

CENTER FOR DIALOGUE AFRICA



Building a Collective Language of Peace and Progress in Liberia

Since 2006, Foundation for Women (FFW) has been committed to supporting women, families and entire communities through microfinance – business loans as well as financing for schools, healthcare, housing, clean water and community farming. FFW has become a beacon of possibility across Liberia, following an ethos of collaboration. Its *Seats at the Table for Liberia* is a model for collective impact, a collaborative platform for expertise, exploration and innovation to rebuild a Liberia for the future.

In 2020 as part of the collective impact model, FFW adopted *Safe Conversations* Dialogue as a methodology for creating connection and strengthening relationships in families, schools, congregations and communities. *Safe Conversations* Dialogue is a simple, teachable communications process that facilitates understanding of differences and binds communities in the face of long-standing polarization. *Safe Conversations* Dialogue is the glue that holds together disparate initiatives, and builds strong partnerships.

To date, FFW has introduced *Safe Conversations* Dialogue to over 2,000 Liberians in schools, congregations, NGOs and government agencies. This inclusive communications process has been embraced at every level and heralded as the language of peace for this country and indeed, across the African continent.

In 2025, FFW launched Center for Dialogue Africa with support from advisors, community leaders and key partners to sustain the Dialogue initiative in brick and mortar. Center for Dialogue Africa stands ready to support progress initiatives in Liberia and beyond, a collaborative resource for community building and trauma healing with Dialogue as the central and sustaining tool.

Center for Dialogue Africa: A Beacon of Hope

Foundation for Women owns and occupies a compound in Monrovia, Liberia, in the heart of Red Light, a vibrant, urban center buzzing with possibility. The compound has been renovated to house Center for Dialogue Africa's conference rooms, meeting areas, resource center and outdoor communal spaces. Also home to the FFW microfinance operations, the Monrovia compound will be a magnet for community organizations and businesses, for co-working, conferences and as a multi-media training facility.

Our Vision is that Center for Dialogue Africa be a place where people come, physically and remotely, to learn and practice *Safe Conversations* Dialogue, where programs for community building are integrated with trauma healing, where peace builders meet and Africans from all

nations come together to learn and collaborate. We believe that peace is a common and attainable goal, and Dialogue is the essential and connective tissue.

Foundation for Women Liberia: Centering the Movement

Center for Dialogue Africa (CDA) will facilitate Dialogue programs in support of diverse, progressive initiatives taking place in Liberia. The pillars of our work are:

◇ **Peacekeeping in Support of National Unity**

We believe that peace is a practice that requires consistent tending and building local ownership and accountability. We believe that lasting reconciliation happens *in community*. As practitioners and facilitators of a research-based Dialogue process, Center for Dialogue Africa is strategically positioned to undergird the implementation of the WECC and Liberia's Decentralization and National Peacebuilding Agenda.

Our multi-faceted, peacebuilding methodology has been used with the women's Peace Huts, CSOs and local community organizations to build the inspiration and capacity for sustained peace. We stand ready to offer Dialogue training and facilitation in support of the nation's healing process.

◇ **Trauma Healing and Support**

Center for Dialogue Africa has partnered with Bellwether International to implement a trauma support program for education and healing at community and national levels. With an evidence and research-based implementation plan (based on Bellwether's global work in genocide disruption and trauma healing), CDA will cultivate its national network of community hubs, schools, congregations, national institutions and businesses to train local and national leaders to be agents of healing and recovery. Educational programs teach individuals, families and groups about emotional reactivity, physical and mental health concerns and help generate new responses based on dialogue and collaboration.

Sustained and productive trauma healing must be a holistic and coordinated effort: top down and bottom up. CDA will mentor local leaders and national leaders to support their communities and institutions in healing while reinforcing the national priority of peace and progress with our government and NGO partners. Addressing persistent generational trauma is at the core of our strategy for a thriving Liberia, bottom up and top down.

