



Common Bond Institute

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COMMON BOND INSTITUTE (CBI) is a US based Non-Government Organization that focuses on increasing skills and services to promote peace, exploring human consciousness and relationship dynamics, and expanding public dialogue and awareness of critical issues. Since 1990 CBI organizes and sponsors numerous international, multi-disciplinary conferences, professional training programs for local capacity building in human services and civil society, and professional exchanges. It provides consulting, coordination, and networking support to assist newly emerging human service and civil society organizations in developing countries.

Cultivating the fundamental elements of a consciousness of peace and local capacity building are seen as natural, effective antidotes to small group radical extremism and large group despair, as well as to hardship and suffering in the human condition. To this end, enabling each society to effectively resolve and transform conflicts, satisfy core human needs within their communities, and construct effective, holistic mechanisms for self determination, self esteem, and fundamental human dignity and worth is the purpose of its work. CBI's efforts, and particularly conferences, are designed to be living laboratories for creating and participating in deep, authentic community as a common ground of reference for exploring core themes and integrating formal learning. CBI is grounded in the application of humanistic psychology's principles in its commitment to capacity building at both the grass roots and social institutional level, and providing the individual in society with practical skills and visions for transforming conflict in their daily lives. It is highly collaborative and works to actively form strategic alliances and partnerships with organizations, groups, and individuals dedicated to nurturing relationships locally and globally in creating and promoting an authentic world culture of peace.

CBI is one of 40 worldwide humanitarian NGO's selected to be highlighted by a chapter dedicated to it in a book on "*The New Humanitarians*" by Dr. Chris Stout. It is the institutional recipient of the 2011 Charlotte and Karl Bühler Award from the American Psychological Association for outstanding and lasting contribution to humanistic psychology, and is an official partner of the Charter For Compassion and the Parliament of World Religions.

CONFERENCES: Among 35+ international conflict transformation conferences organized since 1990:

- ▶ In 1992 CBI established and each year has co-sponsored the **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION (ICR)** in Russia. This widely endorsed, multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural conference brings together participants from around the world to share theory and practical skills in conflict transformation and healing, and create invaluable networking opportunities to promote collaboration. The ICR Conference was established in cooperation with HARMONY Institute, and is endorsed by a growing list of over 100 universities and organizations internationally.
- ▶ In 2004 CBI established and co-sponsors the **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON "THE ECOLOGY OF WAR AND PEACE (EWP),"** held in cooperation with HARMONY Institute, the Jane Goodall Institute and the International Humanistic Psychology Association. The EWP Conference has brought together youth from various societies for an experience utilizing ecology and environmental consciousness as a common link to then address issues of negative stereotypes, prejudice, and the demonization and dehumanization of individuals and groups.
- ▶ In 2006 CBI established and sponsors the **ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ENGAGING THE OTHER: THE POWER OF COMPASSION," (ETO)** to promote a wider public dialogue to reduce and transform fear-based belief systems, negative stereotyping, and prejudice that lead to dehumanizing and demonizing others, polarization, and hostility, and to apply results to current world relationships. Products include establishing community based dialogue groups, a network of activist change agents, published results, recorded proceedings and art images, programs links to conferences in various regions of the world to increase diversity of perspectives and build on mutual missions, a planned documentary film and "Engaging The Other" training program. The ETO Conference is held in conjunction with an edited book in progress addressing concepts of "The Other" from a cross-cultural, multidisciplinary perspective. The basis of the book project is a chapter contributed by CBI's director to a book titled "*The Psychology of Terrorism.*"
- ▶ In 2009 CBI established and sponsors the **ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGION, CONFLICT, AND PEACE (RCP),"** promoting Inter-religious and Intra-religious dialogue to explore the challenges of Intolerance, Polarization, and Scapegoating, and the promise of Reason, Understanding, Compassion, and Cultural Harmony.
- ▶ In 2011 CBI established and sponsors a new annual practical conference: **TRANSFORMING CONFLICT** in **Amman Jordan** focusing on collaborative skills in interpersonal communication, decision making, teamwork, leadership, negotiation, problem solving, mediation, and sustainable reconciliation.
- ▶ In 2011 CBI establishes and sponsors a new annual peace building conference: **PRACTICAL MODELS FOR PEACE** at **Wahat Al Salaam/Neve Shalom, Israel** to highlight and gain support for existing successful peace building programs in the Middle East.
- ▶ In Fall of 2012 CBI establishes and sponsors a new annual conference: **TRANSGENERATIONAL TRAUMA** in **Amman, Jordan** as a meeting place for a global network of professionals studying transgenerational trauma.

