

Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center



**Annual Report
2018-2020**



General Overview

The Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center (PCRSC) at the Arab American University of Palestine (AAUP) is the first center in the region to focus on academic research in policy and conflict resolution. It also serves as an intellectual center that produces regular policy papers for political decision makers in Palestine and serves as a platform for researchers and those interested in conflict resolution, literature, and cultural exchange.



Executive Summary



We are pleased to present to you the Annual Report produced by the Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center at the Arab American University of Palestine, established in 2018. This report includes the initial activities of the center, from its initiation until the activities conducted in 2020 amid the global outbreak of Covid-19.

Over the past three years, the Center has continued to pursue programs aimed at achieving the Center's vision and implementing activities that promote local and international academic partnerships.

The Center has achieved success on various levels among them was the ability to conduct a monthly series consisting of seminars and workshops in cooperation with several international and local intellectuals in a variety of topics, notably the Arab Israeli conflict and the changes surrounding it, most notably Dr. Rashid Al-Khalidi as well as the American thinker Dr. Noam Chomsky.

The Center has also concentrated on archives to fill the gap in Palestine, as there is a lack of reliable archives. To do so, the Center held meetings and workshops with potential partners and carried out detailed research study on the photographic archives of the first intifada. In doing so, the Center was able to obtain copies of the Legislative Council meeting archives along with the Archives of the First Intifada, and several Palestinian Film Archives. These archives are in possession of the center and unavailable anywhere else in Palestine.

In addition, one of the center's most important achievements during this period was the 2018 International Conference titled "Palestine to Where?" The conference was attended by several international and local speakers covering multiple aspects of the Palestinian context globally and regionally.

The Center also concentrated on being a platform for launching valuable books that review the Arab Israeli conflict and have gained popularity among academics and intellectuals.

Over the past three years, the Center has been able to hold several local and international partnerships with organizations and research centers working in similar fields.

The Center seeks to promote scientific research and studies that can produce scientific knowledge in the field of conflict resolution and reconciliation.

In its first year, 2018, the Center received the EU-funded Erasmus Grant. This grant allowed to produce a project carrying out several activities such as academic faculty and student exchanges, arranging trainings on conflict resolution with students, among other things.

The Center's Mission



The Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center aims to concentrate on the study of the latest political and social developments on the Palestinian scene while developing policy proposals through academic studies and research specialized in conflict resolution, with a concentration on the Arab Israeli context. Therefore, at the Arab American League's Conflict Resolution Policy and Studies Center, we decided to develop an operational action plan that would mimic the center's main objectives.



The Center's Objectives

- To provide political options and proposals to decision makers in line with the Palestinian national project while strengthening the process of independent Palestinian political decision-making.
- Adopt several academic research and strategic studies of outstanding quality in-depth on the subject of conflict resolution or any other related topics.
- Encourage creative critical thinking through academic research so that the Center forms an independent think tank aimed at providing alternatives and experiences that serve decision makers and encourages constructive democratic debate on political issues away from factionalism. Hence, The Center aims at being an incubator for all views that represent all segments of the Palestinian people and their categories.
- Supporting and assigning master's degrees in conflict resolution and cultural communication of the Graduate School of the Arab American University of Palestine to encourage students studying in these disciplines to publish the results of their research in addition to increasing their knowledge and scientific culture to ensure their academic level is in line with the university's policy.

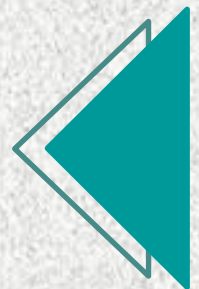
Center Tools



To achieve the center's objectives and overcome any challenges, the Arab American University of Palestine has devoted the necessary means to facilitate the work of the Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center, which works to:

