

Constellating Peace from the Inside Out 2.0 (CP2) is a year-long collaborative learning and leadership initiative, bringing together a global cohort of cross-sector teams championing an inside-out approach to peacebuilding and development. It is designed to strengthen place-based practice while tending to systems change.

Background

For 20 years, [Catalyst for Peace \(CFP\)](#) has been working to catalyze a regenerative, inside-out system of peacebuilding and development, where the people closest to the issues of conflict, poverty, and social depletion lead in addressing those issues, well supported at every level. Today, conversations about decolonizing aid, community-driven peace and development, localization, and shifting power to proximate leaders are gaining traction globally. The world wants to work differently. At the same time, individuals and teams leading from this new paradigm still work in isolation, disconnected from the larger ecosystem of change and often unaware of its scope and aggregate power.

CFP's unusual partnership with the Sierra Leonean NGO [Fambul Tok \(FT\)](#) offers a proven example of the incredible success that is possible *by* working differently. Our work together began in 2007 as part of Sierra Leone's post war healing and recovery and later the approach was adapted to address post-Ebola inclusive community recovery, local governance structures and development initiatives through the People's Planning Process (PPP). The partnership between CFP and FT is rooted in mutuality and shared learning and grounded in the foundational understanding that [the answers are there](#)—that the people and communities facing the problems have the resources for addressing those issues. This partnership has grown to include other international partners and the Sierra Leonean government, culminating in its national policy iteration, the Wan Fambul Framework.

Recognizing the global potential of this inside-out approach—and the wisdom yet to be harnessed from others charting a similar path—CFP and FT hosted [Constellating Peace from the Inside Out, a global learning event in Sierra Leone in 2019](#). The event brought leaders and program teams from different parts of the world together for a week of immersive learning. It led to new relationships and initiatives between participants that continue four years later. With *Constellating Peace 2.0* we are building on that event model and what we have learned from it.

Constellating Peace from the Inside Out 2.0

Together with our partners, CFP is launching a 12-month initiative to build and nurture a community of learning and practice, by and for visionary leaders and practitioners of inside-out peace and development. ***Constellating Peace from the Inside Out 2.0 (CP2)*** will gather teams from around the world that include representatives from different sectors (NGO, government, donor, international partner, and local community leaders) working together to support an initiative or issue in their contexts. Alongside this cohort of teams will be individual thought and practice leaders from different sectors who will accompany, offer feedback, facilitation, and technical advice—and carry back what they learn to their own institution and networks. All participants will come as teachers and learners.

Like the 2019 Constellating Peace event, CP2 will be anchored by a week-long convening in Sierra Leone. This will be alongside an ongoing learning program (largely virtual) which will be emergent and co-created. CP2 will be a collective space for imagining what could be and for gaining the connections, resources, and inspiration needed to keep building a new way of leading peace and development—one that is more whole and mutually life-giving, even in the middle of the disruption of collapse. Through in-person and virtual convenings, CP2 will build learning linkages and solidarity between teams, offer resources on technical themes, and facilitate opportunities to share approaches, stories, and lessons with a wider global audience.

Phase 1: In-person convening outside Freetown, Sierra Leone, Fall 2024

The week-long convening in Sierra Leone in Fall 2024 will be co-hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and Fambul Tok. It will offer concentrated time away from regular hectic schedules for the cohort to get to know each other, learn about and from one another's approaches, and dig into topics critical to nurturing inside-out peace and development. It will include:

- A deep-dive into the lived example of Fambul Tok's indigenous approach to reconciliation and community-led development and the experience of growing the Wan Fambul Framework, including community visits to see the work up close.
- Team presentations on the experiences, challenges, and lessons from their geographies and programs.
- Space for collaboration and reflection, building closer relationships across sectors/partners.
- Technical workshops.
- Collaborative visioning on how CP2 can best serve the cohort's needs and goals.
- Time for rest, rejuvenation, self-reflection, and whole-body healing.

Phase II: Group learning/engagement, April 2024-May 2025 (virtual and in-person)

The arc of the 12-month engagement following our time in Sierra Leone will be set by the interests and needs surfaced by the cohort itself. Within this emergent framework, however, we will offer virtual and select in-person opportunities for convening and collaboration around specific themes and shared questions.

These include (frequency TBD):

- monthly/bimonthly facilitated discussions in smaller groups;
- quarterly learning workshops and accompaniment;
- support and connection to participate in panels, roundtables, and/or conferences to raise the public platform for these ideas, leaders, and approaches;
- invitations to contribute to co-author publications as opportunities and interests align.

Themes may include:

post-conflict/crisis transitional justice mechanisms; storytelling and narrative building; cross sector partnerships and government collaboration; tending to the inner dimensions of change work; organizing for community mobilization; alternative approaches to M&E; new theoretical frameworks; reimagining funding and accompaniment.

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