

# DIALOGUE TO ACTION

## A NEW KIDS4PEACE PROJECT

In October 2015, Kids4Peace announced the launch of *Dialogue to Action*—a new project in Jerusalem designed to engage young adults (age 18-25) in activism for social change and to create an New Jewish Theology of Peace.



The project is rooted in faith-based activism and nonviolent social-change. We draw from the

wisdom of spiritual teachers and the passions of the young adults themselves. We are aware of the multitude of dialogue programs that strive to create relationships between



Palestinians and Israelis. We feel, however, that dialogue is not enough.

We must take our work to the next level by shifting from dialogue to action. As the streets of Jerusalem continue to burn, the cries for change must be answered.

## THREE COMPONENTS OF DIALOGUE TO ACTION:

### THE JERUSALEM PROJECT

ENGAGING JEWISH, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM YOUNG ADULTS FROM THE JERUSALEM AREA IN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND NONVIOLENT ACTION

### STRATEGIC MEETINGS

CREATING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING TRUST WITH MORE THAN 50 POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, AS WELL AS JOURNALISTS, IN JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK.

### JEWISH THEOLOGY OF PEACE

RECLAIMING, THROUGH THE USE OF BLOGS, RADIO APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN DISCOURSE ON THE CONFLICT.



## THE JERUSALEM PROJECT

is designed for young adults (ages 18-25) in Jerusalem. It is geared towards Kids4Peace graduates, but will include other young adults from Jerusalem who want to make significant changes in their communities.

Dialogue to Action envisions Jerusalem as a place inspired by the three Abrahamic faiths—a sacred space that can be home to both Israelis and Palestinians. With this vision in mind, our group of young adults will work together to demand change and showcase to the global community that interfaith living is possible.

A crucial component of this new initiative is that it will not simply be dialogue based—but action based as well. We will bring our work to the public sphere in two ways: through podcasts on our webpage and through our presence on the streets of Jerusalem. Each meeting will be recorded and edited into podcasts and one meeting per month will take place at a public space and/or holy site in Jerusalem. By working in the public sphere we embody change and we commit ourselves to peace and nonviolence.

EXCERPTS FROM  
YAKIR'S  
PUBLISHED  
WRITINGS:

**My Palestinian Elijah:** *My Hasidic mother, when she heard of my experience, told me it was the Prophet Elijah who was sent to save me. To me, he was one of so many Palestinians who prayed for peace, but who also took actions for peace in his daily life. These are the people we will never hear about on the local news.*

**Kids4Peace International** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (EIN 20-5419759)  
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## STRATEGIC MEETINGS

In order to make impactful change, we must bring together young adults from opposing ends of the political and religious spectrum. Dr. Yakir Englander and Natalie Bergner have spent time creating on the ground connections with influential leaders and players in the conflict such as military personnel, community organisers, politicians, religious leaders and activists. All of these meetings have been for the purposes of bridging divides between the left and right—between religious and secular—between Christians, Muslims and Jews.

## NEW JEWISH THEOLOGY OF PEACE:

Yakir has been writing blogs in The Times of Israel, Religion Dispatches and The Huffington Post about the conflict, Jewish identity, and interfaith relations. He has also initiated a weekly radio program about a new Jewish Theology of Peace.



**An Israeli and Palestinian-American Imam Exchange Letters:** *We, the religious leaders and activists, must stop being 'pro-Palestine' and 'pro-Israel' and begin to be 'pro-the-Image-of God.' We must be pro-education and love, offering an 'Intimate critique'—a critique that comes from a place of love.*