

Bridges of Communication. Empower Peace Spans the Globe in 2006

Letter From Our Founder...

Dear Empower Peace Supporters:

Let me start by thanking all of you who have contributed to the success of Empower Peace over the past year. 2006 was a banner year for EP, and our impact has been felt around the globe. Highlights from this past year include the launch EP Radio and EP TV, the hosting of our first annual Women2Women International Leadership Conference, as well as engaging our network of students in programs such as "Drawing the Right Impressions" and the "PSA for Peace" contests. Needless to say it has been a very exciting year for Empower Peace.

In 2007, we hope to expand on these programs in addition to our network of schools. Our goals are to work closely with our teachers and students to find new and innovative ways of connecting youth through the latest technology. In a time when bridges of communication between the United States and the Middle and Near East couldn't be more needed, Empower Peace stays committed to our goal of closing these gaps of misunderstanding in hopes of a better and brighter tomorrow.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Rick Rendon

Founder, Empower Peace



2006 EP Broadcasts

Brummana, Lebanon to Long Beach, CA

The Empower Peace 2006 broadcast schedule served as a welcome reminder of why the work we do is so important. In early June, EP connected students in Long Beach, California to students in Brummana, Lebanon. Remote locations in New York and Massachusetts also took part by participating in a round robin question and answer session.

Facilitated by Lebanese-American actress and political activist Kathy Najimy in California and actress Zeina Deccache from the Lebanese Broadcasting Channel in Lebanon, the broadcast focused on the importance of cultural exchanges such as Empower Peace. It also pointed out the necessity of forums where young people of all ages can address issues such as racial and cultural discrimination. More than 100

students participated directly in the broadcast with thousands more watching online.

Two weeks after the broadcast took place, the devastating July war between Lebanon and Israel began. Empower Peace put into motion a plan to return to Lebanon to let the country's students share their experiences during the war.

Beirut, Lebanon to Long Beach, CA

The plan came to fruition in November, when Empower Peace returned to Lebanon for a second broadcast. This time around, EP connected two Beirut schools, the Hariri High School II and the American Community School with the same school in Long Beach, California.

While the country remained in a state of political turmoil, getting the Empower Peace message out was even more important the second time around. During the event, students engaged in an open-ended question and answer period where they voiced their opinions on a wide range of topics including education, pop culture and family life. The conversation did focus on current events, particularly the summer war in Lebanon and the subsequent political dislevel.

Facilitated by Future TV's Sarah Khoury in Lebanon, the broadcast provided an opportunity for students in both Lebanon and the United States to see the benefits of engaging in peace efforts. In 2007, Empower Peace plans to connect students in the United States with at least 7 countries in the Middle and Near East. To learn more about our broadcasts, please log onto www.empowerpeace.org. ❁



YEAR IN REVIEW 2006

www.empowerpeace.org



Drawing the Right Impression

One drawing is a picture of two hands shaking superimposed on the word “peace” written in different languages. One shows a hand making the peace sign as the place-holder for the letter “v” in love. And one shows a Muslim, a Jew, and a Christian sitting in a circle holding hands. These are descriptions of just three of the entries in Empower Peace’s “Drawing the Right Impression” international art exhibit. The exhibit is a chance for Empower Peace students to produce art that promotes peaceful co-existence and respect between people of all cultures and religions

“Drawing the Right Impression” was created in response to events last year involving the cartoon illustrations of the Prophet Muhammad in European newspapers and Iran’s promotion of a cartoon contest depicting the Holocaust. Empower Peace students from Egypt, Bahrain, Pakistan and United States joined together to launch this initiative after witnessing the impact of the inconsiderate drawings.

“For me, when the idea was first pitched to my class, it really just kind of struck a nerve,” said Kris Ingersoll, one of the students who helped launch the initiative. “I just hope that the youth can kind of step up and show them that if we can

come together for [Drawing the Right Impressions] shouldn't others be able to do the same thing? Hopefully we can set an example for older generations.”

Since it launched last May, Empower Peace has received nearly a hundred entries from students the world over. The artwork includes drawings, photographs, collages, and works with clay.

