

# BRIDGING SCHOOL DIVIDES THROUGH DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

**It is an increasingly polarized time, politically and socially, and schools are not immune to its effects.**

Both global and local issues are sparking division. Educators and administrators are asking to be better equipped to navigate difficult conversations across lines of difference with students and school communities: holding space for high emotions, supporting critical thinking, enabling dialogue, and activating empathy.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

Seeds of Peace has decades of experience building bridges across lines of difference in some of the most conflict-ridden and hotly contested areas of the world, including in Israel, Palestine, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Cyprus.

We have a deep familiarity of the issues in the region, proven methodologies for activating listening and empathy, and a talented team of Israelis, Palestinians, Americans, and others that continue to forge a path towards peace together, even under today's incredibly difficult circumstances.



Our educator programs have trained more than 500 educational policymakers, school principals and administrators, classroom teachers, school counselors, and informal educators, predominantly in the Middle East and United States.

Seeds of Peace is partnering with educational leaders and middle and high schools to help them engage constructively with their

students and wider communities, in this moment of heightened tension and in any situation causing deep division.

Offerings provide insight into the current crisis in the Middle East, opportunities for educators to process personal feelings while holding space for others, and practical tools and skills for engaging groups in dialogue across differences.

## LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

### 1. Individual Workshops & Sessions

Exposure to dialogue and conflict resiliency through standalone 60-90 minute sessions tailored to your needs.

### 2. Multi-Day Trainings & Facilitation

Deeper engagement through full-day or multi-day training and facilitated dialogues for students or educators, with coaching to integrate learnings.

### 3. Long-Term Partnerships

- Opportunities for students and educators to participate in Seeds of Peace programs.
- Support to develop youth-led Seeds of Peace school clubs.
- Ongoing coaching in dialogue facilitation and conflict resiliency

# OFFERINGS

## 1. VOICES FROM JERUSALEM

Hear from Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders who work with youth about how the crisis is affecting them, their communities, and their work to build more just and peaceful societies. Both student and adult audiences will gain practical suggestions for ways to engage constructively in times of intense conflict, from those who continue to forge a path forward together.

**Target audience:** Universal (students, administrators, teachers, parents)

**Format & length:** 60-90 mix of storytelling, interactive Q&A.

**Impact:** Improved understanding of the multiple narratives related to the current Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Principles and steps for constructive engagement across difference in times of disagreement.

## 2. FACILITATING YOUTH VOICES

Dialogue is at the core of our mission and work. This training offers an introduction to the dialogic practices used by Seeds of Peace facilitators, including how to create youth spaces that promote connection rather than division, the powerful role of listening and questioning in youth spaces, and what to do when conflict strikes. Follow-up coaching is included to help integrate learnings.

**Target audience:** School administrators, teachers, counselors.

**Format & length:** 2.5 hours. Follow-up coaching sessions included.

**Impact:** Increased capacity to design and lead constructive dialogue. Exercises and activities to use immediately with students.

## 3. FACILITATION TRAINING

Seeds of Peace has trained hundreds of facilitators from around the world, including more than 100 Israelis and Palestinians alone, to lead dialogue for both youth and adults. The training focuses on: self awareness, particularly around navigating identity, power, and privilege; skills in active listening, asking good questions, and group awareness; managing interpersonal conflict; and an understanding of how to guide difficult conversations. It is designed to increase capacity within the school or student population to lead dialogue, and can be customized in length for different needs. Follow-up coaching is included to help integrate learnings.

**Target audience:** School administrators, teachers, counselors, student leaders.

**Format & length:** Varies according to group size and desired outcomes. One day minimum, 3-5 days recommended. Follow-up coaching is included.

**Impact:** Ability to design and lead group dialogue. Knowledge of and skills in facilitation techniques and methods.

## 4. GROUP DIALOGUE

Seeds of Peace can provide customized, professionally facilitated dialogue sessions for groups who are experiencing conflict or who want to engage more deeply across lines of difference together. Our methodology enables people to move through difficult conversations in ways that allow for trust-building, empathy, and mutual understanding. Our team of facilitators reflect a wide variety of skill sets and experiences and can custom design and lead experiences specific to your needs

for a subset of employees or teams, from one-day to weeklong (or more prolonged) sessions. Longer processes may include a training component to enable participants to gain facilitation skills.

**Target audience:** School administrators, teachers/faculty, counselors, student groups.

**Format & length:** Varies according to group size and desired outcomes. One day minimum, 3-7 days (or longer depending on need) recommended.

**Impact:** Improved empathy, trust, and ability to engage across lines of difference.

# RATES

Seeds of Peace is a non-profit organization. This work is mission-driven. We will work with you to understand your needs and customize an offering that is inclusive and impactful, at a rate that meets your needs and ours.

# WHO WE ARE

For over 30 years, Seeds of Peace has created bridges across lines of difference in order to build more just and inclusive societies.

Seeds of Peace set the standard in people-to-people peacebuilding. Our dialogue-rooted, action-driven model has proven to develop personal leadership, build relationships grounded in trust and empathy, and increase commitment to act.

Our network of over 8,000 alumni reaching communities around the world through their work in the media, public policy, arts and culture, and nonprofit sectors.