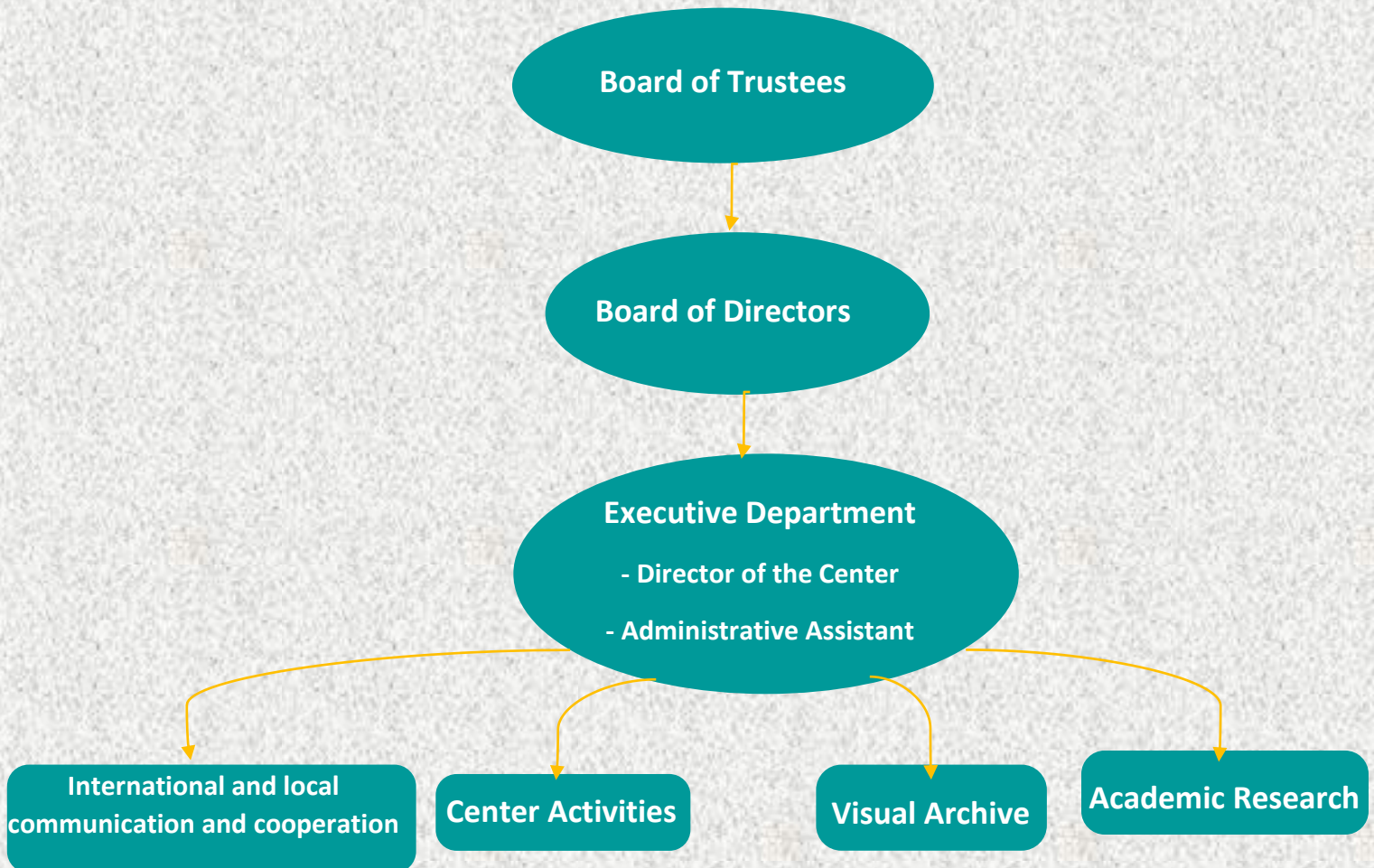
- Communicate and coordinate with research centers and academic institutions whose objectives intersect with the center at the regional, global, and local levels.
- Give the necessary attention to issues of conflict resolution and political developments in the world affecting the course of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- Holding conferences, intellectual seminars and panel discussions that cover the internal Palestinian situation and everything related to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the repercussions.
- Sponsoring outstanding student researchers who are students of conflict resolution and cultural exchange and allowing them to participate in academic exchange with international universities and partner centers.

Ethical Values



- **Credibility**
- **Transparency**
- **neutrality**
- **Academic Freedom**

Organizational Structure



Board of Trustees: The Board supports the management of the center and approves the financial budget.

The **Board of Directors** is an advisory body that contributes to the drawing of the center's plan and approving the plans submitted by the center's management.

Executive Management includes the Center's Manager, Administrative Assistant Units

Units: academic research, visual archive, center activities, international and local communication, and cooperation.

Scientific Research Department

This department specializes in supervising the production of scientific research and policy papers that serve the fields of conflict resolution, literature, and cultural communication. It concentrates specifically on issues related to the development of the Palestinian cause at all levels. The Department of Scientific Research seeks to produce specialized policy papers that serve decision makers in drawing up their policies and perceptions.