“The drawings are unbelievable,” said Stoneham High School student Alexis Eliopoulos during the launch event in May 2006. “I was blown away by them.”

Because of all the positive community feedback, Empower Peace is planning to bring the artwork on the road in the coming year. For now, those interested in viewing some of the drawings can visit our website, www.empowerpeace.org.

Empower Peace is still accepting artwork for the “Drawing the Right Impressions.” If you are interested in taking part in this important initiative, please scan your artwork and e-mail it to info@empowerpeace.org. Please remember to include your name, age and country of origin on the bottom right hand corner of the drawing. ❁

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Kris Ingersoll



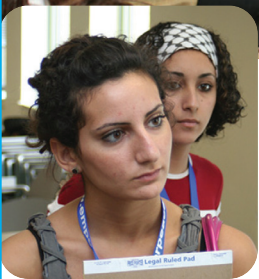
W2W WOMEN TO WOMEN

Educate. Inspire. Lead.

Women2Women International Leadership Conference

In the summer of 2006, Empower Peace planted the seed for the next generation of young women leaders around the globe. 70 young women from around the world joined together at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA to take part the first annual Women2Women International Leadership Conference. The conference was broken up into two parts: a home-stay visit and a leadership conference.

Delegations from Bahrain and Pakistan participated in a unique one-week cultural exchange prior to the conference where they were placed with host families from the greater Boston area. The 14 young women experienced Boston's unique history and traditions while engaging in lively conversations about religion, culture and society with their host families.



"I got lucky. I have two home-stay girls instead of just one," said Kelly Landers, a senior at Stoneham High School who hosted two girls from Bahrain. "They're totally different. And I feel like I'm seeing the culture, sort of, with more depth because I have two different perspectives on it. And it's just so exciting and so interesting."

Following the home-stay, these young women joined up with 60 others at Lesley University for the second part of the W2W experience: The Leadership Conference. Through a series of workshops and keynote addresses, young women from Bahrain, Pakistan, Palestine, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Canada, Bangladesh and the United States learned first-hand from established professional women leaders about taking leadership roles in their own communities.



Workshops during the five day conference ranged from "Building a Business" to the "Art of Negotiation." While Lesley University hosted the young women and was the central location for many of the workshops, a number of other prestigious Boston area universities such as the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Harvard Law School and the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University also actively participated in the leadership

"Empower Peace allows students to engage in a broader range of thinking with much more diversity. It creates a place where students can better understand different cultures and see that there are other countries that exist in the world."

Diane Caldwell

programs. All of the programs were designed to allow the young women to interact and strategize directly with leading women professionals. The performing arts also played a substantial role in the conference as the participants took part in many activities aimed at engaging their creative sides.

"We want peace in the Middle East and all over the world," said Dalal Iqbal Sangoor from the Kingdom of Bahrain after participating in the conference. "That's why we are here. We are the young leaders and tomorrow we can be the leaders. Tomorrow we can be the peacemakers in our nations and back home."

Since the conference, Empower Peace has worked to continue to engage these young women in leadership building programs. Consequently, EP Radio has dedicated a monthly interactive broadcast specifically geared at addressing topics that will benefit past participants, as well as future Women2Women attendees. Applications for the 2007 Women2Women International Leadership Conference will be available on our web site in April 2007.

*For more information about the Women2Women conference, or to view highlights from the 2006 event, visit our website at www.empowerpeace.org. **

EP Media Network — Staying on the Cutting Edge



Asad Butt, Director of EP Media

It took just 11 days into the new year for Empower Peace to launch another new initiative using cutting-edge technology and the Internet. On January 11, 2007 Empower Peace launched EP Radio, an interactive talk show broadcast live over the Internet.

Using technology perfected by V-Brick Systems, EP Radio will broadcast interviews with prominent leaders, newsmakers, and students live over the Internet.

Each guest will discuss topical issues with EP Radio hosts Tricia Raynard and Mariam Abdoo in an informal living-room setting. Topics include negotiating skills, public speaking, networking and overcoming obstacles. What makes these broadcasts unique, however, is that V-Brick technology allows students watching online to also participate directly in the chat by posting questions of the guests.



