

Press Release

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Issued by the ***Constructing the Peace*** Group of the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

We are a group of civil society activists living and working in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Our common vision is to consolidate peace; a peace build on justice and democracy, international judicial agreements and resolutions and international charters for human rights; particularly the international declaration for human rights and both international agreements on civil and political rights, and economical, social and cultural rights.

Whilst wars and conflicts are not limited only to the Middle East it is important to recognise the impact that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the recent hostilities in Lebanon have had not only on the region but also on the rest of the world; we see an increase in support for fundamental forces, growing conflicts, confrontations and divisions at the national, regional and international levels.

We believe that dialogue among different cultures and nations, knowledge of others and their differences, respect, with emphasis on the humanitarian, and shared values among nations are the basis of building and supporting peace in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

Further, we are of the opinion that civil society's participation in any constructing of the peace is crucial; and consequently we urge international organisations, governments and nations concerned with peace and peace processes to include civil society organisations (CSOs) in their undertakings to construct the peace.

Constructing the Peace does not aim to be a political platform.

Constructing the Peace aims to become a positive voice for those who wish to reflect on the past, learn in the present and work for a peaceful future; a future built on respect for individual rights and fundamental freedoms.

Constructing the Peace aims to contribute to building a culture of freedom, justice, democracy and peace by:

1. Constructing a peace education programme
2. Promoting and disseminating the peace education programme at local, national, regional and international levels via 21st century communication tools and techniques thus ensuring optimum access and involvement in the learning processes
3. Building a network of organisations (CSOs), concerned with peace, to facilitate dialogue, respect and shared values among Euro-Mediterranean nations and establishing a trans-national and trans-generational civil society voice; a mechanism that will seek to positively influence government's, nation's and international organisation's peace making processes.
4. Promoting ***Constructing the Peace*** to governments, nations and international organisations as a valid civil society representative in the peace process.

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