



WI'AM

(AGAPE)

**Palestinian
Conflict Resolution /
Transformation Center**



Welcome To WI'AM Center

Wi'am is a grass-roots organization, located in Bethlehem, Palestine, and has been in operation since 1994. Since its inception, Wi'am has been a place for conflict transformation, restorative justice and mediation. This type of mediation focuses on the Arab tradition of reconciliation,

called Sulha, coupled with different schools of thought from around the world. Wi'am is not only a place of conflict transformation but also a community center for peace building, sustainable development, empowerment and hope. Our work is not limited only within the national level, but also at the regional and international level, attempting to disseminate a culture of acceptance and understanding. We try to be a center of hope to a people living under occupation and a world that is brimming with the cries of injustice and oppression.

"Stability and peace in our land will not come from the barrel of a gun, because peace without justice is an impossibility."
-Desmond Tutu



OUR CONTEXT

- Economic Depression: closure of Jerusalem and checkpoints, high unemployment, confiscation of land and economic deterioration.

- Peace Process stagnation: mistrust and misconceptions of the other.
- Environmental Degradation: building of the separation wall, deforestation, dumping of toxic chemicals and lack of water.
- Domestic Violence: increased tension within the family combined with dignity being assaulted on a daily basis
- Traumatized Children: Children have grown up with soldiers searching their bags, bombs exploding and relatives in prison. 80% of our children show signs of trauma
- General Demoralization and Factionalism: Emigration trends, depression, and hopelessness.
- Youth Struggles: delinquency, drug abuse and unemployment.

All of these things are interrelated and create an increase in tension. In addition, our society is living in a constant state of uncertainty with always a risk of potential violence. We are living in a pressure cooker situation. It is in this context we provide our services



Objectives of Wi'am

1. To spread the principles of civil society throughout Palestine.
2. To provide research, knowledge, information and statistics that serve the Palestinian community and its private (non-governmental) and public institutions.
3. To enhance the culture of acceptance, foster the principles of dialogue and respect of the "other as they are", so as to build a pluralistic society within the framework of unity.
4. To expand Wiam's outreach work by resolving communal conflicts and spreading peace and non-violent education and culture in the community.
5. To provide all members of the society with hope.
6. To hold interdisciplinary training sessions, workshops and seminars in different fields of civic education, such as conflict transformation, democracy, human rights, gender, leadership, nonviolence and etc.
7. To create a core group of volunteers, women groups and young students working towards the dissemination of peace values and justice in the community.

Our Programs

Sulha-Mediation/Conflict Resolution: Sulha is the traditional Arabic form of mediation. As a conflict emerges, mediators respond by going to the scene of the conflict and listening to both parties. Their mission is to bring the conflicting parties together while saving face, to redress the wrong, and to restore relationship. Drinking coffee is the crowning of the ceremony, where both parties will drink together and shake hands after bridging the relationship. The bridge is created by the people who provide material resources as a sign of compensation and reparation for the damage they have done. We indeed measure our time by coffee cups. The more cups we drink, the more conflicts we solve!

Why not join us for a cup of Arabic coffee?



Youth Program: We provide our youth with opportunities of cultural exchange and competencies for social transformation. It is our goal to inject youth with hope and to build conscience citizens, who advocate for a culture of understanding between different religions, respecting gender equality, and working for nonviolence.

Women's Department: We provide women with civil and vocational training, as well as counseling. Living in a patriarchal society, women often feel the brunt impact of the occupation. Our hope is to transform the society, so that all women feel safe, empowered and can participate in decision making.



Children's Department: We provide children with recreational and educational activities throughout the year. We also provide trauma coping skills, as they experience trauma in their daily life. Many children here suffer from trauma which affects all aspects of their life. Our goal is to relieve their stress and provide them with a safe environment coupled with moments of joy.



"There is no future in the Middle East without restorative justice"
Zoughbi Zoughbi

Citizen Diplomacy: We host groups and individuals for lunch or coffee, and even tours of Palestine. This department encourages people not just to visit the Holy Land but to hear and witness the stories of the people living here. If you are coming to the Middle East anytime soon, we would love to host you for a cup of coffee or lunch. We encourage you to stay longer so we can take you to the various sites in the Holy Land and have you meet with local people from different backgrounds.



