



Allow me to share with you this sensational quotation:

"If darkness has descended upon you and your world, you need not try to persuade yourself that things are not as bad as they seem or to search desperately for reasons to be optimistic.

Remind yourself instead of a very simple fact: The light of the One who was in the beginning with God Shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

As an outreach center we extend our message of hope and justice to the whole world and to peace-loving individuals working in the field of community development and peace building. In that context, we work hard to muster support for our work and look for partners to share with us the message of civil society, conflict transformation and community development. This sharing is based on mutual coordination and cooperation that can advance our march toward just society that respect its citizens despite their color, gender, social, religion and political background.

The hallmark of a truly democratic and just society is empowered, pluralistic community members that can create peaceful change, affect societal change, and adopt non-violent means of transforming conflicts. Wi'am's work towards social transformation is done through our diverse and ongoing activities/programs that target different age groups. We are striving to advance democracy, promoting peaceful transformation of conflict, advancing the rights of children and enabling community achievements.

For the construction of peace, policies from "above" are not sufficient. It is also necessary to develop knowledge, motivation, and participation from "below" through processes of empowerment and self-empowerment, which bring together learning, formation, information, and action. This is done to advance the integral development of the individual and the community through reinforcing that sense of social responsibility among community members without which a peaceful society cannot exist.

Thus, ongoing dissemination of the culture, practices and theories of communal transformation, peace building, and non-violent culture is one of our foremost interests. In that respect, we continue with the following programs:

Activity I:

Sulha: Inter-Communal Mediation-"Ministry of Reconciliation"

Wi'am is proud of its ongoing daily mediation and conflict transformation work in the Field. Given the current economic and socio-political deteriorating situation we are inundated with at least 2-3 cases of daily disputes. Cases are divided into the following categories: Brawls, domestic violence, child abuse, husband-wife disagreements, youth infighting, car accidents, delinquency, discrimination against women, gender inheritance, broken relationships at the family level, etc...



In Sulha, we strive to reach a win-win resolution to reach a cordial relationship based on mutuality and respecting the other.

Activity II:A- Peer Mediation at schools: “Disseminating the Culture of non-violent Communication among children, Conflict Resolution and Trauma Coping”

Education at an early age meant planting the good seed that will blossom at a later stage in life and yield a constructive personality that believes in positive behavior.

Activity II-B Children Summer Camp(s): Beneficiaries: 5-12/ 13-15 years old.

Summer Camps give children the chance to live in a safe environment, ventilate their suppressed feelings, and build their personality around values of non-violence, cooperation.

Summer camps engage children in diverse educational, recreational and entertaining activities. During the activities, children are given the chance to express themselves through theatre, drama, singing, acting, playing.

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Activity III: Civic Education trainings/workshops:

We are proceeding with our ongoing training-for-trainer program that target youth groups from both sexes (18-25). At the end of the program, young people will be trained in diverse topics related to conflict transformation, leadership, mediation, Human rights, democracy, Communication, globalization, etc

The result of the program is trained “Multipliers” who will form a core of field trainers, mediators and advocates of peace and conflict transformation in their community and beyond.

Activity IV: A-Women advocacy Department and Empowerment”

We are enhancing with your continuous support of our networking with at least 18 women organizations in Bethlehem area and with women institutions in the Arab world, which is a success to empower women movement. We also work internationally as a branch of IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation)

This constellation of women groups form a strong lobby that advocates women’s rights, and empower their capacity in different civic educational fields.

Activity IV: B- Gender Mainstreaming Activities: *we have ongoing activities and workshops in fields of Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Justice, Conflict Transformation, Community Building, etc.*



We realize as a result of our involvement in the society and through our problem solving mechanism and thus in challenging the Israeli Occupation, we need to tackle issues of Gender if we need to challenge the society and bring change.

Activity V: Job-creation for the unemployed

Wi'am insists on finding temporary job opportunities for at least 500 breadwinners in the past four years. Unemployed workers have been employed, each according to his/her professionalism, in different institutions. These institutions range from public hospitals, schools, clinics, community centers, etc

Activity VI: Youth Culture Exchange

Wi'am is known for its regional, national, and international youth exchange program that make it possible for youth groups to exchange knowledge and reinforce the dialogue of cultures. Youth groups at the national level are able to meet their counterparts overseas and exchange ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect We are an active part of the Euro-Med project that engage the Mediterranean/ European countries.

