

A Man of Peace

Steve was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1951, one of four brothers. At age 13, he left home to study to become a priest. At 19, he left seminary and went to university, spending one year studying at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone.

He went on to spend two years teaching science in Ethiopia for the Peace Corps, two years doing research on carrots, then moved to the mountains of Virginia. There he met Sue, they married, and he took her last name, becoming Steve Williams. He also became a Quaker.

Together, they left their normal jobs and became volunteers for what would turn out to be twelve years, first working with street children in Haiti, then refugees in Botswana.

They were joint representatives of British and Irish Quakers in Uganda and later in Kenya. They went to Northern Ireland as Quaker mediators and went on to live there for nearly 20 years. In both Uganda and Northern Ireland, Steve was a political mediator, working to bring political and armed groups into communication.

Steve and Sue took a shared job at Responding to Conflict, and continued working on reconciliation, mediation, peace and conflict in many different countries, in support of people working for peace in their own countries. At the same time, he completed a PhD, focusing on the role of civil society in political transition in Cambodia, South Africa and Northern Ireland.

After 10 years at Responding to Conflict, Steve joined World Vision UK in 2005, moving from Belfast to Milton Keynes. At World Vision, Steve was the Senior Policy Advisor on Peace and Conflict. He continued supporting peacebuilding programmes all over the world, and worked to influence the policies of the UK government, EU and UN. Adding this advocacy dimension was particularly satisfying for him.

Steve was part of a global network of people working for peace – some formal networks, such as Action for Conflict Transformation and World Vision's global PaxNet, but also informal networks of friends and colleagues, literally all over the world.



Steven Alfred Sippel Williams

1951-2007

Those of us privileged to work alongside Steve were inspired by his dedication, kindness, knowledge and experience.

Steve's passion and pursuit for a peaceful world and his heart for those affected by conflict will be carried forward by all who knew him.

Steve was truly a man of peace – peaceful, peace-filled and peace loving.

Blessed are the peacemakers, and blessed indeed are we to have known Steve.