Through this department, we aspire to produce a quarterly periodical containing a collection of specialized articles and research related to conflict resolution, literature, and cultural communication.

The department, in collaboration with other departments at the Center, is organizing its annual international conference, which will discuss the latest developments on both the local Palestinian level and within the global international scene.

Archival Research Department

This department works on preserving the historical documents concerning the Palestinian people, both visual and verbal. In this area some photographs related to the first intifada, documentaries, and sessions of the Legislative Council, have been collected and posted on the Center's website as part of the Center's efforts to preserve the collective memory of the Palestinian people and contribute to the building of the Palestinian national narrative.




International Liaison and Cooperation

This International Liaison and Cooperation department works to create channels of communication and relationships with local and international partner institutions to increase cooperation and create an environment of knowledge and academic exchange.

It also works to reflect the image of the center and its achievements through the use of various social media tools, as well as covering all activities and events carried out by the center. In addition to highlighting the identity of the center and its objectives at all levels.

Activities Department

The Activities Department oversees monthly activities in the center to serve the center's vision and strategic objectives. These activities focus on actualities that serve civil society and students of conflict resolution, literature, and cultural communication, ranging from seminars, round sessions, jet loops, book launches and others.



Board of Directors



Chairman

Dr. Eyad Yacoub

Dr. Yacoub is an assistant professor of Environmental Health Sciences and Water Technology at the Arab American University of Palestine. In 2016, he received his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his master's degree in 2000 and bachelor's degree in 1997 in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Birzeit University in 2000. He served as head of the Research and Development Department of the Palestinian Water Authority until 2009.

Aside from his role at PCRSC, he is also a board member of the Center for Excellence in Climate Change and Environmental Technologies at the Arab American University of Palestine (2019-present).



Board Members



Prof.

Ayman

Yousef

Dr Ayman Yousef has been a professor at the Arab American University of Palestine since who since 2003. He received a PhD in International Relations from M.S. University of Baroda in India in 2000. His research concentrates on political and social movements. He has been a recipient of various awards among them: the Fulbright, Amidst, Marie Curie and Erasmus Plus scholarships.

Dr. Dalal Iriqat

Dr. Iriqat is the vice president of international relations at the Arab American University of Palestine and an assistant professor of Conflict Resolution. Her research concentrates on diplomacy and strategic planning. Dr. Iriqat has been a weekly columnist for Al-Quds since 2016. She served as senior adviser to the Prime Minister in Strategic Communication from 2017 to 2018. She served as a senior policy adviser to write the UNDP Human Development Report for Palestine in 2015. Dr. Iriqat served as an assistant professor at Birzeit University's School of Law and Public Administration from 2011 to 12.

Dr. Dalal Iriqat holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the First University of Paris Sorbonne (2011), a master's degree in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Westminster in London (2004) and a Bachelor of Political Science from the University of Jordan in 2003.

Dr. Nahed Habiballah

Dr. Habiballah is an assistant professor of Conflict Resolution at the Graduate School at the Arab American University in Palestine. Her research concentrates religious sociology, political sociology, and cultural sociology with a focus on the Middle East in general and Israel/Palestine in particular. Dr. Habiballah received her Ph.D. in Sociology from New School for Social Research in New York in 2015.

She received her second master's degree in human rights and democracy from the University of Malta in 2006. Dr. Habiballah received her First Master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Eastern Michigan in 2003. She holds a bachelor's degree in Archaeology and English Literature from Haifa University.



Dr. Nedal Al-Jayousi

Dr. Jayousi received his Ph.D. in Research Methods and has since published widely. He has written several books in the field of conflict resolution, such as *Conflict to Respond*, an international award winner in reconciliation and conflict resolution. He has received two master's degrees, one in languages and another in management from Britain

He is the founder of the Palestinian House of Experts, which is an educational association that has contributed to the globalization of education and to supporting many educational programs.

He is also Palestine's representative to the Palestinian-European Cooperation Mission for Higher Education.

Ms Rula Shahwan

She manages the Policy and Conflict Resolution Study Center at Arab American University (AAUP). Shahwan started her career at the Palestinian Ministry of Culture as a director of the Cinema Archive Department before she moved to work at the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) as the head of the Visual Archive Unit, where she was able to recollect parts of the lost archive and was involved in digitising projects.

