



*Founded in 2003, Empower Peace is bridging the cultural and communication divide between young people worldwide. With a particular focus on connecting youth in the United States and Arab and Muslim world, Empower Peace uses the latest in interactive technologies and intensive leadership training to break down misconceptions and build meaningful relationships and skills. Through a global network of students and schools, Empower Peace is providing the next generation with the opportunities and tools needed to advance mutual respect, understanding, and peace.*



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## What We Do

Empower Peace connects and empowers young people in two ways: 1) through intensive leadership training, which provide a transformative experience grounded in personal relationships and concrete skills, and 2) through web-based technologies, capable of reaching a critical mass and enabling them to work together to advance peace.

### Empower Peace Programs

The Empower Peace program is built around three core components: **Virtual Connections**, which uses web-based interactive technologies to facilitate cultural and global understanding between youth around the world, **Women2Women**, an leadership program that connects promising young women from the United States and Arab and Muslim world, and engages them in the issues that define their lives, and **Global Village**, a series of civic engagement initiatives that provide meaningful opportunities for young people to contribute to their communities, countries, and the world.

“Empower Peace is a pioneer in using technology to develop relationships around the globe. They are breaking down barriers, reducing fear, building trust and friendships – essential elements needed for peace.”

—Robert Mond, Principal, Al-Noor Academy



## Virtual Connections

*Innovations in communications technology are shrinking the world and bringing people closer together as never before. Empower Peace harnesses the power of new technologies to enable young people to communicate directly with each other in order to generate greater understanding and a more global worldview. Virtual Connections has connected more than 50,000 youth in over 30 countries on six continents.*

### ● Videoconferences

Empower Peace’s videoconferencing program connects students at two or more schools and enables them to engage in open and honest dialogue, sharing insight into their cultures and discussing world issues that affect them all. In so doing, Empower Peace is developing global citizens who value different cultures and perspectives, and who are empowered to help build a better world.

Empower Peace has conducted past videoconferences with schools in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Scotland, the United Arab Emirates, and American schools in Boston, MA; Erie, PA; Long Beach, CA; and Long Island, NY.

### ● World Classroom Webcasts

Empower Peace’s World Classroom program utilizes state-of-the-art V-Brick technology to enable students from any location in the world to speak live and direct, via the Internet, to an unlimited international audience regarding their cultures and perspectives. V-Brick broadcasts over the Internet in a real-time video feed that can be synchronized with PowerPoint slides, photographs, and video. The viewing audience participates by posing questions and statements to the presenters via an instant messaging feature, creating a virtual classroom.

Empower Peace’s past webcasts have featured high school students from Charlestown, MA; Amman, Jordan; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Israeli and Palestinian youth leaders in a broadcast from Jerusalem.





### ● Ongoing Programs

Empower Peace offers a series of ongoing programs that give students the chance to use different media — including art, video, photography and creative writing — to promote peace.

### ● Empower Peace Website

Empower Peace’s website continues to be the hub of all our programs — our “portal to peace.” Teachers use the site as a tool for their students to experience other cultures through Virtual Connections; Women2Women alumni use the site to stay connected; and any student can use the site to participate in Empower Peace programs.

### ● EP-TV: Internationally Broadcast Programming

Every major Empower Peace event is captured on video and edited into a “made for TV” program that is distributed to a wide variety of online platforms, such as YouTube, and our international television media partners, which include: Geo TV (Pakistan), Future TV (Lebanon), Dunya News (Pakistan), and Alhurra TV (airing throughout the Middle East). Empower Peace programming has been broadcast to a footprint of over 600 million people in over 100 countries through our global television broadcast partners.

## Women2Women International Leadership Program

*Women and girls play a special role in advancing both peace and development. Research shows that families, communities, and nations prosper when girls have the opportunity to participate fully in every aspect of society. Empower Peace’s Women2Women program focuses on building a network of young women from the United States and Arab and Muslim world, and providing them with the tools, relationships, and opportunities required to lead.*



“I will never forget this week, this lifetime experience where I’ve made amazing friends and learned things that I will never forget. This week has made me a person that is hopefully going to change the world someday.”