TRAININGS: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

▶ **"CATASTROPHIC TRAUMA RECOVERY (CTR) TRAINING"** - Since 1998 this project has offered trauma recovery skills training to local counselors and relief workers assisting victims of violence, war, and disaster in regions of conflict, helping to create local teams of qualified trainers to expand the training pool. Intensive trainings are provided primarily to counselors in the Middle East, Caucasus, Russia, and Balkans. In addition to trainings, components of this training project being operated or under development by CBI and its partners include:

[1] Project to cooperate with local human service organizations in the West Bank to provide training, operational assistance to help establish the **Bait Al Hayat / House of Life trauma treatment center for children**.

[2] Project to provide training and professional resources to mental health workers in regions of conflict. Past examples include the **Gaza Community Mental Health Program** in Gaza and the **Palestinian Counseling Center** in the West Bank

[3] **(CTR) Training - Iraq:** Project to provide training, on-going clinical consultation, professional resources, and an infrastructure plan to a team of Iraqi counselors to establish and staff a **trauma treatment center in Iraq**.

[4] **Trans-generational Trauma:** A project to promote cross-cultural research and study of the dynamics of Trans-generational Trauma: inherited unresolved communal trauma into future generations, the implications for historical and present relations between communities, particularly war and violence, and the development of new methods for healing communal trauma. Elements include establishing a global professional conference series, a journal, and a global network of researchers and practitioners to advance research, education, public awareness and understanding, and the development of effective, culturally appropriate healing methodologies.

Trainings are provided in cooperation with other professional training institutes, including the EMDR Humanitarian Assistance Program (EMDR-HAP). Follow up supervision, consultation, and networking is offered to all trainees from the cooperating organizations. The CTR model, developed by CBI and designed for assisting large populations of trauma victims in societies where the internal support systems have been debilitated by catastrophe, is included in a book edited by Dr. Stanley Krippner on the treatment of large civilian populations traumatized by war: *"The Psychological Impact of War Trauma on Civilian Populations,"* and is used as a model by a number of NGO's serving communities in regions of conflict.

▶ **"CAPACITY FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY"** - A project to assist Palestinian universities in establishing Centers for Conflict Resolution and Human Rights, providing a pool of visiting professors and core curriculum for courses in Human Services and Civil Society, and providing professional and academic materials. The purpose is to help increase local capacity for peace, democracy, and development in Palestinian society by preparing future civil leaders and local professionals skilled in providing critical needed human services to the population.

INTEGRATED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: In 2004 CBI initiated an experiment to collaborate in coordinating an integrated series of 5 international conferences in 3 countries sharing a focus on exploring and advancing the consciousness of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Events in this series were programmatically linked to build on each other for an energetic flow and larger impact. As a result, outcomes have emerged and coalesced synergistically as the process has progressed, and have inspired promising new collaborative projects and partnerships, some of which CBI is directly involved in. Following the success of this model we have continued the process each year, inviting other international conferences to link programs to maximize the energy and products of each event and promote an expanding network of social activists and healers for greater mutual benefit. A goal is to collectively raise the level, depth, and breadth of public awareness and public dialogue on vital issues in exploring a consciousness of peace, and to foster proactive networks that create practical strategies for applying results in advancing capacity for a global culture of peace.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS OPERATED OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

▶ **A Global Professional Network of Working Study Groups** exploring the dynamics, implications, and prevention of intergenerational inheritance of unresolved communal trauma as fuel for current and future animosity and violence.

▶ **"Engaging The Other"** An edited multicultural book project in conjunction with the ETO conference.

▶ **"Engaging The Other"** training program addressing negative stereotypes and prejudice.

▶ **A Global Internet nexus**, including: ♦ a virtual **Journal of Conflict Transformation**, ♦ a virtual **Resource Library** with materials from CBI conferences, trainings, and participating libraries ♦ a **Networking Database** of organizations and individuals to promote cooperation, ♦ **E-working groups** to house virtual meeting groups for collaborative projects, ♦ a web-based **Clinical Consultation** service to support trainees of CBI's trauma training projects

▶ Assisting the establishment and development of **locally based professional schools and practical training programs** in human services to assist in forming core mentor groups in developing societies.