

PEACE

for Youth
NEWSLETTER

**EMPOWERING YOUTH
FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION**

**JERUSALEM
THE GATEWAY TO PEACE**

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LETTER TO OUR READERS

Dear Friends,

Through this newsletter we open a window for you into the remarkable journey of our PEACE and program. Here, we share the stories, successes, and unwavering dedication of our young leaders as they work together to build a brighter future for all.

In today's world, where conflicts often make headlines, PEACE stands as a beacon of hope - a testament to the power of youth and resilience.

It sends a courageous message that peace is possible and imperative!

In this newsletter, we will explore the journey of young leaders as they transform into supporters, advocates for peace and reconciliation on both sides of the border, defying and refuting the claim that "there is no partner for peace on the other side".

Our mission has always been clear: empower the next generation with knowledge, tools, and connections to become ambassadors of peace and reconciliation.

From local training courses nurturing leadership to bilateral dialogues

bridging divides, our young leaders reshape the narratives around the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Their dedication and steadfast belief in what they are doing foster increased trust, tolerance, and understanding among their peers and communities.

Within this newsletter, you'll encounter more than just words; you'll also have the opportunity to hear directly from our young changemakers through articles they have authored, sharing their perspectives, attitudes towards peace and reconciliation.

Their words, stories serve as a source of inspiration, reinforcing the idea that even in such challenging times, peace is attainable.

With hope and determination,
PEACE for Youth Team

Growing Together

The PEACE core group, family continues to expand, with over 35 dedicated alumni participants currently contributing to a stronger, more resilient PEACE community.

Inclusivity at Its Best

Approximately 70% of our PEACE activities in 2023 were thoughtfully directed towards underserved peripheries and conservative communities, creating bridges where they are needed most.

EmpowHer

Empowering women is central to our mission. Notably, 63% of our PEACE Program's target group are rising female leaders.

Faith in Cooperation

A majority of 66% of participants hold a strong belief in the presence of a genuine peace partner on the other side, advancing the journey towards peace and reconciliation.

Unified Support

An overwhelming 63% of our participants strongly endorse a promising path for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Generational Impact

At least 75% of participants recognize their generation's crucial role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Expansive Reach

PEACE messaging reached a significant 665 young, mid-level, and senior professionals from both Palestinian and Israeli backgrounds.

Active Engagement

Our dedicated PEACE team organized a total of 37 impactful activities throughout the year, bringing hundreds of Palestinians and Israelis together.

Active Involvement

A substantial 49% of our participants are eager to play an active role in conflict resolution, marking their commitment to achieving lasting peace.

Highlights

CULTIVATING A YOUNG, DIVERSE CONSTITUENCY IN SUPPORT OF PEACE



A total of 13 meetings, courses that we dedicated entirely to empower and instill confidence and courage in a group of 320 young professionals - peace advocates - on both sides.

8 DYNAMIC LOCAL TRAINING COURSES



Local training courses have provided a nurturing and empowering environment, space for young Palestinian and Israeli professionals to address their core concerns and learn about the political, social, and cultural barriers they face in peacebuilding.

3 BILATERAL DIALOGUE MEETINGS



Dialogue meetings allowed Palestinian and Israeli young advocates the space to bridge divides, deconstructed national narratives, and promoted mutual understanding. This series of meetings was essential for instilling the belief in a shared goal and developing a cross-border network of well-informed, committed young advocates.



2 'BREAKOUT ROOM' CONSULTATIONS

Comprising of 4 online sessions, this type of activity allowed participants to share experiences, challenges, and expectations in a supportive peer environment. This strengthened national networks and allayed concerns about anti-normalization sentiments. It was an essential element in our journey toward reconciliation and lasting peace.



RAISING AWARENESS AMONG KEY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

In our ongoing mission to cultivate a network of mid-level and senior professionals committed to peace, we organized a total of 12 workshops and seminars that brought together some 267 Palestinian and Israeli peace advocates.

8 LOCAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

These workshops serve as the cornerstone of our awareness-raising efforts. Across 17 sessions, participants delve into the core principles of the Dealing with the Past (DwP) model, dismantle psychological barriers to peace, navigate the lexicon of reconciliation, explore the history of negotiations, and debate on proposed solutions.

