

# ACTIVITY REPORT

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**2020**

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**HEALING OF MEMORIES LUXEMBOURG**

<https://healing-memories.lu>

*Every story needs a listener...*

**HEALING  
OF MEMORIES**



**LUXEMBOURG**

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The Institute for Healing of Memories in South Africa would like to congratulate our sister organisation in Luxembourg on the great milestones they have reached since the 'Luxembourg Healing of Memories Support Group' was born in 2010. With a clear vision and resolve HOM Luxembourg has developed steadfastly in making a contribution to the healing journeys of the marginalised and creating a healing community. We look forward to our future collaboration as we continue to work for a kinder, gentler world that embodies equality and prosperity for all who live on this earth.

In solidarity

*Fatima Swartz  
Director of Programmes, IHOM South Africa*

On 28 November 2020 the Luxembourg/Europe Healing of Memories Support Group, which was set up within ACAT-Luxembourg, became an independent organisation. This was the final stage in a process begun in 2008 and which included a wide range of activities.

This report provides an overview of the activities conducted over the last 12 years, which eventually made it necessary to set up a new structure, and a look at the first steps in the life of our new association.

The work of the support group, and now the new organisation, is centred around the healing of memories workshops. Other activities have included awareness-raising tours, the main focus being on Michael Lapsley's memoir, which our group has helped to publicise and distribute by having it translated into a number of languages and finding publishers for each version. In 2020, no workshops were held because of the very unusual circumstances. However, it was still possible between the two lockdown periods to hold a reunion of participants from the last workshop held in December 2019.



## Background – Healing of Memories in Luxembourg (2008-2020)

The Luxembourg/Europe Healing of Memories Support Group grew out of a partnership established between ACAT Luxembourg and Michael Lapsley, Director of the Institute for Healing of Memories (IHOM), following his first visit to Luxembourg in November 2008 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Up until the establishment of the not-for-profit organisation, our support group organised or co-facilitated the following events:

**8 healing of memories workshops** for the general public, organised in Luxembourg since 2011

- from 2016, between a third and half of the participants were refugees;
- working languages: English, French, German, Luxembourgish, Portuguese and Arabic



**3 Phase-2 workshops** organised in Luxembourg (2014, 2015 and 2019)

**2 workshops** for prisoners organised at the *Centre pénitentiaire de Luxembourg* (2018 and

**1 workshop** co-facilitated in Colombia (Bogotá 2014),  
**3 workshops** co-facilitated in France (Rouen 2016 and 2018, Grenoble 2018),  
**2 workshops** co-facilitated in Spain (Barcelona 2016)

**1 Phase-2 workshop** co-facilitated in France (Rouen 2019)



**4 workshops** co-facilitated with the Centre for Services in Restorative Justice (*Centre de Services de Justice Réparatrice – CSJR*) (Montreal 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

**5 workshops** in West Africa, organised as part of Michael Lapsley's tour, including:

- 2 mini-workshops for NGO and Church groups, one in Ghana and the other in Togo;
- 2 workshops for young Malians from the AJR-Ségou organisation;
- 1 workshop for the general public in Benin, with participants from Benin, Ghana and Togo.



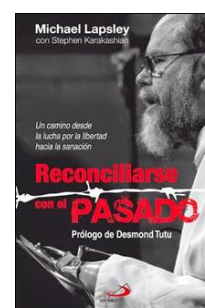
## Facilitator training since 2014:

Regular core and supplementary training sessions (in-person and since 2020 online), most of them led by Michael Lapsley, for volunteer workshop facilitators: beginners' group, advanced group, lead facilitators' group. The team currently comprises around 20 trainees.



Coordination of **translation work** on several language versions of Michael Lapsley's memoir (Redeeming the Past, 2012):

- German (2014)
- Colombian (2014)
- Spanish (2014)
- French (2015)
- Cuban (2016)
- Arabic (2017)



Organisation of a **two-week awareness-raising tour** of Germany and Luxembourg on the occasion of the launch of the German edition of Michael Lapsley's memoir (2014)



Organisation of a **four-week awareness-raising tour** of Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Spain on the occasion of the launch of the French and Spanish editions of Michael Lapsley's memoir (2015)



Neumünster, Luxembourg - 2014



Luxembourg - 2015



Participation in events to mark the **launch** of the Colombian and Cuban editions of Michael Lapsley's memoir, in Bogotá (2014) and Havana (2016) respectively



*Nazareth - 2017*



*Bogotá - 2014*

Organisation, in cooperation with Caritas Luxembourg, of a **two-week awareness-raising visit** to Beirut, Jerusalem and Nazareth, on the occasion of the launch of the Arabic edition of Michael Lapsley's memoir (2017)

Organisation of a **four-week awareness-raising visit** to West Africa (Ghana, Togo and Benin) with Michael Lapsley, in partnership with Partage Luxembourg (July-August 2019): launches of Michael Lapsley's memoir, workshops and mini-workshops, prison visits, meetings with Church and civil society representatives, etc.



*Book launch in Lomé, Togo in 2019*



*In front of Nsawam prison, Ghana in 2019*

Other meetings,  
conferences,  
panel discussions,  
school visits,  
prison visits,  
participation in Church services, etc.  
on the occasion of Michael Lapsley's visit to the aforementioned European countries (2008-2020).



