

People for Peace: Conflict Transformation in Schools and Communities
A Training-of-Trainers Program
June 4th-10th, 2007

The People for Peace Training-of-Trainers program will equip 27 young leaders ages 16-25 from 9 nations in European and Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Jordan, Tunisia, UK, Germany, Lithuania, Israel, Lebanon, and Palestinian Territories) in specialized communication and peacebuilding skills, to be used in inter-faith and inter-cultural contexts. These young people will commit to taking their learning and skills into their schools and local communities, to pass them on to younger students in primary and secondary schools through workshops, presentations and other kinds of youth projects. The goal is for each participant to give at least one workshop or training in his or her local school and community following the training program, and/or organize one youth project to amplify the skills gained across his or her youth organization. This project will also strengthen existing youth partnerships with partner organizations that participated in the Cyprus Interfaith Youth Exchange in June 2006, giving participants a chance to further network and come up with new ideas for inter-regional partnerships and youth projects. The inclusion of both Israeli and Lebanese participants in the training program will provide a powerful bridge for building new relations of trust and reconciliation between young people from these two nations so recently embroiled in conflict.

The program will focus on providing skills to young people in inter-faith peacebuilding and reconciliation, including tools for analyzing and intervening in conflict situations, exploring the roots of peace and reconciliation in different religious traditions, and understanding how to transform a situation out of a perpetual cycle of conflict into one of reconciliation and forgiveness. Participants will also learn specialized communication techniques for “speaking the language of peace” as well as dealing with emotional or crisis situations. Finally, participants will learn and experience movement meditation such as yoga and a music workshop that can be used for strengthening the group bond and bringing peace to individuals and groups.

The workshop modules to be incorporated in this training-of-trainers program include:

- Values-based approaches, including a workshop on exploring universal values related to healing and peace that are relevant and applicable to people from diverse cultural and faith traditions;
- Language-based approaches, offering workshops in how to communicate one’s needs and feelings without offending or hurting others through Non Violent Communication;
- Cognitive (Process)-based approaches, providing practical training in peace-building so that participants develop cognitive skills for understanding and assessing different patterns and stages of conflict, as well as learning peace-building and reconciliation strategies;
- Movement and meditation-based approaches, providing participants with an experience of inner peace through dance meditation, yoga, visualization, and nature.

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