It doesn't stop there!

We provided tailored professional training sessions that hone participants' advocacy, communication, and facilitation skills. As they acquire this profound knowledge and skill set, the PEACE group is primed for effective dialogues with "the other" during joint, cross border sessions.

Empowered participants, now PEACE ambassadors, actively promote peace and reconciliation within local communities, significantly contributing to the ongoing journey towards lasting peace. As we continue to provide them with essential training and tools, their impact on the path towards lasting peace becomes more notable.



4 JOINT PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI 2-DAY SEMINARS

As the culmination of our preparatory phase efforts, these joint seminars brought together a carefully selected cohort of graduates from the local workshops.

These seminars served as a platform for the exchange of valuable information, insights, in-depth analysis, and cooperation strategies, all aimed at amplifying the impact of PEACE advocates in their conflict-related work, nurturing cooperative actions, and pioneering cross-border initiatives.





ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND BUILDING JOINT INITIATIVES

Through this type of activity, we dedicate ourselves to the critical task of advocacy, outreach, cooperation and joint initiatives. We equipped PEACE advocates with the skills, knowledge, and networks they need to actively engage with local stakeholders in meaningful ways.



6 EMPOWERMENT POLICY ROUNDTABLES

These roundtables brought together around 180 PEACE advocates from both sides who engaged directly with key stakeholders like officials, politicians, opinion shapers and civil society leaders. They had the opportunity to present recommendations related to promoting reconciliation through policy change and new initiatives.

With these roundtables, we boosted the advocates' confidence in their ability to influence decision-makers, strengthening their sense of ownership, and fostering purpose in their midst.



6 COMMUNITY OUTREACH FORUMS

These 'Reconciliation Speak Out' forums, co-organized in local communities, provided a curated platform for young leaders to share their project experiences, stories, and ideas. The autonomy to design the program, select speakers, and invite target audiences amplified the impact, encouraging dialogue among individuals who may not have had the opportunity to participate directly in the program's activities. The participation of speakers from the other side enhanced the reach of these forums.

These initiatives not only empower our participants but also strengthen the bridge to key stakeholders, enhancing the potential for lasting peace and reconciliation.



VOICES OF PEACE

Discover the authentic voices and narratives of young leaders striving for peace and reconciliation. A firsthand perspective on the impact of our initiatives and the evolving attitudes toward the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

IDENTITY NARRATIVES: BRIDGING THE GAP

Discover how Palestinian and Israeli activists perceive their relationship to each other within the broader context of colonialism and imperialism, and the potential for alliance, even amid critical differences in their perspectives on occupation.

"TRANSFORMATIVE CONNECTIONS: PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI YOUTH IN DIALOGUE"

Learn about the transformative experiences of Palestinian youth as they engage with Israelis, building trust and hope for a more peaceful future through meaningful dialogue.

"CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: HOW YOUTH REACT TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT-WING VICTORY"

Explore the concerns and motivations of Palestinian and Israeli activist youth in response to the political shift and its impact on peace and human rights.

"BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT BARRIERS: THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE VISION"

