

SEEDS OF PEACE



The सं V A A D Project

An Interfaith Dialogue Facilitation
Training Program for Indian Educators

INTRODUCTION

Seeds of Peace, with the support of the US Consulate, Mumbai, announces The Samvaad Project – an 8-month program cycle to Train Educators as Interfaith Dialogue Facilitators in Western India. Between March and August 2021, the program will train 30 to 40 educators from Western India to lead and facilitate interfaith dialogue activities with their students and in their communities.

Seeds of Peace facilitators will train selected candidates in interfaith dialogue, supporting each of the participants as they participate in an extensive online training, then bringing participants together for a *six-day residential training in which they will learn “Interfaith Dialogue Facilitation Skills” and will strategize on how to put their new dialogue skills into practice in their classrooms and communities.

The trained dialogue facilitators will also receive post-program support for 12 months to sustain the dialogue program in their respective communities. Following the program activities, Seeds of Peace will synthesize learnings into an interfaith dialogue facilitation handbook that will be circulated among its 7,300+ member network, to its peer interfaith organizations, and to any other organizations and individuals that the U.S. Mission specifies.

ELIGIBILITY

Seeds of Peace solicits applications for its Samvaad Project from candidates with the following credentials:

- A teaching position at a recognised higher education institution; permanent positions are ideal, but temporary appointments may also be considered
- A PhD or equivalent degree is desirable, but the candidate must have at least a master’s degree
- Experience or a strong interest in the social sector with an inclination/knack for dialogue-centric paradigms and programs
- Indian nationality and based in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh
- Excellent English language proficiency

COMMITMENT REQUIRED

The Samvaad Project will be implemented in three parts, participating in which will require the following commitments in time.

Part A [Virtual Training] – 16 hours

In the first part of the program, Seeds of Peace trainers will conduct eight intensive virtual Zoom sessions over a period of 4 weeks – from April 13 to May 7, 2021. Two online sessions are scheduled each week (Tuesdays and Fridays), lasting two hours each. Chosen candidates need to attend all sessions.

Part B [In-person Training*] – 7 days

In the second part of the program, participants will need to be present at a residential training retreat for a period of a week, including travel days. In the six days of training, Seeds of Peace experts will offer in-person training, hold facilitation workshops, and lead through in mock dialogue sessions. This phase is scheduled in from May 16–22, 2021. (*If COVID-19 related restrictions do not permit for this in-person training, Part B will also be conducted virtually.)

Part C [Post-program engagement & support] – 1 year

After the conclusion of the in-person training in May 2021, the trained Samvaadis or interfaith dialogue facilitators will be required to facilitate at least 2–3 such sessions in their respective educational institutions by July 2021, including at least 30 students as participants. They will then have to submit a brief report of their activities, which will be collated and published in a handbook of The Samvaad Project. Seeds of Peace will offer guidance and support to all newly trained interfaith dialogue facilitators for a period of one year to form “Samvaad Dialogue Clubs” in their institutions and conduct monthly dialogue sessions with more students after July 2021. The objective is to imbibe a culture of dialogue and extend this opportunity of experiencing the power of dialogue to at least 80 to 100 students in a year’s time.

BENEFITS

The Samvaad Project is a pilot interfaith dialogue facilitation training program by Seeds of Peace in India and offers the following benefits:

- Candidates get to be a part of the first ever cohort of trained interfaith dialogue facilitators in India
- Candidates will gain knowledge and training to deal with sensitive, religion-oriented conflicts, and in turn, train the next generation of students to identify and transform conflict situations and create interfaith harmony
- Guidance from internationally trained and experienced facilitators
- Benefit and certification from Seeds of Peace, a globally recognized organization

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE TRAINERS



Fr. **JOSH THOMAS** is an Episcopal priest, scholar, and interfaith educator. He is Board Chair of the Alliance for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 100+ organizations working at the grassroots level to build

peace between Israelis and Palestinians and has also served as Executive Director of Kids4Peace since 2011. Josh led a State Department exchange program for youth in post-war Bosnia–Herzegovina and served as a congregational pastor and university chaplain in Atlanta, Boston, Seattle, and New Hampshire. He taught interfaith education and peacebuilding at Boston University School of Theology. He has been a presenter at Harvard Law School's Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program, Yale University, and the United States Institute of Peace. Josh currently works as the Executive Director with Seeds of Peace.



MANSI ARUN PANJWANI (Ms) is a peace educator and serves as an international consultant on peacebuilding. She has a Masters in Peace Education from the UN mandated University for Peace in

Costa Rica and a Masters in Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding from Jamia Millia Islamia in India. She is passionate about using education to create a culture of peace in society. Towards this goal, she works with youth and adults both, within the formal system of education and within non-formal systems. With over a decade of experience, Mansi is actively engaged in designing and facilitating programmes that empower educators to be change-agents within their communities. Using activity-based learning and by embedding values and skills of 21st century such as empathy, critical thinking, and collaboration, she engages her participants in a joyful, yet reflective process. She believes that when people themselves lead empowered, joyful and sustainable lives, together, they can create a better world for each other and for future generations.



SAGAR GANGURDE presently works as the Director of Indian Programs for Seeds of Peace. He is a former Teach For India Fellow and a Caux Scholar with over 14 years of international

work experience. He was awarded with "The Peace Award" by Welinkar's Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai in 2016. In 2017, he was selected for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program in USA. Very recently he was selected for the prestigious 'Rotary Global Peace Fellowship Program' at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He is also a certified NLP Master Coach and Master Practitioner approved by the International Coach Federation (ICF), USA and a Certified Comprehensive Sexuality Educator from TISS, Mumbai. His passion lies in leadership coaching, youth development and Interfaith Harmony.



RUKMINI IYER is a seasoned leadership development facilitator, coach, and peacebuilder with over 19 years of professional experience around the world. She is certified to use a wide variety of approaches

including conscious and unconscious human process work, whole systems thinking, Appreciative Inquiry, Non-Violent Communication, and Neuro Linguistic Programming. As a Rotary Peace Fellow, Rukmini is a trained peacebuilder and conflict resolution specialist and channels her work in this area through her peacebuilding platform The Womb Tales. She has a Professional Development Certificate in Peace and Conflict Resolution from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and a Master's degrees in Organizational Psychology and Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the Mumbai University. Her publications include A Culturally Sensitive Approach to Engage Contemporary Corporate India.

SEEDS OF PEACE



The संVAAD Project



seedspeace.org