She is a PhD candidate in cinema studies and archive received her M.A. in Conflict Resolution with a thesis entitled “The Power of Visual Archive, Collective Memory and National Identity” From AAUP. Ms Shahwan received her BA from Birzeit University in History and Political Science Rula Shahwan presented and published on questions of Palestinian memory and the role of visual archives at several conferences and in various journals.

Centre Activities

The Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center is working on various activities that serve the center's objectives.



- Conferences
- Lectures and seminars
- Launch books
- Workshops
- Movie screenings
- Project-related activities

Annual Conference



The Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center at the Arab American University of Palestine organised an international conference at its headquarters in Ramallah, Palestine, from June 22-25, 2018. The conference's main objective was to provide a platform for academics and politicians to identify and explore issues, opportunities and solutions that may serve as the basis for innovative ideas for decision-makers in Palestine.

The first conference of the Center addressed the following areas:

- The role of social media in resolving conflict
- International law and UN diplomacy and its reflection on the Palestinian issue
- Negotiations as a tool for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- Jerusalem between politics and Jerusalem

Conferences



Conference Title	Speakers	Date
In light of local, Regional, and International Variables ... Palestine Where to Go?	International and local speakers	22-24/6/2018



Lectures and Seminars

Among the Center's activities is that it serves as a Palestinian and Arab platform for free and critical views on many Palestinian, Arab, and global issues. Here, we work to simulate discussions on the challenges faced by Palestinians on every level. To enrich such dialogue and ensure its sustainability, the Center hosts academic seminars and lectures open to students at the Arab American University of Palestine.

The Center has presented many seminars on various topics serving the interests of its students, academics, and scholars.



Month	Attendance	Spokesman	Effectiveness
10/3/2018	Students from the Arab American University and the Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center	Dr Hossam Zomlut - Ambassador of Palestine in Washington	Lecture on Palestinian diplomacy and its role in spreading awareness of the Palestinian cause
1/8/2018	Graduate students at the Arab American University who specialise in conflict resolution, literature, and intercultural communication	D. Ibrahim Farihat	The deal of the century has achieved for Israel what cannot be achieved by negotiations.
8/10/2018	Gender representatives in ministries	The struggling Ms Khalida Jarrar and the South African Ambassador to Palestine, Mr Ashraf Suleiman	The role of women in the national struggle (experiences from South Africa and Palestine) in cooperation with the South African Embassy
22/4/2018	Interested students at the Arab American University of Palestine	Professor Thomas L. Thompson and Professor Wangrad Yelm - Copenhagen, Denmark	Seminar in collaboration with the Danish House of "The Elusive Past"
14/5/2018	Conflict Resolution Students	Dr Brendan Brown Trinity University	Disputed identities: Northern Ireland's promised peace Northern Ireland contested identity and a promised peace.
21/11/2018	Arab American University Students - Graduate School - Specialists in Conflict Resolution, Literature, and Intercultural Communication	Dr. Ehab Bessaiso - Minister of Culture	Formulating a Palestinian national narrative in the light of Palestinian pluralism
29/11/2018	Graduate students, academics, and	Professor Dermot Prov and	Palestine and criminal and international law between theory and application in

	representatives of civil society	Professor Max de Blasis	cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
27/4/2019	Graduate students, academics, and representatives from the community	Representatives of the Swiss Peace Foundation Rola Shahwan	Lecture on archives in the international concept, specifically on the role of archives in conflict zones And present it in the Palestinian sense
1/6/2019	Arab American University Students - Graduate School - Specialists in Conflict Resolution, Literature, and Intercultural Communication	The seminar was attended by former Director of the Konrad Adenauer organisation Mark Frank and Dr Amjad Abu Al-Ezz, a specialist in European studies.	Lecture entitled The Upcoming European Elections and its Impact on Europe's policy on the Palestinian Issue by Sponsoring with the Konrad Adenauer Organization
7/11/2019	Conflict Resolution Program Students	Spanish expert and lecturer	Conflict in Spain
25/8/2020	Graduate students, academics, and civil society representatives	Dr Salam Al-Kawakbi, Executive Director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Study in Paris Oraib Al-Rantawi- columnist for The Constitution newspaper in Jordan Dr Abdullah Khalifa Al-Shayji, former Head of Political Science at Kuwait	Arab normalisation accelerates with the Israeli occupation

University and
Director of the
Political Science
Program for
Postgraduate Studies