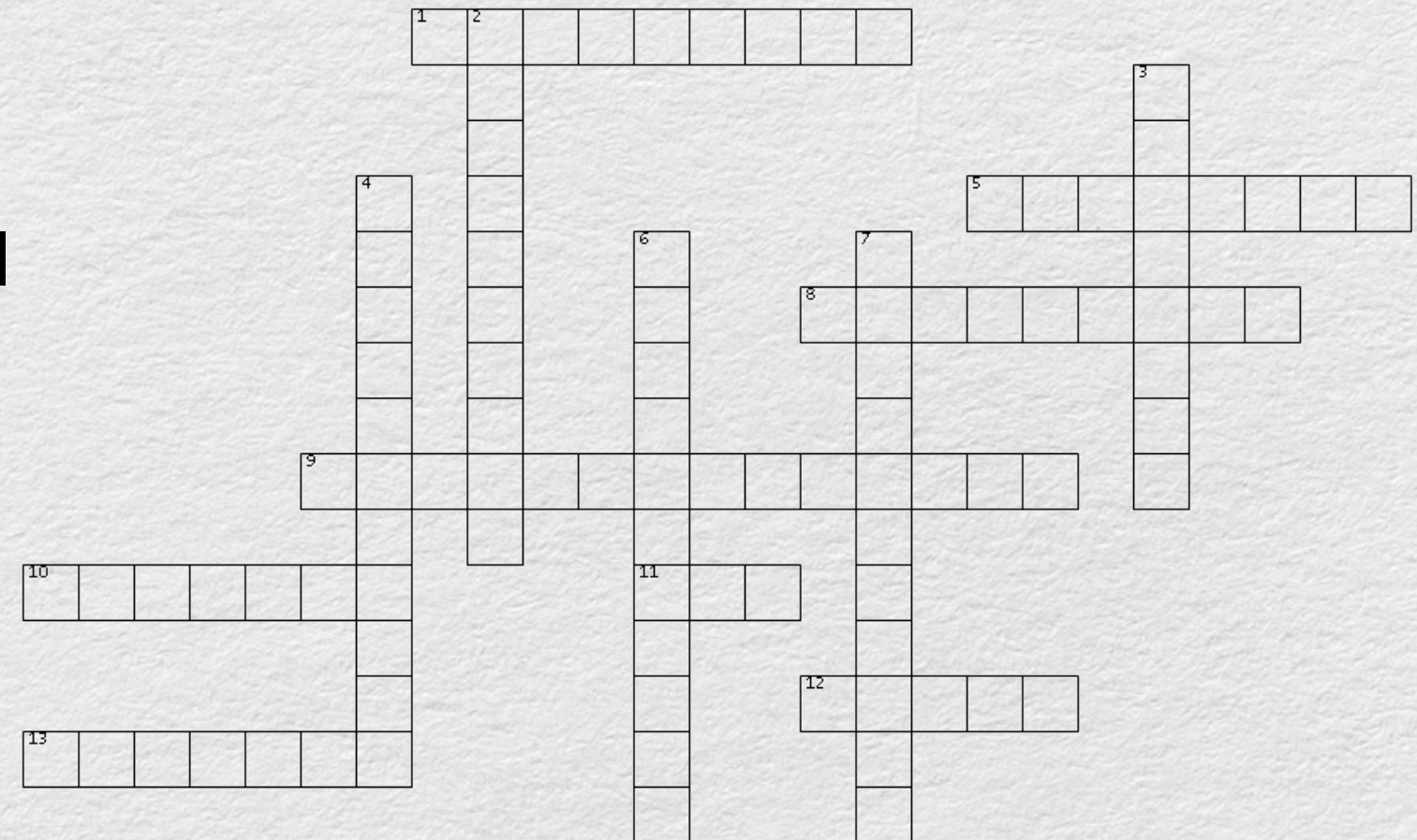
Discover how Palestinian youth emphasize dialogue, cooperation, and building bridges between communities as essential elements in their vision for a peaceful future, alongside their commitment to resolving the conflict nonviolently.

"FEMINIST YOUTH OF PALESTINE: DEFYING OCCUPATION, ADVOCATING EQUALITY"

Explore the courageous activism of Palestinian feminist youth as they challenge gender-based discrimination and oppression while contending with the complexities of the Israeli occupation.

PEACE PUZZLE

DECODE THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI PUBLIC DISCOURSE: SOLVE THE PUZZLE BELOW!



DOWN

2. The control of one nation, people over another's territory.
3. The principle of treating all individuals fairly and **equally**.
4. Communities built by Israelis in the occupied territories.
6. The idea of different groups, parties living together **peacefully**.
7. Diplomatic talks, negotiations to reach **agreements** or **resolutions**.

ACROSS

1. A controlled point that restricts the **free movement** of people or goods
5. **Protection** from harm or danger.
8. A city of great significance to both sides.
9. The process of mending relationships and healing from the past to resolve conflicts.
10. Someone forced to leave their home due to **conflict** or persecution.
11. **State** solution: A proposed resolution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
12. To return: The claim of Palestinian **refugees** to return to their homeland.
13. Defined lines separating regions or territories.

