

International Conference on Practical Models For Peace: *Making a Difference Now*

Wahat Al Salaam/Neve Shalom, Israel ~ October 27-30, 2011

*A New Multi-disciplinary, Multi-cultural Conference
Promoting Support For Successful Peace Programs in Israel and Palestine*

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Sponsored by

**Common Bond Institute, Wahat Al Salaam/Neve Shalom, People's Peace Fund,
International Humanistic Psychology Association**

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NEED:

- 1) The general public and key decision and policy makers have little awareness of both the common communal trauma experiences of the parties in conflict, and existing best practices and successful models for healing trauma and ending the conflict in Israel and Palestine, as well as organizations with a track record in doing this work.
- 2) These same model organizations are experiencing severely limited and declining financial and human resources required to continue and accomplish their work, at the very time of escalating tensions that demands redoubling and expanding all effective efforts.
- 3) There is a chronic, growing sense of dismay, powerlessness, and fatality in the Middle East and general global public, largely promoted by lack of knowledge of models that work and a media focus on animosity and small group extremists on all sides who fuel polarity and monopolize the public stage.

PURPOSE:

- 1) To bring together representatives of **existing exemplary and successful best practices** for healing and ending the conflict in the Middle East, from programs in each society to compelling joint efforts by partners from all sides.
- 2) To share **successful models and methods**, address **intergenerational trauma, victim identities, and challenges faced**, and explore possibilities for **mutual support, strategic cooperation, and action planning**.
- 3) To raise **global public awareness** of these successful models for peace and healing as an antidote to widespread misunderstanding, and to promote **strong public influence** for supporting and expanding these efforts.

FORMAT AND CONTENT:

By design, the conference focuses on engaged dialogue and deliberation by all participants, highlighting successful, practical models represented, and promoting action planning to support, advance, and expand them. **Conference components:**

Workshops, ♦ practical presentations, ♦ topical roundtables, ♦ daily facilitated dialogue and action planning groups ♦ keynote speakers, ♦ virtual participation from other countries, ♦ rich networking and cooperation, ♦ cultural events and performances, ♦ multi-cultural community, ♦ displays

LOCATION: Wahat Al Salaam/Neve Shalom (WASNS), Doar Na Shimshon 99761 Israel

To underscore existing possibilities for peace, the conference is held at **WASNS** - a setting of practical hope and healing that is a remarkable 40 year model for successful reconciliation, co-existence, and harmony in the heart of this region of conflict.

Common Bond Institute

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