3/10/2020

Graduate students and
academics

Ambassador of the
Republic of India to
Palestine, Mr Sunil
Sonar

Gandhi's struggle on the 150th
anniversary of Gandhi's birth, in
collaboration with the Indian
Embassy

19/10/2020

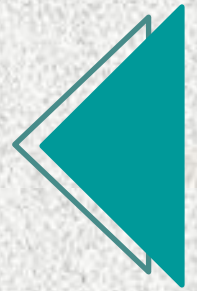
Graduate students,
academics, and civil
society representatives

American thinker
Professor Noam
Chomsky

U.S. Foreign Policy on the Middle
East and Its Implications for the
Palestinian Issue



Book Workshops

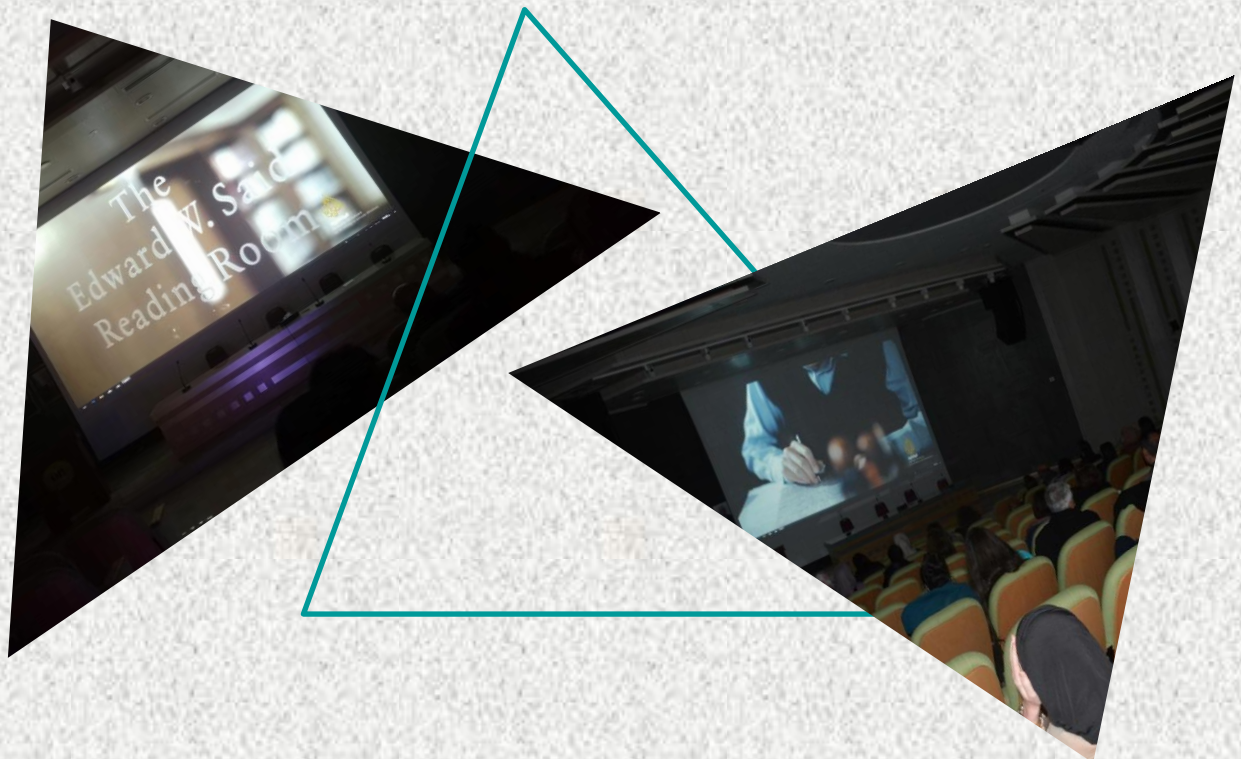


Activity address	Spokesman	Attendance	Date
Launch of the book "Intellectual Anxiety Against the Intellectual Certainty."	Writer and academic Dr Khaled Al-Harb	Students at the Graduate School of the Arab American League, academics, and representatives of civil society	3/10/2018
The launch of the 100-year war book on Palestine."	Professor Rashid Al-Khalidi	Graduate students at the Arab American University, Master of Political Science students at Hebron University academics, and representatives of civil society	22/6/2020
"EU Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1967-2019" launched	Dr Andre Berson	Students at the Graduate School of the Arab American University, academics.	4/11/2020
Discussion of the book "The Palestinian Intellectual and The Bets of Modernity 1908-1948" in collaboration with the Foundation for Palestinian Studies	Writer and historian A. Maher Al-Sharif	Students at the Graduate School of the Arab American League, academics, and representatives of civil society	21/12/2020

