



IMPACT REPORT 2023



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Since joining this remarkable organisation in October 2023, I have had the privilege of witnessing the transformative impact of Fight for Peace on the lives of young people.

The commitment to our mission is unwavering, and the positive outcomes achieved are a testament to the efforts of our staff, Board of Trustees, partners and supporters, and, most importantly, our young people.

Our sporting endeavours continue to thrive, with passionate and determined athletes showcasing their skills across boxing, MMA, muay thai and judo. This year, the return of our home boxing and muay thai shows reignited excitement amongst our members and our community.

Engaging with Youth Power, our youth leadership group, has been a highlight of my experience. Their vision and ideas have led to tangible changes within our organisation, and the work of our Young Creatives, who drive our social media and visual presence, is a testament to the potential of young people.

Our Alliance programme remains a cornerstone of our work, enabling us to share best practices with like-minded organisations and broaden our shared impact. Likewise, collaborations with our Collectives partners, such as the ACT-AS-1 consortium have delivered positive community results, proving to be powerful catalysts for change in Newham. Looking further afield, our work in Jamaica is impacting the lives of 100s of young people in communities in Kingston.

Our achievements would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. The belief in our mission has made a tangible impact on the lives of countless young people, and we are profoundly grateful for the ongoing support.

As we look ahead to 2024, exciting plans are on the horizon. Together, we can create a place where every young person has the opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential.

LEE HEMMINGS
CEO, FIGHT FOR PEACE

OPENING MESSAGES



2023 was a year in which we included more young people in our programme and that's hopefully something we can continue.

I am proud of what Youth Power achieved this year. The fact that Fight for Peace stayed open through the summer helped me keep my routine and it was thanks to Youth Power that this happened.

The highlight of 2023 for me personally was definitely the muay thai home show. It was amazing to do the fight camp and compete in an environment surrounded by so many familiar faces in a gym that I have spent so many years training, and with the Fight for Peace family around.

Looking ahead to 2024, I want to see more youth leadership, more competitions and more young people beginning to compete. I also hope that we can have programmes for people for whom perhaps competition is not their focus but they are looking for a place to get fit and socialise, and build community.

I'd like people reading this report to realise that Fight for Peace is making a huge impact. This is a trend that is going to continue, we can keep making more and more impact on people's lives.

TOMMY
YOUTH POWER MEMBER
AND MUAY THAI ATHLETE



When I think about 2023, I think about getting Youth Power (Fight for Peace's youth leadership group) started. I didn't understand what it was at first, we had to understand how to get to know each other and make it work.

We created a team that looks at how we can improve Fight for Peace, and I think our impact on having sports sessions run during the summer was something really important that came from that. In the leadership groups you are asked your opinion and have to make tough decisions and find solutions.

I think that before 2023, when I thought about Fight for Peace I was thinking about martial arts only, but now I think much more. For example, I got my First Aid Level Three qualification here this year and also did a production course and used my skills to create social media content and short films as part of the Young Creatives.

I would say to people that it's not easy at Fight for Peace, like everything you get out what you put in. But it is full of positive people, and it's a positive environment with lots of opportunities for young people in terms of jobs, education and sport.

AMET
YOUTH POWER MEMBER
AND YOUNG CREATIVE

OUR WORK

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

At Fight for Peace, we focus on three complementary strategic areas to ensure that we maximise our reach and impact.



ACADEMY

We work directly with young people at our Academy, developing their potential through integrated programmes of support and inclusion, and providing us with expertise we apply across our work.

LOCATION:



Newham, London



ALLIANCE

Via our Alliance, we exchange skills, knowledge and support with community-based partners around the world to strengthen youth programmes, and enable us to have significant influence and reach.

LOCATION:

127 Alliance member organisations in

17 countries worldwide* including over 50 across the UK



COLLECTIVES

Through our Collectives, we facilitate effective partnership-working in focus communities to strengthen youth services, and find solutions for complex issues affecting young people.

