Sustained Dialogue Campus Network/ Sustained Dialogue Institute

Rhonda Fitzgerald
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SDI

Announcements

- Sustained Dialogue offers election guides, Israel-Palestine guides, and at least 20 other topical guides

- In partnership with the AAC&U's Institute of Democracy in Higher Education, Sustained Dialogue Institute will be offering an **on demand helpdesk for educators** from early September until January where you can get questions answered by experts related to creating welcoming, open, and well-facilitated democratic spaces

- We hold open quarterly virtual workshops in the full SD process. Go to https://sustainedialogue.org to see what's happening now

- We are looking for partners interesting in jointly working with Sustained Dialogue and Unify America. Let us know if you're interested!

What is Sustained Dialogue?

Sustained Dialogue is an intergroup public peace process created by US diplomat Dr. Hal Saunders from his experience negotiating the Middle East peace accords process of the 1970s.

In 1999, students at Princeton entered into SD circles to intentionally address conflicts around race inequity and ethnic conflict – "Diving In".
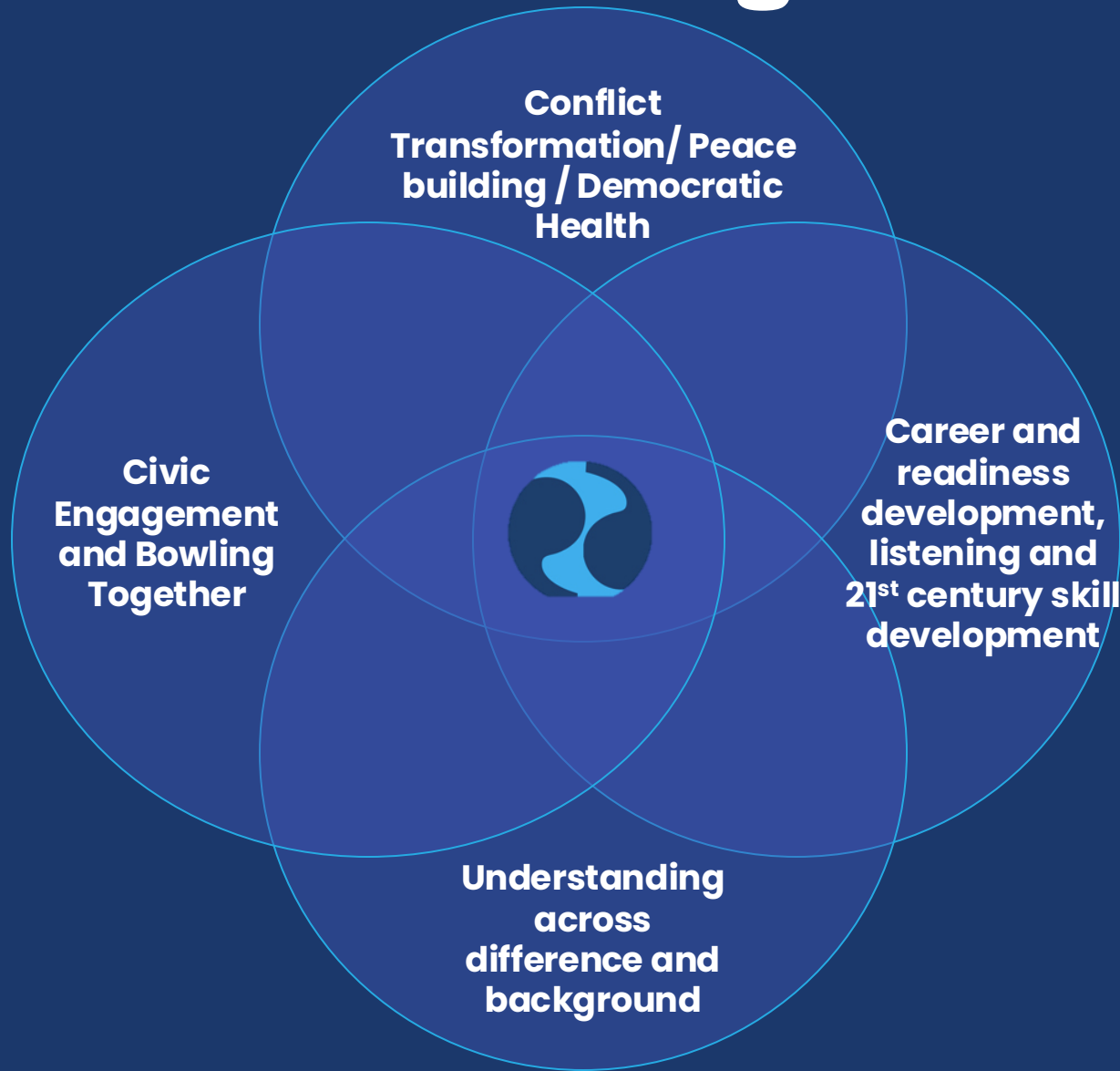
Thus, SD is an intentional process used by parties to improve challenging relationships and come to action in intergroup conflicts – especially intergroup identity clashes.

