

# ***Healing of Memories training – Cotonou 2022***

## **COLLECTIVE WOUNDS**

### **QUESTIONS FOR JOINT REFLECTION (1 April – 30 June 2022)**

- **within your own group**
- **with your partner groups**
- **beyond your usual circle of contacts**

*There are no right or wrong answers!*

*It's only your answers and those of the people you meet that matter in this exercise.*

*The 7 points below are intended as a guide for your conversations. Feel free to expand on them as you wish.*

1. What are the ancient, old and recent wounds that affect our country, our region, our community?

Draw up a list of those wounds.

2. More specifically, what are the events or situations experienced by our nation, or by certain communities within our nation, that are at the root of these wounds? Describe these events and situations, and say in what way they have been painful, and for whom.

3. What social or political attitudes in our country have been, or are still, the cause of wounds?

What groups are discriminated against, marginalized, humiliated?

4. In what ways are these wounds visible in people's lives in our country?

What are the collective wounds in my country that affect me (or us) personally? In what way?

5. What are the areas of silence – the things that cannot be talked about – in our country or in certain communities within it? Why are people silent about these issues?

6. Who is "the other" in our context? Who is "us"? Who is "them"?

7. What could be done to heal some of the deep wounds that we have identified?

What is our dream for our country, our nation? How can we contribute to realizing this dream?

*As your meetings take place over the next three months, please send your answers, reports, photos and videos of the relevant events to the following address:*

*afrique@healing-memories.lu*

*We will be happy to share them on the "Francophone Africa" pages of the <https://healing-memories.lu> website.*

*15 March 2022*

*Patrick Byrne and Javier García Alves  
on behalf of the joint organizing committee,  
Institute for Healing Memories (South Africa) /  
Healing of Memories Luxembourg*