PROJECT NAMES AND LOCATIONS:

ACT-AS-1
(Newham, London)

Newham Youth Partnership
(Newham, London)

UP Unity & Peace
(Kingston, Jamaica)



*Support to Alliance partner organisations around the world is provided in partnership with Fight for Peace's sister organisation Luta pela Paz. Fight for Peace and Luta pela Paz share methodology, values and global strategy but are two separate legal entities. Luta pela Paz was founded in 2000 and Fight for Peace International in 2007. Luta pela Paz is a non-profit NGO registered in Brazil (CNPJ 09300383000198), and Fight for Peace International is a UK registered charity (registered charity no. 1137636)

H I G H L I G H T S

ACADEMY

1144 young people attended the Fight for Peace Academy including **766** new members

766 combat sports sessions delivered

86% feel welcome, accepted and part of a positive community at Fight for Peace

74% have developed strong and trusting relationships with sports coaches and youth workers at Fight for Peace

COLLECTIVES

ACT-AS-1

5,015 young people reached through **219** detached outreach sessions delivered by ACT-AS-1 partners

£50,000

distributed to projects aimed at improving safety and increasing opportunities for young people

250 parents attended workshops to improve their understanding of issues related to harm and exploitation

ALLIANCE

26 Alliance member organisations delivered services via funding subgranted by Fight for Peace

100% of Alliance organisations funded by Fight for Peace say this helped them to attract new participants and offer more opportunities for people to be active

89% say Fight for Peace's support helped them increase their confidence to deliver sport and physical activity

1325 young people attended Fight for Peace funded projects, which combined sport, personal development and/or employability elements

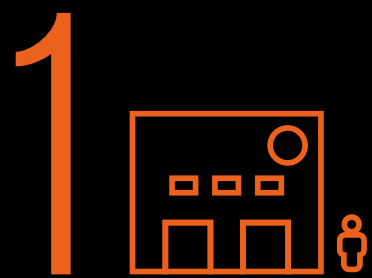
UP UNITY & PEACE

600 young people engaged in resilience-building activities, including sport, personal development and psycho-social support

39 amateur boxers took part in a two day training clinic gaining exposure to elite level training and insight into boxing as a career

37 young people received financial support for their micro-enterprises, including access to training and one-on-one support

*Percentage figures reflect responses to Fight for Peace questionnaires completed by a sample of young people.



ACADEMY

IN 2023:

We introduced new muay thai and judo sessions for 10-14 year olds, increasing access to sport for junior age groups.

Our women's personal development group, Lutadoras led on the delivery of the #FriendsCanTell project, supporting young women and girls to help friends in toxic relationships.

68 young people participated in employability-focused training delivered at Fight for Peace. Of these, 53 young people obtained qualifications in areas including boxing coaching, personal training, door supervision in the private security industry, and health and safety in construction.

Young people redesigned our youth leadership group, renaming it Youth Power. The group led on a number of projects over the course of the year, including securing funding for refurbishment of our Academy hub space and keeping sports provision running over the summer period.

Lutadoras inspired audiences with the launch of a new podcast, LutaPod, a space to discuss the barriers women and girls face in sport, and what's needed to overcome them.

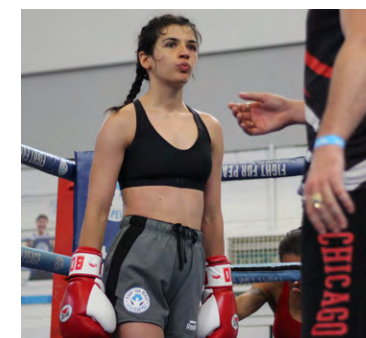
Young people were at the forefront of communicating Fight for Peace's work and elevating youth voice via the Young Creatives project. Highlights included leading on social media content creation, planning and shooting short films, and producing podcasts.

