

Information Sheet from NVC Mideast

December, 2014

NVC Mideast is actively building a movement and community of trainers and practitioners of Nonviolent Communication in Israel, the West Bank and Jordan. Over the past 5 years, hundreds of participants have attended our trainings, including four 9-day intensives, three women's leadership weekends, a teen retreat, men's retreat and mixed weekends, where hundreds of Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals train in leadership, conflict transformation and communication, and simultaneously create and experience living in mixed (i.e., Israeli Jewish and Palestinian and International) communities of Nonviolent Communication.

All of our trainings include Israelis and Palestinians, Moslem, Christian and Jewish people and interested Internationals. The ages range from teens to 70's, and are a mix of religious and secular. Our participants are a cross section of Israeli and Palestinian society, including school principals, teachers, parents and students, leaders, managers and staff from area peace, environmental and community organizations, social workers, political, union and environmental activists, journalists, therapists and a significant number of people from these sectors who are training to become NVC trainers in the region.

We also welcome Internationals who have a sense of connection to the pain, trauma and healing in the Mideast. Many Germans, American Jewish and Christian, and people from other troubled areas attend.

Our particular focus is twofold.

1. Creating *experiences* of trust, connection, understanding, self-awareness and learning among Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals by *living* NVC together for up to 9 days at our local partner centers. In these trainings we offer a multitude of living and learning opportunities, including dozens of workshops and sessions, deepening dialogues, strategic planning and problem solving, conflict training, bringing NVC to schools and families, and facilitating deep exploration between Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals of obstacles to transforming enmity into trust and connection, organizational support etc.

2. Training native Israeli and Palestinian trainers who offer trainings in schools, communities, organizations and political entities throughout the West Bank, Jordan and Israel in Arabic and Hebrew. The training for this includes hours of actual classroom and workshop learning, experiential living of NVC, in home communities AND with people usually divided by race,

nationalities, religious and political divides; and field practice of leading supervised trainings in venues in the region.

Many ongoing projects have grown out of our trainings, including a Center for Peace and Ecology (EcoME) in West Bank Area C (open to Israelis and Palestinians), sister school relationships, ongoing practice groups, the first Israeli/Palestinian men's yoga teacher training, various video story sharing projects and two mixed Family Camps to be held in the summer of 2015 in the Galilee and West Bank.

Significant outcomes to date include ongoing, locally-run classes in Nonviolent Communication in the West Bank, led by some of our Palestinian trainees; ongoing classes of religious and mixed group classes in Jerusalem, Pardes Hanna (central Israel-mixed yearlong training program) and in the North of Israel, led by Israeli Jewish trainees; trainings in local schools and with organizations throughout the region.

We are currently raising money for 4 upcoming programs:

*9 Day training February 19-March 1, open to people new to and continuing our trainings and also featuring a train the trainer track for up to 20 people from Israel and the West Bank who are committed to teaching and sharing NVC in the region. This program will include supervised field experience, where Israeli and Palestinian trainees will give trainings in schools,

communities, organizations, including Jewish settlements and the West Bank (need: \$40,000)

*Women's Leadership Institute Weekend at EcoME (tentatively scheduled for March 12-14), the 4th Women's NVC training, for religious and secular Jewish and Palestinian Moslem and Christian women and girls (need \$15,000).

*Two NVC Family Camps, the first in the region, for the summer of 2015; one in the West Bank town of Dura in the Hebron hills and one in the Galilee (north of Israel). These programs include ongoing mentorship of Israeli and Palestinian trainees who have committed to leading these annually (need \$40,000 per camp).

We also are pursuing requests for trainings this year in Jordan and Gaza.

Our local partners and venues include:

Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem; Jerusalem School, East Jerusalem; Schools in ElAzzariya and Tubas (West Bank), Har Duf (school in Northern Israel), Mifgash. Staff and members who take our trainings include organizations and schools such as yeshivas (Aish ha torah, Pardes), Arava Institute, to activist organizations (Combatants for peace, Center for Emerging Futures, Holy Land Trust, Palestine Peace Society, Encounter, Seeds of Peace, Bereaved Families Forum) .

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