

When Reality Sparkles – Moments of creating new knowledge and promoting a culture of peace in the community.

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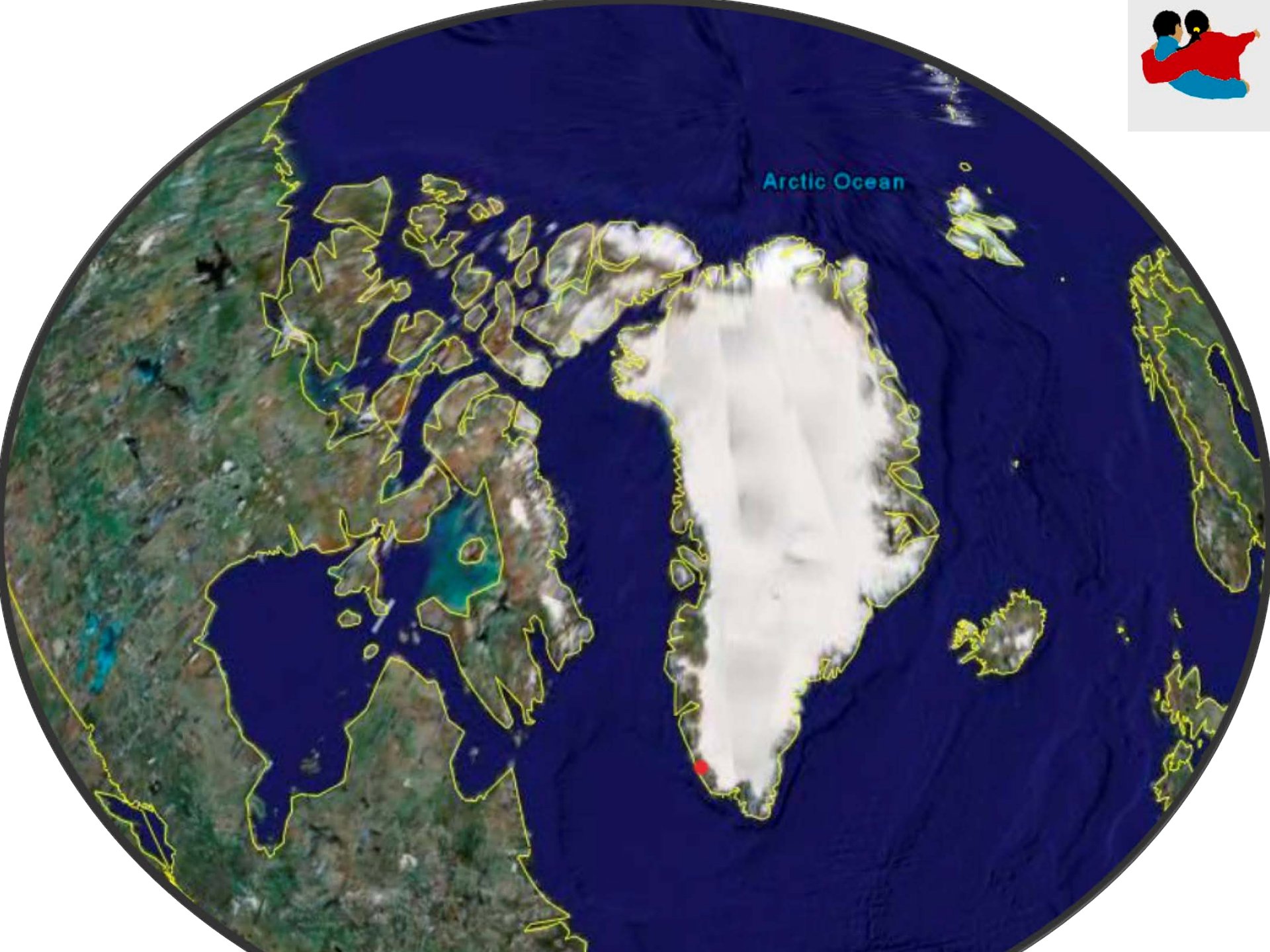
10. June 2010