We opened our doors to the community for Fight for Peace events including boxing and muay thai shows, and our first Immersive Experience event where visitors get a taste of the services and support offered to Fight for Peace young people.

Muay thai athlete Tomas Pociuipa won gold at the International & Thai Martial Arts Games in Thailand.

We delivered combat sports and personal development sessions at seven schools and Pupil Referral Units across the borough of Newham, working with a total of 88 young people.

We welcomed Lee Hemmings as our new CEO, alongside new Trustees Stephen Harvey, Lethius Charles and Terry Paul.



IMPACT

1144 young people attended the Fight for Peace Academy including **766** new members

766 combat sports sessions delivered

199 personal development group sessions

176 mentoring and case work sessions with young people

68 young people completed employment training, with **53** obtaining qualifications

82% say Fight for Peace is a safe space where they can access support when needed

86% feel welcome, accepted and part of a positive community at Fight for Peace

74% have developed strong and trusting relationships with sports coaches and youth workers at Fight for Peace

*Percentage figures reflect responses to Fight for Peace questionnaires completed by a sample of young people.

ETHNICITY

- 37% Black
- 24% Asian
- 14% White Other
- 13% Mixed
- 7% White English or British
- 3% Other
- 2% Arab
- 1% Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller

MY HISTORY ENCOURAGED ME AND BROUGHT ME INTO YOUTH WORK: ZAYNAB'S STORY

Zaynab is a shining light at Fight for Peace. After being referred to our Academy last year, she has progressed leaps and bounds in her growth and development. She recently became a Volunteer Youth Worker at Fight for Peace, providing support and guidance to her peers.

Alongside studying Business Level 3 at college, Zaynab is also a valued member of Fight for Peace's youth leadership group Youth Power, as well as being a Young Creative and a key part of the women-only personal development group, Lutadoras. Here she shares some of her journey so far, and her optimism for the future:

I was referred to Fight for Peace to support my mental health, and once I got here I just felt the atmosphere. To me it felt different to the outside world.

I saw the impact it had on me with all the support I had from everyone. Lutadoras has helped me a lot, too. My experience at secondary school wasn't great, so it helped me to know how to get

out of toxic friendships and know when enough is enough. It also gave me the experience of having a girl friend group.

The wide age range means I learn a lot from the older girls, and I can help those younger than me. I used to help out a lot, so I thought 'why don't I take this further?'

I've always wanted to do a job that helps people, maybe a teacher or a midwife. But after I came to Fight for Peace, everything just changed.

I used to get asked, 'what do you want to do in the future?' Then my answer started changing to a youth worker. I had conversations with people and Leo helped me start a Level 1 Youth Work training course, and then I started volunteering.

I thought, I can do the same thing with other young people because there's not a lot of people who reach out for help. When I did, I got the support that I needed and wanted. I'd like to use my experiences to help others and help to get them in a better place than they were.

I'm a Volunteer Youth Worker now, which is great! I do inductions for new Fight for Peace members, and I do 1:1s with other young people. I want to be able to help other people in a similar situation to the one I was in.

"I saw the impact it had on me with all the support I had from everyone."

There's not a lot of people who speak up, and me being younger may make it easier for young people to open up to me, so I thought let me just share my experiences and we can work together to get them to the best version of themselves.

My history encouraged me and brought me into youth work, and Fight for Peace is a safe place for me, so I wanted to be able to give that opportunity to other young people and let them know they have a safe space too.



IN 2023:

We continued to work with Sport England to tackle inequality in England as a Sport England Systems Partner.

We adapted the Life Champions course for online delivery in 2024, in partnership with UK Coaching. Life Champions helps coaches maximise their impact by expanding their skillset as coaches and mentors.

We sub-granted £230,000 of funding to 24 Fight for Peace Alliance organisations based in England to increase organisational capacity, and their ability to provide services to groups affected by inequality.

We trained 8 Alliance organisations in the Fight for Peace approach to employability, supporting them to design and implement successful employment programmes in their communities.