EP Radio's first broadcast tackled the topic of interfaith education and its importance. EP's first

guest was Mary Lahaj, an interfaith educator and prominent member of the Boston Muslim community. Ms. Lahaj spoke of the need for interfaith dialogue and the importance of cultural harmony. She also talked about how she overcame obstacles during her career and gave advice about how young women can empower themselves.

Questions for Ms. Lahaj flowed in from all over the world including Pakistan, Bahrain and France. Those questions spanned a wide range of subjects from the role religion plays in leadership development to the role of media. One student from Pakistan thanked Ms. Lahaj for doing such a good job of improving religious identity in the world.

Due to the overwhelming success of its first broadcast, Empower Peace is planning monthly EP Radio broadcasts. A complete schedule can be found at www.empowerpeace.org.

In the coming weeks Empower Peace will launch EPTV, a 24-hour online TV station dedicated to promoting peace and cultural understanding. Working with our partner, Narrowstep, EPTV will host documentaries, talk shows, and other content geared towards Empower Peace's mission. Not only will prior Empower Peace conferences be broadcast on the channel, but student-made videos will be available to view.

What makes EPTV unique is Narrowstep's user-interface. Those tuning into EPTV will have the option of watching the live 24-hour feed or viewing content on-demand.



For more information about Empower Peace and our upcoming programs, visit our website, www.empowerpeace.org. ❁

EP Original Programming

As part of its mission to bridge the gap between cultures and religions, Empower Peace produces and airs original programming showcasing the opinions of high school students around the world.

Whether it's a recap of our unique video-conferences, a town-hall meeting, or a live television special, Empower Peace is committed to letting students share their thoughts and their lives through documentaries.

With the help of our media partners, Empower Peace is able to reach millions of people in every corner of the world. Moving forward, Empower Peace will be using new media outlets to continue to distribute our content. In fact, you can now find Empower Peace clips online on sites such as YouTube (search for Empower Peace and Women2Women.)

Below is a sampling of the programs Empower Peace has produced over the course of the last year.

W2W Bridging the Cultural Divide

During the first Women2Women International Leadership Conference in August 2006, Empower Peace gathered 10 participants for a frank, open discussion about the state of the world. Hosted by broadcast journalist Lauren Jiggetts, the 10 young ladies talked about cultural similarities and differences, life after the 9/11 attacks, airport security and Boston slang.



Dearborn 48120

During a stopover in Dearborn, Michigan in November 2006, Empower Peace held a town hall meeting with 100 local high school students. As the de-facto Arab-American capital of the U.S., many of the students had direct connections to the Middle East. As you can imagine, the

passionate discussion was both informative and engaging. Topics discussed included the Lebanon-Israel War, stereotypes, and the recent American elections.



Empower Peace: Pledging for Pakistan

In November 2005, 100 students from Boston organized and participated in an hour-long telethon to raise money for the victims of the devastating earthquake in South Asia that



killed more than 80,000 people. Aired in New England on Boston's WB56 and internationally on Geo TV, the students appealed to their counterparts to make donations for recovery efforts. All-in-all, the students raised more than \$10,000 dollars and dramatically increased awareness of the tragedy surrounding the earthquake. In June 2006, Empower Peace: Pledging for Pakistan received critical acclaim being nominated for a local Emmy for best "Public or Current Affairs program."

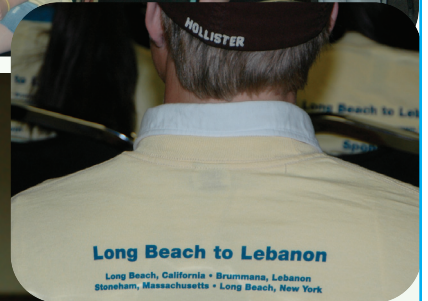


Empower Peace: Long Beach to Lebanon

In its fourth videoconference in June 2006, Empower Peace connected students in Long Beach, California with students in Brummana, Lebanon. "Empower Peace: Long Beach to Lebanon" is a 30-minute highlight documentary of that conference. Hosted by political activist and Lebanese-American actress Kathy Najimi and Lebanese actress Zeina Daccache, the documentary captures many of the intimate moments shared by the students.