◇ **Financial Literacy and Community Building**

Each Foundation for Women loan client is trained and mentored in financial accountability and entrepreneurship. Workshops take place for clients and the wider community to establish the value and tools of community collaboration and growth. *Safe Conversations* Dialogue is integrated with the tools for building and sustaining healthy communities, business and advocacy skills to promote respect in the marketplace.

◇ **Safe Conversations Dialogue Training Institute**

Center for Dialogue Africa has 10 trained *Safe Conversations* Facilitators so far who lead workshops with groups of all sizes. The team collects data about how Dialogue is creating change in all sectors of Liberian life (education, healthcare, religious communities and more). They will act as advisors and mentors as the movement evolves, and more Facilitators will be trained as the need for Dialogue grows.

CDA also hosts meetings and conferences in which the CDA Facilitators provide a framework for integrating *Safe Conversations* with trauma education to promote safe and open dialogue. CDA will be a zone of Zero Negativity, and the *Safe Conversations* tenets will be requirements for use of the facility.

◇ **Using Technology for Community Healing**

Center for Dialogue Africa recognizes the opportunity to address long-standing division that stems from civil war and its aftermath. We believe that community healing takes place only in relationship – which requires skills for relational connection. In 2025, CDA will launch *Brave Dialogue*, an innovative, AI-driven mobile app designed to lead individuals in the use of dialogue in everyday interactions. The app provides safe space to work through experiences of loneliness and frustration, with guided outcomes encouraging connection and healing.

◇ **Student-Led Dialogue Facilitation**

As members of the FFW loan program, more than 50 low fee, independent schools have offered *Safe Conversations* “relationship classes” to grades 7 through 12. Center for Dialogue Africa creates hubs in each school to engage these Student Ambassadors to take Dialogue into their communities, with the challenge to touch at least 10 others with the new skills thus creating a broader wave of increased familiarity and Dialogue practice.

Safe Conversations Student Ambassadors will lead Dialogue sessions at CDA working through real-time obstacles and creating coalitions for change. Center for Dialogue Africa is positioned as a student-led resource for peace, and will support youth with internships, national and international summits and professional skill development.

◇ **International Dialogue Network**

Center for Dialogue Africa is a resource to support peace and dialogue initiatives across the continent with (current) faculty members in Kenya, Benin, Sierra Leone and South Africa. Center for Dialogue Africa is home to best practices and tools to assist peace and community building efforts, including multi-lingual and format training materials and customized platforms for schools, congregations and government organizations.

Center for Dialogue Africa in 2025

Center for Dialogue opened its doors in January 2025 with an inaugural *Safe Conversations* workshop for key partners and friends who believe that 2025 represents the turning point for peace and prosperity in Liberia.

We will continue to celebrate this momentous goal with weekly community Dialogue workshops, the launch of the Bellwether CDA Trauma Support Program and continued microfinance for women and families across Liberia.

Center for Dialogue Africa is committed to being a gathering place for modelling and sustaining peace and prosperity in Liberia.



ABOUT CENTER FOR DIALOGUE AFRICA

Center for Dialogue Africa is a non-profit resource committed to rebuilding Liberia through relationship education, trauma education, facilitation and dialogue training, housed within Foundation for Women, Monrovia, Liberia. Our vision is one of Collective Impact. We fervently believe that we are “better together” and that practicing Dialogue is the bridging tool for trauma healing, peacebuilding and creating the framework for thriving communities in Liberia and throughout Africa.

Our Team

Leadership, Center for Dialogue Africa

William Saa, Operational Director, and Manager of The Resolution Center
Vaiba Kebeh Flomo, Community Engagement Coordinator
Charlotte Alston Legg, Strategic Director and Global Advocate for *Safe Conversations*
Deborah Lindholm, Founder and CEO of Foundation for Women

Advisors

Dr. Angela Benson, Director, Benson Hospital
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Adama Dempster, Global Human Rights Champion and Advocate of the Liberian WECC
Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie, Liberian Judiciary
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International Faculty

Barnabas and Grace Achoki, Kenya
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