

YOCOPAS

(Youth Organized Collaboration On Peace and Sustainability)

Meet. Connect. Act.

What is YOCOPAS?

YOCOPAS is a movement which was established two years ago by students and educators from EMIS in order to bring together Israeli, Palestinian and international high-school students to create a platform for collaborative action and to emerge as leaders and social entrepreneurs in their local communities.

What have we done so far?

6

Joint events

tackling issues such as narratives, activism and youth leadership through conferences, seminars and educators circles.



Over 500

Participants

students, teachers and high school principals from Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and more than 40 other countries.



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Partner schools

Israel
West Bank
Gaza



The third annual YOCOPAS conference 'Crossing Borders'

The conference will explore the notion and influence of borders on different spheres of life. It is designed for each individual to walk a personal journey that enables him or her to explore the idea of borders in ever expanding circles. The conference will be comprised of the three following blocks Borders and personal identity, Borders and society and Borders and conflicts.

What are we looking for?

We are searching for engaging workshops which will inspire/challenge/give knowledge and tools to the talented participants who will come to the conference and will allow them to take another step in becoming change-makers.
If you fit to give a workshop or know others who can, please contact us.

Borders and society

This block aims at exploring the borders and barriers which form our society and to challenge these very borders and the possibilities of crossing them.



Which borders influence human interaction with one another and how? Are social borders necessary? Are social borders natural or artificially made? What leads us to create or cross social borders? What tools are there to cross social borders? What is the influence of factors such as economy, media, language, gender and education in creating or crossing social borders? How should we deal with Immigration - integration, assimilation and separation?

Borders and conflicts

This block aims at exploring borders from a political perspective, more specifically, the role of borders play in creating and solving geo-political conflicts.



Do borders inherently create conflicts? Are borders necessary to achieve and maintain peace and sustainability? Which borders need to be crossed to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Which ones should be established or stay in place? What are examples of current and past conflicts and the influence of borders on them? What can be the influence of environmental issues on geo-political conflicts? Should and can we live in a world without borders?

- **Borders and gender** - looking into ways in which gender related borders influence our society and give examples for ways to cross them and the importance of crossing them. We are especially interested in women empowerment issues in the Arab society.
- **Borders and economy** - exploring how economic systems and economic inequality function as a social border and investigate concepts of economy which cross these borders.
- **Borders and education** - exploring the ways in which education perpetuates social borders and barriers and the ways in which education is used and can be used to cross these borders.
- **Inclusion and exclusion of the 'other'** - looking into issues of immigration and the ways society deals with it: inclusion, integration, assimilation and rejection.
- **Borders and stereotypes** - examining the issue of cultural and social stereotyping and the ways it forms our society and social interaction.
- **Borders and Law** - assessing how law and especially social law can be used as a measure of establishing social barriers and as a tool to break these barriers.
- **Borders and arts** - we are looking for workshops that actively exemplify how different forms of art and performance (theatre, literature, dance, etc.) can be used to cross social borders.
- **Borders and language** - looking into language and language representation in the public sphere and its influence on creating or breaking apart social barriers.
- **Borders and psychology** - examining the existence and importance of social borders from different psychological perspectives.
- **Borders and media** - exploring the role of media and media bias in creating and eliminating borders in our society.

- **Narratives and conflict** - examining the role of narratives in creating and perpetuating conflicts and specifically the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **Dialogue and conflict** – exploring forms of dialogue as tools to cross borders created by national conflicts, more specifically by the Israeli Palestinian conflict.
- **Geographical borders and conflict** - exploring the role geographical borders play in conflicts and specifically in the Israeli Palestinian conflict.
- **The separation wall and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict** – exploring the different perspectives and ideas with regard to the role and influence of the wall on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **Religion and conflict** - exploring the role of religion as a border that creates conflicts. Is religion a border or a bridge between nations?
- **International intervention and conflict** - exploring the role of the international community in solving conflicts - is international intervention necessary and justified?
- **Globalization and conflict** - exploring the influence of globalization and the blurring of national borders on geo-political conflicts.
- **Economy, technology and conflict** - examining the function of economy and technology in crossing national borders to bring about solution to conflict: the concept of economic peace.
- **Environment and conflict** - looking into the influence of national borders on the environment and more specifically exploring if and how environmental sustainability issues can be used to cross national borders.
- **Arts and conflict** - exploring the ways in which different forms of art and performance (theatre, poetry, dance, etc.) are and can be used to cross the borders created by conflicts and specifically the Israeli Palestinian conflict.
- **Activism and conflict** - exploring the journey of different types of national conflicts activists and the borders they cross to be activists.
- **Conflict and study-cases** - we would like to investigate study cases of national conflicts such as Ireland and Cyprus in order to give a different perspective on the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

The conference is not about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however it addresses it and has the mission in its heart to create a platform for participants to become activists who change the reality of the conflict. With this in mind, some of the workshops should address the conflict, however in some cases a more general approach would be a better fit.

The dry details

Where?

EMIS Campus, Hakfar Hayarok Israel.

When?

October 26th-28th 2017

Who?

250-300 participants, 16-18 years old, from Israel, Palestine and over 40 other countries.

Time of workshop

Each workshop will be two hours long.

Size of workshop

20-30 participants per workshop.

Language

Workshops should be delivered in English.

Contact information

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