*"PIUMASSUSEQ ISIT AQQUTAANNI
INGERLAFFIGIUMINAATSUMIIPPOQ"*

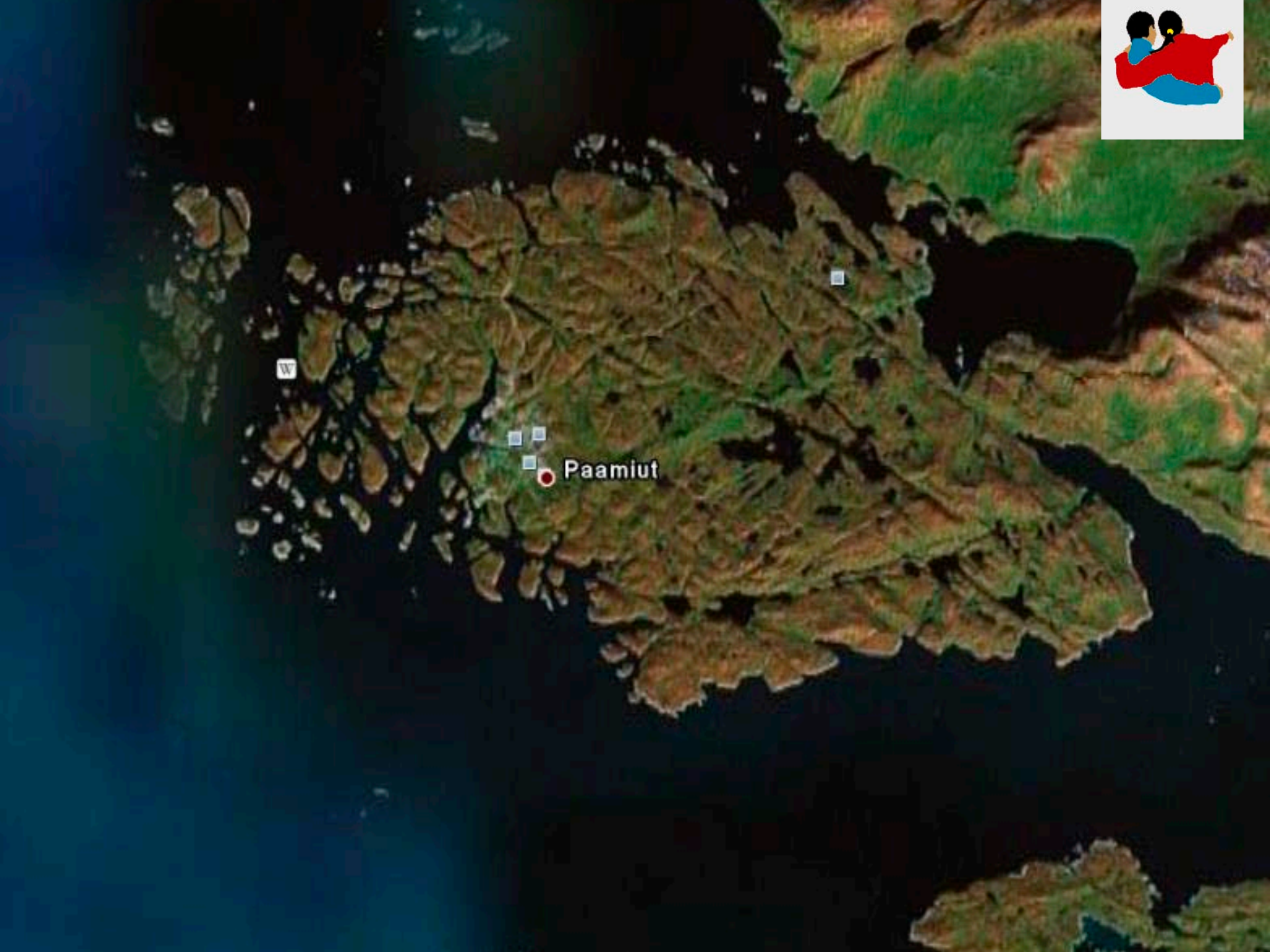
The will is in the wilderness (the trackless).

(From a poem by Kristian Olsen Aaju)