We sub-granted funding to two Alliance organisations in Northern Ireland and Wales to implement programmes combining sport and employability.

FIGHT FOR PEACE ALLIANCE

IMPACT

26

Alliance member organisations delivered services via funding subgranted by Fight for Peace

8

Alliance member organisations were trained and supported to develop employability programmes for young people

100%

of Alliance organisations funded by Fight for Peace say this helped them to attract new participants and offer more opportunities for people to be active

89%

say Fight for Peace's support helped them increase their confidence to deliver sport and physical activity

1325

young people attended Fight for Peace funded projects, which combined sport, personal development and/or employability elements

OF THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ON PROJECTS COMBINING SPORT AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

97%

say the project helped them manage their physical health

97%

say the project enabled them to engage in physical activities more often

OF THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ON PROJECTS COMBINING SPORTS, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY:

77%

say the project helped them to be more positive about their career prospects and more prepared for work

72%

say the project helped them to improve their CV/portfolio and/or job applications

93%

say the project helped them manage their mental health



HELPING ORGANISATIONS BUILD PATHWAYS TO WORK →



Over the course of 2023, eight Fight for Peace Alliance member organisations from across the UK successfully developed and implemented youth employment programmes in their local communities.

This was part of the Fight for Peace Alliance Pathways to Work initiative, which supports community organisations to deliver sport-based programmes that provide young people with the skills and know-how to access and excel in the job market.

All eight participating Alliance organisations reported increased awareness, confidence and capacity to deliver employment programmes having completed training with Fight for Peace. This led to very encouraging impact results following the subsequent delivery of employability courses by the Alliance organisations that had completed training.

As part of this initiative, participating Alliance organisations received training from Fight for Peace, delivered in hybrid form. The first part of the course involved participating Alliance organisations completing online learning over a period of approximately two months, aimed at them gaining a theoretical basis in designing youth employment programmes.

“Fight for Peace planted the seeds and we all fired off each other, and picked up little bits and pieces.”

Two days of face to face delivery followed at the Fight for Peace Academy, focusing on the set up and monitoring and evaluation phases that organisations would go on to complete as they designed and delivered their programmes in the subsequent months.

Being together in the same physical space for two days created a fertile environment for participants to share ideas and experiences, helping strengthen the projects, and developing thinking about how to make them sustainable in the long term.

Of those young people completing employability programmes delivered by Alliance organisations, 77% confirmed that the project helped them to be more positive about their career prospects, 63% said they had a better understanding of where to access resources on employability, and 81% said that their anxiety towards their futures had reduced.

One young participant from Alliance organisation Pat Benson Community Sports Foundation said: “Before the project I was not sure of the career path I would like to pursue, with the help of the support workers I have been given the opportunity to look into the qualifications needed for it.”

“It was fantastic being on the course with other organisations, sharing ideas,” commented Sean Readman from Go The Distance, one of the participating Alliance member organisations. “Fight for Peace planted the seeds and we all fired off each other, and picked up little bits and pieces.”

“The course opened my eyes to so many things. The online training was really good, we had to really start thinking about how we were going to build the project. Then when we came down to Fight for Peace and it just made me think, the opportunities were so huge that we could affect so many young people,” added Sean.

The Alliance organisations participating on this programme were: Burnage Academy for Boys (Manchester), EXCEL (Excellence Through Exercise and Learning) (Derry-Londonderry), Go the Distance (Durham), Hangar Community Hub CIC Limited (Cardiff), Pat Benson Boxing Academy (Birmingham), Sporting Chance (Newcastle), The Compound (Wellingborough), The Hideaway Project (Manchester).





COLLECTIVES



UP UNITY & PEACE, JAMAICA

UP Unity & Peace brings together organisations and services to deliver programmes and support to young people across communities affected by high levels of violence and inequality. The Collective operates in six communities in Kingston, Jamaica and is coordinated by Fight for Peace.