Activity VI: Social Hand: Health Issues, Job-Creation and Social Cases

Through our mediation in the field, we encounter social cases that are economically driven. In the process of resolving the conflict, we try to offer social assistance to the family to help them meet the vicissitudes of the current socio-economic and political situation.

In a similar track, we encourage needy women with large family members to generate a modest income through an income-generating job creation. Impoverished women and families are encouraged to do embroidery and olive wood-work that are displayed to international visitors in the centre. The generated income will go directly without any strings attached to the needy families to help them cope with their economic situation.

We also contribute in meeting the urgent needs of impoverished people in areas of health.

Activity VII: Non violent activities, workshops and Advocacy for national concerns

Wi'am's mission and activism is based on non-violence as a way of solving conflicts and achieving justice on all levels. We will continue to identify with the general public in the effort to resist injustices and occupation. For example, we participate in activities protesting the "Occupation" and the "Wall" and their implications. We also join our forces with women, children and NGOs advocating domestic issues related to the marginalized.



Activity VIII: Holidays Smiles

We celebrate with children most Muslim and Christian Holidays. Especially on Christmas, we have a festival for children. During the event children enjoy a day of recreational activities in a big hall in which constructive presents are distributed to them.

Activity IX: Tuitions Help

We assist students in their tuition whenever is possible and in accordance with the need and the situation. Since March 5, 2020, lots of breadwinners lost their income. So many students cannot afford to pay tuition, so through our network and through some supporters we have been able to provide some seasonal support.

Activity IIX Citizen Diplomacy and Home-stays

In our efforts to enhance and maximize relationships, and to promote understanding in cultural and religious dialogue, Wi'am is encouraging individuals and groups to contact us for designing programs, visits and home-stays in Palestine. We love for you to visit the holy stones (holy sites). We love when you establish relationships with the living stones (the people). And we are happy to help debrief you on the rolling stones (the socio-economic and political conditions of the Holy Land).

We are thrilled to welcome you and host you in the Holy Land.

Other projects:

1. Peace-Resource Centre. We are trying to beef-up our modest reference library to include more civic-education books for the people who uses our centre: young people, children, students, teachers, women groups and families. We are in dire need for reference books in areas of civic education, globalization, conflict resolution, children stories, mediation, leadership, psychology, sociology, trauma, politics, social science, etc.

2. W'iam Internet Café in which young groups and children can meet in a safe environment, read, chat and use the internet. Our ambition is to install a computer-lab that can be used by the centre goes in a bid to empower our beneficiaries and connect them to different people overseas belonging to different civilizations and tongues.

Publications

Production of oral History Books in addition to Training Manuals and Actual civic Education training to diverse groups in the community.

We have produced a locally based training manual based on our own experiences in the field with lessons learned from case studies that we have modestly worked hard to resolve. This publication is an answer to the shortage in locally owned training material that takes the local context into consideration.



Similarly, we are proud of training diverse groups in different civic education programs in the wider community, locally, regionally, and internationally. We have published a booklet entitled: **Research Study on Community-Based Mediation in Palestine and its Impact on Peace-building.**

Projects in the Pipe Line that need urgent assistance:

- 1- **Job- creation for the unemployed:** Unemployed workers have been employed, each according to his/her professionalism, in different institutions. These institutions range from public hospitals, schools, clinics, community centers, etc. Today Bethlehem suffers a lot since it depends on tourism.
- 2- **Christmas Smiles:** We celebrate with children most Muslim and Christian Holidays. Especially on Christmas, we have a festival for children, elderly and families. During the event children, women and families enjoy a day of recreational activities in a big hall in which constructive/ educational and essential presents are distributed to them.
- 3- **Wiam's Garden:** Since Wiam's inception, we are keen on raising awareness and working for better, cleaner and safer environment where we plant more trees, flowers and have green patches of community gardens.

For more details, please consult our website: www.alaslah.org

Our offices are open between 8.00 - 4.00, Monday –Saturday

We work on kairos time and not chronos time!!