Over four decades, it has been adapted to hundreds of workplaces, campuses, state negotiations, and communities.

What is Sustained Dialogue?

Conflict Transformation/ Peace building / Democratic Health

Civic Engagement and Bowling Together

Career and readiness development, listening and 21st century skill development

Understanding across difference and background

What Are the 5 Stages of SD?
The SD process focuses on transforming relationships to design change in communities

The 5 Stages of Sustained Dialogue (SD)

WHY
Identifying & analysing problems

WHAT
Building trust, exchanging experiences

HOW
Developing strategies & solutions

WHO
Deciding & committing to engage

WHEN
Individual & collective action

Structuring programs for your campus

- Things to think about when structuring:
    - Needs
        - Needs inform structure choices
    - Capacity/Resources
        - Human, financial, time, space, etc.
    - Audience
        - Relationships with and interest from target audience(s)
  - Resource: NCDD's Engagement Streams (see chat for link): https://www.ncdd.org/uploads/1/3/5/5/13555967 4/2014_engagement_streams_guide_web.pdf

Structures + Campus Need Examples

- **Need:** respond to specific incident that harmed the community & specific individuals ➜ *Restorative justice conferencing*

- **Need:** improve (or repair) relationships between groups on campus ➜ *Ongoing dialogue groups*

- **Need:** provide opportunities for campus or community feedback on specific issues or policy decisions ➜ *stand alone campus/community forums*

- **Need:** (relatively) quickly weigh potential policy options and come to a decision within a community ➜ *stand alone deliberative forum*

- **Need:** increase civic education opportunities for students ➜ *ongoing curricular or co-curricular dialogue or deliberation programs*

- **Need:** provide leaders with skills for having better conversations within their respective areas ➜ *dialogue skills training & opportunities to practice*

ACTS: An open-source question asking and perspective taking activity for groups

Length: 20-25 mins to practice a sample round (depending on group openness)

Designed by Dr. Lane McLelland (U of Alabama) and Dr. Maureen Flint (U of Georgia) as an adaptation of SD workshop tool (4Cs).

(Write to us if you'd like to learn more about the class that they taught at U of Alabama based on the SD model or receive an ACTS handout.)

Questions for Dialogue: ACTS

One goal is to always seek out the views in the room that aren't the most common views.

We'll demonstrate a practice activity now.

"Dogs are the best pets."

Practice: Likely points of view in the room

a) Take 3 minutes to list out every opinion or likely feeling you can expect to be in the room if you are facilitating in in this moment based on the prompt shared.

b) Think of a response, question, or re-direct that integrates the likely responses in the room.

Practice: Likely points of view in the room

Start to always imagine:

-those who would be thrilled to be here any other day, but who didn't sleep well

-those who don't yet trust the group to keep confidential

-skeptics of all types

-those who find someone else attractive or is otherwise distracted by the group itself

-those at the margins of an ability or who have a specific condition or need

"Dogs are the best pets."

- **C question** – to **Clarify** terms or concepts being used.

"Could you clarify what you mean when you say 'best'?"

"Dogs are the best pets."

- **T** – to ask someone "**Tell me more** about your perspective on...(pets)"

"Dogs are the best pets."

- **S** – to invite someone to share a **Story** about their experiences.

"Would you share a story about your experience with pets?"

"Dogs are the best pets."

"What perspectives are present that we haven't heard yet?

- **A – Arrange space** to invite different perspectives.

Questions for Dialogue: ACTS

- **C – Clarify**
- **T – "Tell me more"**
- **S – Share a Story**
- **A – Arrange space**

Looking at these 4 types of questions, what do we observe about them?

Insert relevant opinion prompt for your context here.

- **C – Clarify**
- **T – "Tell me more"**
- **S – Share a Story**
- **A – Arrange space**

Need an ACTS handout? Email info@sustaineddialogue.org

Get in Contact with SDI

Reach out and share your hopes or how ACTS went at:

Info@sustaineddialogue.org

Instagram
@sustaineddialoguenetwork

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