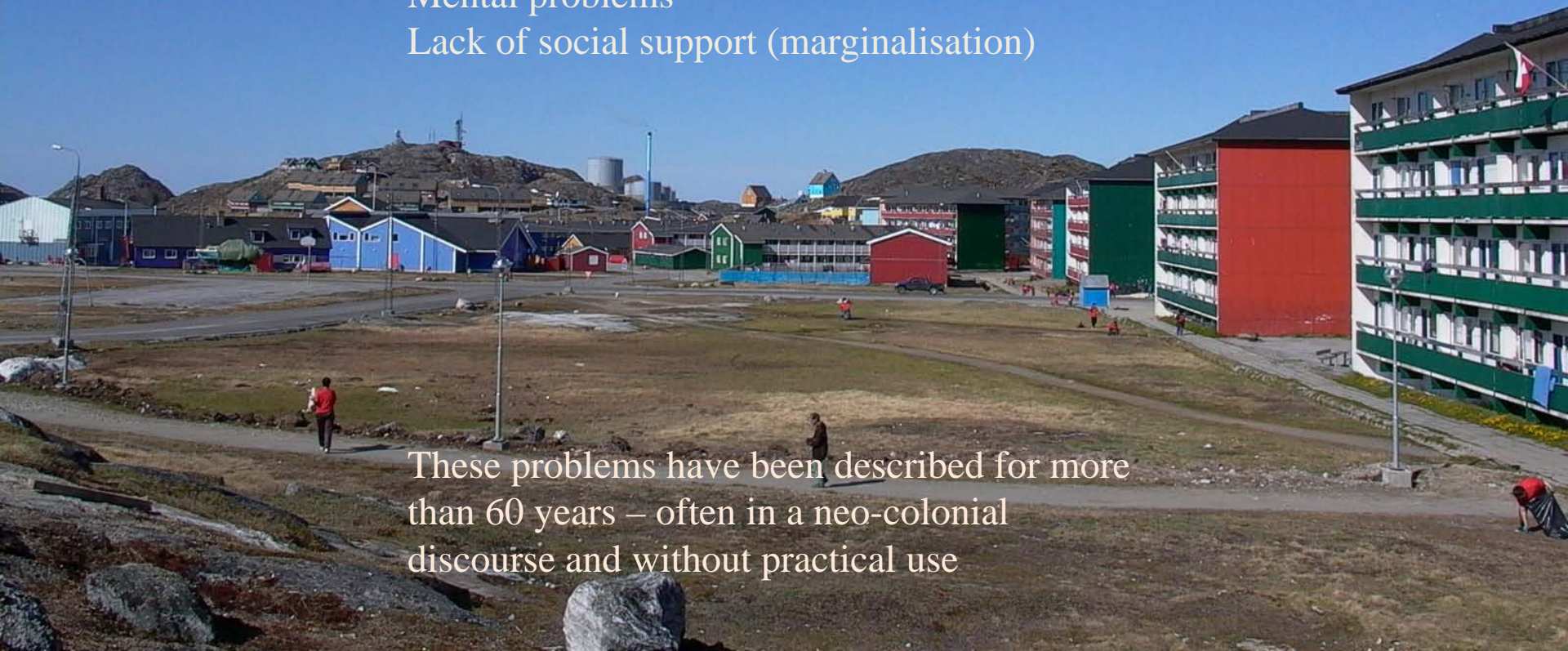
Paamiut





High level of violence and sexual abuse
High level of suicide
Abuse of alcohol or/and cannabis
Unemployment
A lot of people with a personal history of
violence and abuse
Single parent
Mental problems
Lack of social support (marginalisation)

These problems have been described for more
than 60 years – often in a neo-colonial
discourse and without practical use



Activities

- Cultural (concerts, art, sports, community dinners and meetings, and summer university, youth activities)
- Economic (jobs and options for starting enterprises)



- Social supportive (groups for young mothers, parents' groups, counseling for families, couples and individuals)



Reflection by the young mothers

I have realised that my *mothering* should not be disturbed by family members under the influence of alcohol, gambling or other disturbances. I will have to protect my newborn child from that kind of disturbances and interference.





Reflection by the young mothers

Good parenthood requires that we can talk openly about happiness and sorrows. We must have a dialogue about daily tasks and decisions. We must actively create love and togetherness and mutual understanding. This is how support and attachment are created.





Voices from the group:

In the sessions we felt that we were taken seriously and not laughed at and because of that we were able to get out of our solitude and start to work together in supporting each other. That experience motivated us and made it joyful to be part of this. It gave me a reason for getting out of bed in the morning. It is great that we start with breakfast together and later in the day we had lunch. The structure of the days here was clear to me. I liked that. In fact, I liked that somebody cared for us as I feel that I have been betrayed so many times before.





Voices from the group

We arranged the public meeting with power point presentations about our group and the importance of having a sense of community. We also talked about how we could be more open and talk about our feelings, sorrows, and problems. A lot of people came to the meeting.

After the meeting we helped to start a new group of young mothers. We have also urged our boyfriends to make a similar group for fathers.





Other results

- 45 % drop in domestic violence
- 24 % drop in criminal acts in total
- Less victims of violence in the hospital
- Qualitative interviews support that there is more social support, more wel-being and a feeling of collective efficacy – and more joy!







Lessons Learned

- New - locally developed - Concept of *Motherhood, Belonging, Connectedness, and Collective Efficacy!*
 - Involve as many as possible of the five senses
 - Relate the individual life to a higher order of values
 - Provide social support – create a supportive community
 - Come from the target group and is new to all.
- Values can be globalised through UN concepts – a culture of peace
- Resilience is collective creativity that supports and sustains the above 😊



Reflection

- How do we promote these moments where *something new* begins?
- And how can we study these moments?





Thank you !