November 2008 – First talk by Michael Lapsley in Luxembourg

Chat with school students in Luxembourg



2017 – Meeting with an organisation of young Syrians in Beirut



2015 – Lenten conference in Luxembourg



2019 – Fulata Moyo, special guest, at a meeting with Philippe Majerus, Director of the Grand-Duke's and Grand-Duchess's Foundation

2019 – Papal audience at the Vatican on the occasion of the IHOM's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary





## 2020 – A year of transition

With a view to establishing the new organisation on 28 November 2020, the support group spent much of 2020 taking preparatory measures for this change of structure, despite the difficult conditions created by the pandemic. A coordination group drafted the statutes, prepared the administrative formalities and fund-raising arrangements, established the necessary communication tools and, lastly, invited the founder members to the constituent meeting. By the end of 2020, the preliminary administrative and financial arrangements were made by the newly elected executive committee, made up of the following members: Patrick Byrne, chairman; Cécile Thill, secretary; Esmeralda Chupin, treasurer; Javier García Alves, projects coordinator; Angela Cardoso Borges; Paul Chahine; Marie-Christine Ries; Valdemar Santos.



At the same time, despite the postponement of Michael Lapsley's visit and the workshops that were due to be held during the visit, the group continued its programme of activities:

- Reunion of participants from the last workshop held in December 2019;
- Continued partnerships (Canada, Africa) and participation in the steering committee of the Healing of Memories Global Network;
- Facilitator training for three different levels, initially in person and then online. In this connection, it should be mentioned that the pandemic forced us to find creative solutions, such as the decision to use videoconferencing. As a result, all our trainee groups were able to speed up their training process with frequent sessions led by Michael Lapsley from South Africa.

As this report is about to go to print, we are delighted to announce officially that **HRH the Grand-Duchess** has agreed to grant our organisation her **High Patronage**. Already a patron of the Institute for Healing of Memories in South Africa, the Grand-Duchess has long shown a keen interest in healing of memories work and her support for the Institute and its network, as a natural part of her active commitment vis-à-vis victims of violence. On 23 April 2010, she granted Michael Lapsley an audience for the first time during one of his visits to Luxembourg.



*(Official photo of the Court)*

Dear Friends

Warm greetings from the international family that makes up the global network of healing of memories.

Covid 19 has affected every human being on the planet with an immense amount of grief and loss. These dark clouds have also had silver linings. Whilst grounded in Cape Town, I have had the privilege of interacting with many of you, more often than ever before. For that I am deeply grateful.

Wishing you every blessing as you contribute in a significant way to healing the wounds of history whilst on your own journeys towards healing and wholeness.

*Michael Lapsley SSM, Founder  
Institute for Healing of Memories*

## Messages from the Healing of Memories Global Network

The healing of memories team at the Centre for Services in Restorative Justice in Quebec has been happy to benefit from the expertise of two facilitators from the Luxembourg team, Patrick Byrne and Javier García Alves since 2016. It is always a joy to welcome them to our workshops. Their kindness, openness and enthusiasm help to create an atmosphere of trust in which each participant is welcomed with respect and dignity.

*Estelle Drouvin  
CSJR Coordinator, Montreal*

The Institute for Healing of Memories – North America is proud to be part of a Global Network of people and organizations around the world engaged in Healing of Memories work. Connecting with and learning from one another, in an environment of support and collaboration, enhances our ability to bring healing to more individuals and communities in need and provides us with a strong, unified voice on issues that are important for our human family. Congratulations, Healing of Memories Luxembourg, on your first AGM! We look forward to continuing our work together to build a more peaceful and just world for all.

*Gloria Hage  
Executive Director, IHOM North America*

Each country brings in a unique flavour to the Healing of Memories efforts around the world. We in Sri Lanka have always admired the work done in Luxembourg and the support of our friends in Luxembourg towards the work of healing in other countries. Today we are delighted that your commitment is strengthened institutionally and offer our love and support to "Healing of Memories Luxembourg".

*Priyanka Mendis  
Lead Facilitator - Healing of Memories Sri Lanka*

Warm greetings from the mountain kingdom of Lesotho Healing of Memories. We welcome you in this beautiful ministry. Here in Lesotho we call it "the family of healing of memories". You did the right thing to be part of healing of memories.

There are a lot of hurts outside there which need healing. So, as the team of healing of memories in Lesotho and Luxembourg, let's work together as wounded healers to our broken land.

We are looking forward to praying and working with you. And above all, we will learn from each other and support each other.

Lots of love and prayers from Lesotho Healing of Memories.  
*Moeketsi (Max) Khommongoe, on behalf of the Healing of Memories group, Lesotho*

Congratulations on the first Annual General Meeting of Healing of Memories Luxembourg. Growth of one is growth of all!

*Father Brian MacGarry, on behalf of the  
Healing of Memories group, Zimbabwe*

Healing of Memories alumni from Myanmar are very pleased that Luxembourg has been able to come up with an official organization as – Healing of Memories Luxembourg – on the soil of Europe. For Myanmar, we are entering a very challenging time in our history and the whole country is going through a very painful period of Military Coup and day-to-day reality is full of suffering. In this context, we are not able to heal our wounds yet, but adding more pain. Talking about healing of memories is not that easy and simple for us. Unhealed wounds are creating more damage and violence in our daily lives, which is also true for our nation as we never have a chance to heal the country and its wounds. Could we talk about healing under unjust and oppressive systems? Could we talk about healing while we are encountering deep suffering? Yes, the journey of healing of memories is never simple and easy for individuals, communities and countries. According to Asian wisdom, to be able to travel a long journey, we need to have good friends. You are blessed, when you have good friends who are in solidarity with you while you are facing deep suffering. We are blessed to have "Healing of Memories Luxembourg" as our friend in this challenging time. May all beings benefit from "Healing of Memories Luxembourg".

*Gum Sha Awng, on behalf of the healing of memories group, Yangon, Myanmar*