– Leen, Jordanian Delegate, Women2Women 2008

### ● Women2Women International Conferences

In 2006, Empower Peace launched the Women2Women (W2W) International Leadership Program to bring together promising young women, aged 15-19, from the United States and Arab and Muslim world. Working with educational partners, such as Lesley University and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and Law School, W2W meaningfully engages these emerging leaders in the issues that define their lives and enables them to take action in their own communities. At the same time, W2W is building much-needed bridges of understanding and trust between improbable allies, uniting them across shared interests and purpose. Over 200 young women from nearly 20 countries now comprise the W2W network.

### ● Women2Women Alumni Programs

Empower Peace’s alumni programs are designed to take the W2W experience to the next level. In 2009, Empower Peace will reconvene a select group of alumni for a “Leadership in Action” summit in Jordan. The summit will provide opportunities for these promising young women to engage in activities that offer solutions to social issues and to learn how to implement their own ideas to improve their communities. This will be the first of many activities that will provide the support, resources, and training W2W alumni need to take action on the issues they care about.

### ● WECan Mentoring Program

Empower Peace will launch the Women’s Empowerment Coalition (WECan) in 2009. WECan is a network comprised of male and female professionals representing the



government, business, media, education, and non-profit sectors from the United States and Arab and Muslim world, all of whom share a commitment

to empowering young women. Each member will serve as a mentor and resource for W2W participants in their own countries. In turn, WECan members will gain the opportunity to engage young people in their efforts and participate in WECan collaborative projects, thereby growing their own capacity and impact.

## Global Village

*Young people must be given opportunities to develop and demonstrate empathy for others, both in their own countries and around the world. While the Empower Peace's Virtual Connections and Women2Women programs aim to build meaningful relationships and understanding, the Global Village initiatives concentrate on giving the next generation the tools and opportunities to make a difference today.*

### ● “Be the Change” Global Village

The “Be the Change” Global Village is designed to connect young people with efforts to address social issues in their local communities, countries, and the world. Students will attend a one-day event that showcases local and international nonprofits working on a variety of important issues in their country, so that the student can learn about, support, and join in their activities. Youth will also attend workshops that discuss how to arrive at solutions to social challenges and move their ideas from concept to implementation.

### ● Pledging for Pakistan

Just days after an Empower Peace videoconference between schools in Pakistan and the United States, a devastating earthquake hit South Asia killing tens of thousands of people. As reports of the destruction spanned the globe, Empower Peace students learned that one of their new friends in

Islamabad died in the earthquake when his apartment tower collapsed. Students in Boston and New York wanted to lend a hand, and “Empower Peace: Pledging for Pakistan” was born.

On November 10, 2005, students and teachers participated in a live telethon aired by a number of media outlets, including Geo TV in Pakistan and WB56 in Boston, and streamed live over the Internet. Highlights from the event included a message from US Senator Edward Kennedy and a performance by UN Goodwill Ambassador and Pakistani rock star Salman Ahmad. Empower Peace students raised \$10,000 donated to disaster relief.

## Why We Do It

“People to People” programs, coupled with new technologies that make instant and constant communication possible between every corner of the world, represent real opportunities to build bridges between nations and people. With approximately 60% of the population in the Middle



East under the age of 25, the key to building these bridges rests squarely in the hands of youth – the next generation of leaders. Empower Peace believes it is a lack of opportunities, rather than motivation, that prevents young people from connecting with their peers around the world and participating in the making of a better world. Provided with such opportunities, young people have proven time and time again that they are willing and able to make meaningful contributions in their communities and countries.

Through a global network of students and schools spanning over 30 countries on six continents, Empower Peace is able to facilitate this type of communication and cooperation on a worldwide scale.