EP Media Supporters

Empower Peace has been working closely with a number of media partners to ensure our programming reaches a broad audience throughout the world. Empower Peace continues to expand this network and hopes to add a new



Long Beach to Lebanon
Long Beach, California • Brummana, Lebanon
Stoneham, Massachusetts • Long Beach, New York

media partner every year. Below are descriptions of Empower Peace's most committed media partners.

GEO TV

GEO TV is an Urdu language Pakistani television network who's broadcast facilities are based at Dubai Media City in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). GEO TV's programming includes interactive infotainment programs, daily serials, children's programs, top of the hour news broadcasts all day every day, and current events programs. GEO TV is the fastest growing television channel in Pakistan with ratings exceeding all satellite delivered television channels in the market. GEO TV has aired a number of Empower Peace content including "Empower Peace: Pledging for Pakistan." That program had a footprint of nearly 500 million people worldwide.

Alhurra TV

Alhurra is a commercial-free Arabic language satellite television network for the Middle East devoted primarily to news and information. In addition to reporting on regional and international events, the channel broadcasts discussion programs, current affairs magazines and features on a variety of subjects including health and personal fitness, entertainment, sports, fashion, and science and technology. Alhurra TV has an estimated footprint in the Middle East of over 23 million households. Recently Alhurra TV has broadcast many news stories about Empower Peace and will soon be airing the Empower Peace documentary, "Breaking Down Walls."

Future TV

Future Television is a Lebanese owned and operated company founded in 1993 and is the fastest growing television station in Lebanon. The station is known for its extensive family programming, diversity of public awareness messages and overall optimistic view of the future. Future TV's International Television is a leading Arab satellite station gathering the highest audience ratings in the Gulf, Egypt and the Levant. Empower Peace has been fortunate to have Future TV participate and cover both broadcasts in Lebanon. ❁





Peace Advocate Continues His Journey

Michael Butler has worked with Empower Peace as an outreach coordinator since its inception in 2003. Throughout his professional career, Michael has demonstrated his commitment to cultural diversity and has played an integral role in establishing an international presence for Empower Peace.

As many of you know, on November 9, 2005 Michael was victimized by the very same acts he had committed himself to stopping through his work with Empower Peace.

Michael was meeting with friends in the Lobby of Grand Hyatt Hotel in Amman, Jordan when a suicide bomber walked in and detonated a bomb. Michael's friends were killed instantly and he was severely wounded and left in a coma.

For weeks Michael remained in a coma in an Amman hospital. Eventually, Michael awoke to find himself paralyzed from the waist down. He has since returned home to the United States and for the past year has been in intense rehabilitation.

Thankfully, Michael was able to survive injuries that no average person could have endured. Michael is an example of incredible courage and strength and he is determined to continue spreading the message of Empower Peace. If you would like to contact Michael, e-mail him at mbutler@empowerpeace.com. ❁

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There is no subscription fee. Subscriptions are available by contacting: Mariam Abdoo at (617) 912-3835 or info@empowerpeace.org



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Empower Peace would like to extend our special thanks to those individuals and organizations that have made the past year such a great success.

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Arab American National Museum	Mayor Mian Amer Mahmood
Gerry Austin	Deborah Martel
AYUSA	Margaret McKenna
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Harvard University Law School	USDLA
Al Hurra	V-Brick
Shahid Kahn	Greg Wilson
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library	Juliette Wurr

“Most of us live like you do, except in a different place. We support a lot of the things you do and we can relate to you. And we are not different. We are very much the same.”

*Lana, student
American Community School in Beirut*

New and Improved

Empower Peace has launched a new and improved web site now located at www.empowerpeace.org. Log on today and see new videos and photos from our latest broadcasts, read about our exciting upcoming programs and view the “Day-in-the-Life” videos produced by EP students from all over the world.