IN 2023:

A network of representatives from sport federations, community-based organisations and state agencies delivered resilience building activities (including sport, personal development and psycho-social support) to 600 young people, with an additional 67 adults receiving parenting support and guidance.

37 young people gained support and funding for their micro-enterprises, including access to training from the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, and one-to-one support from an independent business consultant.

A package of sport based psycho-social support and personal development sessions were delivered to young people aged 12-17 years old at the Juvenile Remand Centre, located in one of the communities served by UP Unity & Peace. Further collaboration is planned for 2024.

39 boxers, including 18 women and girls, participated in a two-day training clinic, gaining exposure to elite performance and insights into pursuing boxing as a career.

A series of training sessions covering psychological first aid and safeguarding were delivered to the MultiCare Youth Foundation, who have made training in these skills mandatory for all mentors working with young people.

A collaboration with the Charlie Smith High School in Trench Town was established to monitor and evaluate the impact of sport in supporting the development of social skills and positive behaviours.

IMPACT

600

young people engaged in resilience-building activities, including sport, personal development and psycho-social support

67

parents engaged in sessions aimed at supporting parenting

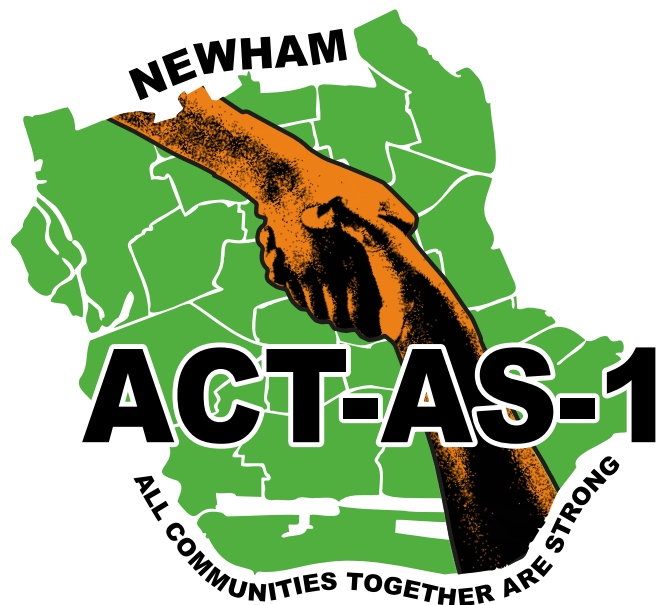
37

young people received financial support for their micro-enterprises, including access to training and one-to-one support

39

amateur boxers took part in a two-day training clinic gaining exposure to elite level training and insight into boxing as a career





ACT-AS-1, NEWHAM, LONDON

Via ACT-AS-1, Fight for Peace works alongside three local east London organisations, Ambition Aspire Achieve (AAA), Exit Foundation, and Rights and Equalities in Newham (REIN) to improve the safety, wellbeing and future prospects of young people. This is one of eight projects in London, focusing on violence prevention in hyperlocal contexts, and funded by the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit.

IN 2023, THE ACT-AS-1 PARTNERSHIP:

Distributed £50,000 of funding for grassroots organisations, including a fund for individuals with projects aimed at improving safety and increasing opportunities available for young people in their community.

Initiated a project for more experienced grassroots grantees to provide capacity building support for newer organisations. This included the development of a coaching initiative to support Black entrepreneurs.

Developed Future Light, a youth leadership group working alongside Kailo to co-design mental health services for young people in communities affected by violence.

Responded to fatal and dangerous incidents to reduce the risk of increased violence and provided bereavement support for families affected by serious youth violence.



IMPACT

5,015

young people reached through

219

detached outreach sessions delivered by ACT-AS-1 partners

£50,000

distributed to projects aimed at improving safety and increasing opportunities for young people

250

parents attended workshops to improve their understanding of issues related to harm and exploitation

30

young people and families supported by ACT-AS-1 partners through holistic intensive mentoring

96

young people took part in projects that improve aspiration/personal ambition

53

young people engaged in projects that improve decision making





SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY AND INNOVATION THROUGH COMMUNITY FUNDING

ACT-AS-1 awarded a total of £50,000 of funding to grassroots organisations in 2023.

