48 partners



242 adults impacted in 2017



823 young people impacted in 2017



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