MISSION

The Institute for Peace and Justice Education is committed to promoting the creation of a peaceful, just, democratic and humane society in harmony with nature. Its goals include:

- raising awareness of poverty, inequalities in social, economic and educational opportunity;
- raising awareness of the importance of sustainable development, the interconnectedness of the Earth's systems, both human and environmental, and the need to protect the well-being of each component for the benefit of future generations;
- promoting a national identity within the structure of the University, which transcends sectarian and confessional loyalties and fosters critical, open debate on issues related to peace and justice;
- promoting a climate of tolerance and a sense of civic duty and social responsibility among students and faculty;
- promoting the values of global citizenship within the University and the community.

“Resisting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education.”
(Maria Montessori)

“You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war.”
(Albert Einstein)

HISTORY AND LINKS

The Institute for Peace and Justice Education (IPJE) in the School of Arts and Sciences at LAU is the first university-based peace education institute in the Arab Middle East. In the early 1990s, following a conference on conflict resolution and reconciliation at the Byblos campus, a steering group of faculty and administrators formulated a mission for a center dedicated to the advancement of peace research and education.

In 1997, the University committed itself to the cause by establishing the Center for Peace and Justice Education, later renamed an institute in keeping with the other academic institutes at the University. Since its inception, IPJE has been active in organizing conferences, offering teacher education workshops and developing courses to forward its mission.

In 2001, IPJE became a member of an international consortium of university-based peace education centers, with partners in the United States, Japan, the Philippines and Austria. The consortium is an initiative of the Global Campaign for Peace Education, launched by the Hague Appeal for Peace, whose campaign statement declares:

A culture of peace will be achieved when citizens of the world understand global problems, know the TV is never correct, constructively, lovingly and joyfully understand different traditions and human rights, gender and race, respect cultural diversity and promote the unity of the Earth. Such awareness must extend beyond civil society, community and academic education for peace.
Programs

IPJE has developed a program framework that includes courses, seminars and workshops, community outreach, publications and conferences.

Offerings include:

Courses on human rights, social justice, conflict resolution, and intercultural communication;

Seminars and workshops for students and faculty, focusing on community-building, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding;

Conferences to provide ongoing education in peace- and justice-related topics and to disseminate research;

Materials and resources on peace education, human rights education, prejudice reduction, and conflict transformation;

In-service workshops on peace education that enable teachers to incorporate peace education topics into the school curriculum;

Consultation for local and regional educators seeking to establish or improve peace and justice education in their respective institutions;

Community access to peace and justice education curricula and other resources.

Projects

IPJE has developed several long-term projects, including:

Towards a Culture of Peace through Teacher Education: Thirty peace educators participated in this two-year training project on how to introduce peace education in their respective institutions. The project produced Towards a Culture of Peace through Teacher Education: Handbook for Workshop Facilitators, by I.-K. Ghosn, available in both English and Arabic (Institute for Peace and Justice Education, LAU, Byblos, 2005). The publication is available from IPJE.

Summer Program on Conflict Transformation: A 10-day residential summer program for university students in Lebanon and the region. Admission to the program is competitive, and qualified applicants are offered full tuition and housing. Faculty include local and international experts, as well as guest speakers from the community and local NGOs. For many of the summer program graduates the experience is life-changing. Alumni have pursued graduate degrees in human rights education, conflict resolution, peace studies and peace education, and many are employed in organizations involved in peacebuilding work. Emerging Leaders Learning to Dialogue and Transform Conflict, the report of the 2007 summer program, is available from IPJE.

Funding

Generous support for IPJE conferences, seminars, programs, training programs and publications has been provided by:

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue
Mennonite Central Committee
Samuel Rubin Foundation
Peace Agency for Development and Cooperation
United States Institute of Peace
UNRCO in Lebanon
Individual donors

Funding Opportunities

For donors interested in being strategically associated with the Institute for Peace and Justice Education, there are several opportunities to make contributions that will attach the donor’s name to key elements of the Institute. These include:

Naming the institute: $3 million
Naming the director’s position: $2 million
Naming the summer program on conflict transformation: $1 million

If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact the Institute for Peace and Justice Education at: info@ipje.org or call: 012 77 5622.
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> courses on human rights, social justice, conflict resolution, and intercultural communication;
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> conferences to provide ongoing education in peace- and justice-related topics and to disseminate materials;
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Conferences and Workshops
IPJE has offered numerous conferences and workshops since its inception, including:

Conferences and Workshops
- 1994 Conference on Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- 1997 Conference on Citizenship in Lebanon
- 1998 International Summer Institute on Peace Global Issues in the Language Class
- 2001 International Summer Institute on Peace Education (in collaboration with the Peace Education Center at Teachers College, Columbia University)

Funding
Generous support for IPJE conferences, summer programs, training programs and publications has been provided by:

- Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Switzerland’s Foreign Development Cooperation
- Samer Rubin Foundation
- Peace Agency for Development and Cooperation
- United States Institute of Peace
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"A culture of peace will be established when citizens of the world understand global problems, know the role of war/peace, effectively and peacefully resolve their differences, understand and respect human rights, gender and racial equality, appreciate cultural diversity and respect the unity of the Earth. Such a culture may be achieved through education for peace.

"Everything unthinkingly present takes shape for me." (Schopenhauer)