The funding, known as the Neighbourhood Wallet, is aimed at bringing to life initiatives that improve youth safety and increase opportunities available to young people in their community. Individuals and organisations are invited to apply for up to £5,000, with additional allocations of investment reserved for concepts developed by young people.

“The Neighbourhood Wallet is a chance for grassroots organisations, and especially new ones coming up, to really develop their ideas and offers to the community and its young people in particular,” explained Josh Thomas, ACT-AS-1 Community Development Manager.

“Through the funding, we help develop and grow a range of services and opportunities that young people can benefit from. It’s a wonderful means of elevating and empowering the voices and ideas of our vibrant community, while providing much needed support for young people.”

To receive funding, organisations and individuals submit concepts for initiatives to ACT-AS-1. They are then supported to develop these concepts before presenting to a formal panel of young people and representatives from ACT-AS-1 partner organisations.

“It’s a wonderful means of elevating and empowering the voices and ideas of our vibrant community, while providing much needed support for young people.”

Successful pitches are subsequently granted funding and begin a partnership with ACT-AS-1 where they are given ongoing support to bring their initiatives to life. Concepts presented in 2023 included bespoke trauma-informed first aid training, mentoring sessions, football and personal development offers, and initiatives using mediation and music.

A shining example of a successful recipient of Neighbourhood Wallet funding is the Community Shop Newham which, in 2023, set up its permanent base in Canning Town.

The Community Shop is a social enterprise which showcases handcrafted local goods to the community and provides a physical and virtual platform for makers to sell their products to the public, as well as take part in workshops and skills building activities.

The shop gives particular attention to young people aged 18-25 and is an environment where they can test their ideas in the store, and build a host of skills through volunteering, learning, mentoring and employment opportunities.

“We are super pleased that the Community Shop is doing so well, and took another step forward in 2023,” reflected Josh. “We are looking forward to seeing all of the initiatives funded at the back end of 2023 blossom in the same way, and supporting them to deliver impact for our community and its young people.”



TRUSTEES

Anne-Marie Piper
(Chair)

Andrea Sinclair

Andrew Fox
(stepped down from
the Board of Trustees
in June 2023)

Alex Le Vey

Terry Paul

Stephen Harvey

Lethius Charles



PARTNERS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to the following partners who helped make our work with young people possible in 2023.

Ambition Aspire Achieve	Lifebeat
AND Digital	London Borough of Camden
Access Foundation	London Borough of Newham
Arts Council England	London Marathon Charitable Trust
Brampton Primary School	London Youth
Brave Bison	Mayor of London
Caramel Rock	Mercedes Benz
Change Design	National Lottery
Clothworkers Foundation	New Directions PRU
Combat Fight Series	Newham Multi-Agency Collective
Comic Relief	NHS Vanguard
Commonwealth Foundation	Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Drapers Charitable Foundation	Peter Harrison Foundation
DWF Foundation	Rights & Equalities In Newham
East End Community Foundation	Royal Docks Learning & Activity Centre
East London Business Alliance	Safe Lives
England Boxing	Sarah Bonnell School
European Commission	St James’s Place Charitable Foundation
Exit Foundation	StreetGames
Fidelity Foundation	Sport England
Garfield Weston Foundation	The Gerald and Gail Ronson Family Foundation
Hargreaves Foundation	Tuixen Foundation
Havas Play	Tunmarsh School
Hobson Charity	UCL Partners
Inter-American Foundation	Wellington Management Foundation
Islington Boxing Club	West Ham United Foundation
Jack Petchey Foundation	West Silvertown Foundation
John Armitage Charitable Trust	
James Thornton	
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	



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