

Jerusalem a city of Peace and Coexistence

The project

The project is Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations and activists launch a joint initiative To promote Jerusalem as the city of peace while using the city diversities to realize prosperity and to provide a platform for an active debate, discussion and participation of Jerusalemites in deciding the future of the city,

Activities

The initiative will start working on the following

1. Promote the two state solution, were East Jerusalem should be politically separated as part of PNA yet the city will not be divided with a wall or barrier.
2. Support establishing an independent municipality for east Jerusalem that will be established while maintaining a viable relationship with the Israeli west Jerusalem municipality.
3. Work to remove All obstacles preventing the development of East Jerusalem
4. Furnish the ground and planting the seeds for future cooperation in all development issues between East and West Jerusalem including the municipalities and the civil society organizations.
5. Promote Jerusalem as the city of cultural mosaic of the three Monotheist religions.
6. Use the importance of Jerusalem to all as a tool to promote development and prosperity.
7. Promote a model of coexistence in Jerusalem as a viable alternative to the conflict model.

Objectives

The overall objective is to enhance community support for the peace process and negotiated future fore Jerusalem and enhance civil society and people to people dialogue in Jerusalem on models to promote Jerusalem as city of peace and co existence

Specific objectives include:

- 1- Counter the policy of conflict and exclusive claims of both sides to the city future that is causing poverty, hate, and violence
- 2- Activate Jerusalemites role in supporting new models of political arrangements to insure ending the city suffering and establishing a Promising future for all
- 3-foster dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians regarding Jerusalem
- .4- strength civil society to give communities a role in decision-making and access to decision-makers

Methodology and rational

Jerusalem is central to the success of the peace process and that without finding a ways for Palestinians and Israelis to live together in this city, there can be no peace.

Promoting Jerusalem as city of peace and co existence requires the opening of channels of communication and dialogue, which allow the civil society in the city to engage in discussion to present diversity and develop model of coexistence Based on mutual interest.

The project seeks to mobilize the voice of city residents and activists to start imp limiting the separate but open city vision within civil society framework including preparing for independent municipality and paving the way for future cooperation and shared Jerusalem

Active participation by people of Jerusalem in defining and shaping the future of their city, and joint civil society action for the future Jerusalem of peace and coexistence, will counter the current culture and policy of creating facts on the ground in dining the other.

Sharing and reconciliation are easily said but very difficult and even painful in Jerusalem , there is history ,religion and even TABOO in the culture , the project methodology is to open all these issues for discussion , and to provide platform and space for debate for the people and not only peace activists.

The civil society action to prepare for separation and cooperation aims to

Utilize civil society capacity to create facts on the ground and build alternative model that can provide strong support to the peace process.

Action plan for the first year

1- dialogue and awareness

To promote civil society dialogue, awareness and participation

- a- organize 4 debate seminars on the future of Jerusalem 2 in east Jerusalem and 2 in west Jerusalem
- b- Issue monthly magazine in Hebrew and Arabic dedicated to Jerusalem joint concerns that will provide space for Jerusalem public to communicate and participate in the debate.

c- Publishing research on the future of Jerusalem as separate but open city to show the opportunities for security, economic well-being, reconciliation and cooperation can bring to the city

2- Experts work groups

Six joint expert work groups to explore the best models for cooperation in separate but open Jerusalem, the main fields are;

- water
- Environment waste management
- social welfare
- roads and communication
- security
- trade , finance and economic cooperation

3- Capacity building

Training 30 Palestinians on management of municipal departments and services

The training to consist of 3 parts

- 1- weekly 4 hours training sessions in Jerusalem
- 2- - visits to municipalities in Israel and Palestine

3- Structure

Preparing structure for the municipality including the assumed budget and financial recourses for the first three years, and the action plan for establishing the municipal council.