Nonviolent Resistance: In all of our work, workshops and activities, we advocate for nonviolence. The best way to support the people of Palestine is to create a healthy society by working to end the occupation which strips dignity, entrenches racism, and impresses poverty. We do not want you to be pro-Palestinian or Pro-Israeli, we need you to be pro-justice and work for the liberation of all people!

" Non-Violence is a powerful and just weapon. It is a weapon unique in history, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man (women) who wields it. It is a sword that heals." Martin Luther King Jr.



"We are like an olive tree with its roots deep in the ground and with its branches that reach out to the world. Our words produce more than sound; they walk tall to the four corners of the earth. For some, the day to day activities are only part of the job, but the larger picture shows a commitment to serve and enrich community relationships and to be an integral part of fostering positive changes for our future."

Zoughbi Zoughbi

Director and Founder of
Wi'am Center

Your Support is Always Needed !!

Prayer

At the core, peacemaking in human relationships is a spiritual effort. We greatly appreciate your active prayer support for justice and peace whether with your families, during your own personal reflection time, or in your worshipping communities.

Professional And Inter-cultural

Wi'am would like to learn from different approaches and universal experiences used by other individuals and organizations working in conflict transformation and community development. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, support and encouragement!

Advocacy

Most people do not realize how the justice and peace needs of Palestine are reflections and actions of the much larger international, political, cultural and economic issues--everyone has a role in the peacemaking effort in the region. You are encouraged to join our e-mail mailing list and promote outside awareness of Wi'am's efforts.

Financial Support

As Wi'am does not charge for its services, we rely on the donations of others. We are in need of financial support for all of our major projects and any future projects we wish to implement. Any contribution is always greatly Appreciated !

"We have found that conflict resolution is the art of working and sharing ourselves, our resources, our minds and hearts with others"
Zoughbi Zoughbi



Special Thanks

Many thanks to all of our partners, supporters and volunteers who help make our services and ministry a success.

Your support through your conscience, thoughts, prayers, and finances are appreciated and needed.

Thank you. Your partnership has given our work more depth, more meaning and more impact.

Since we have moved to a new location, we would like to include you in our dream where vitality and growth are part of our vision.

You can support and enhance one or more of the following projects:

- Children's programs: summer camps,

trauma awareness and a children's park.

- Youth's programs: exchanges and dialogues, seminars, conferences and training for trainers in civic education.

Environmental programs: awareness, trips, planting trees and voluntary work.

- Women's programs: international and regional seminars and conferences, UN

Security Council resolution 1325 for women, peace and security, women empowerment projects, advocacy, and gender mainstreaming.

- Family clubs: intergenerational meetings

- Nonviolence Talk and Walk: training, manual writing, seminars, conferences and activities.

- Hall and Multipurpose building for training, playing, gathering and meetings.
 - Van or Bus: for our various activities mentioned above.
 - Mediation: Ministry of reconciliation.
- "There can be no beauty if it is paid for by human injustices, nor truth that passes over

injustices in silence, nor moral virtue that condones it." Tadeusz Borowski.

For more information on all our programs please see our website:

<http://www.alaslah.org> and our Email: hope@alaslah.org

English

- Welcome
- Hello
- Good Morning
- Good Evening
- Congratulation
- Yes
- No
- Easy
- Please
- God is willing
- Excuse Me
- No Problem
- How Much Is It?
- Where IS IT?
- Water

Arabic

- Ahlen wa sahlam
- Marhba
- Sabah El Khair
- Massa' El Khair
- Mabrouk
- Naa'm/Aah
- La'
- Sihel
- Lutfun
- Inshallah
- Lao Samaht
- Mish Mushklich
- A'deash Hadi?
- Weino?
- Maieh

English

- What Is This
- Straight Ahead
- Food
- More
- Less
- Later
- Slowly
- Quickly
- Thanks
- Difficult
- To The Right
- To The left
- I Would Like
- I Don't Know
- Wait A moment

Arabic

- Shu Hada
- Dughri
- Akel/Ta'am
- Kaman
- Aqa'l
- Ba'adain
- shwi-Shwi
- Bi-suraa'
- Shukran
- Sae'b
- Ala Al Yammin
- Ala Al Shimal
- Ana Bidi
- Ma Baraf
- Lah'za

Contact Information:

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