Movie Screenings



Date	Attendance	Speakers	Activity address
20/3/2019	Students at the Graduate School of the Arab American League, academics, and representatives of civil society		The screening of Edward Said's film in the presence of the director and a discussion with the students, and the presentation of Dr Alaa Al-Azza University Birzeit



Workshops



Activity address	Attendance	Date
Palestinian Cinema Archive - German director Monica Maurer	Archival institutions from various civil and official sectors	13/10/2019
Ways to promote the Palestinian archives	Graduate students at the Arab American University, Master of Political Science students at Hebron University, academics, and representatives of civil society	22/6/2020
How to standardise archiving concepts and methodologies, Experts Ms Orsina Bentel and Mr Corsin Blumen Thal	Academics and representatives from private and official institutions and archive workers	25/4/2019
The role of academics and community activists in the reconciliation file in cooperation with the Center for Human Rights and Democracy Media (Shams)	Academics and civil society representatives in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip	23/6/2019

Activities carried out through the Erasmus



About the project:

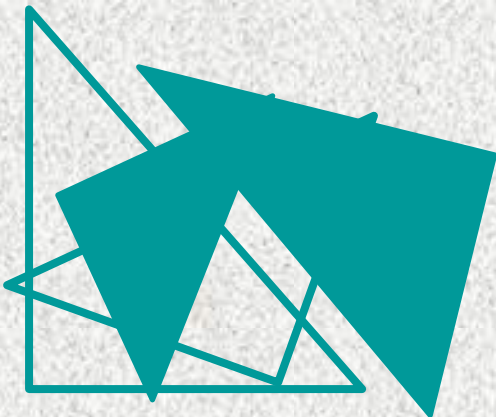


The idea of the project stemmed from the importance of conflict resolution and reconciliation, as well as the absence of a specialised centre in Palestine and the Arab region to deal with this subject. To promote this sector and enhance national efficiency in this area, a project was submitted by the Arab American University of Palestine entitled "Promoting National Efficiency in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Research". In local partnership with Hebron University and the Islamic University of the Gaza Strip, as well as in a state partnership with the German University of Frederick Schiller and the University of Granada, Spain.

The project aims to:

- 1- Promote the national efficiency of workers in the sector.
- 2- Promote student exchange between Palestinian partner universities and European universities.
- 3- Increase students' scientific knowledge of conflict resolution and other related sectors.
- 4- Strengthen cooperation between Palestinian universities and European universities.

Activity	Participants	Date
Project Launch - University of Trinity, Ireland	Academic staff from all partner universities. Hebron, Islamic, Frederick Schiller - Germany	9/3/2019
Training course for conflict resolution students at the University of Granada - Spain	participate: Eight students from American University Four students from Hebron University	24/11/2019
		
Academic visit to academic staff from project partners	3 participants from the American University 3 participants from Hebron University Participant from Friedrich Schiller University	24/11/2019
Training course for graduate students at the Islamic University on conflict resolution and reconciliation	Graduate students in international relations and political science.	It was held over two months, from September 2020- November 2020, for a weekly meeting.



As well as....



Get access to the archives of Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) sessions from Palestine TV, numbering and archive it and provide a copy to the



Compiling images of the First Intifada from several international and local photographers

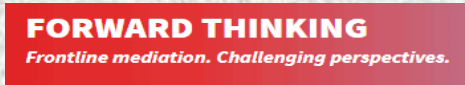


Providing Palestinian partner Universities and Academic Institutions with project devices needed (video conference, server, electronic systems)

International partnerships



Swiss Peace Foundation -



Forward Thinking Institute -



مرکز یانا **Jana Center**

THE
CARTER CENTER

Carter Center - Carter Center



Cooperation and Partnerships



To network and increase cooperation and coordination between the Center and partner institutions, the Center held several meetings with international and local institutions, including:

International

Rosa Luxemburg
Foundation
Conrad Foundation
Danish House
Carter Center



Representations

Swiss Representation
Indian Homeopathy
South African Embassy
Ireland Representation
Polish Representation



Pathways Foundation
Local
Shams Foundation
Palestinian Studies Foundation
Faisal Hussein Foundation
Palestine Liberation
Organization Studies Center

