

# The Coexistence Initiative

"Creating a world safe for difference"

July 2003

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*I see ...dialogue as a chance for people of different cultures and traditions to get to know each other better, whether they live on opposite sides of the world or on the same street.*

*Secretary-General Kofi Annan*

Please find enclosed the report of the December 10<sup>th</sup> workshop, *Fostering Dialogue after 9/11: Changes, Opportunities, and Lessons Learned*, which was held in San Francisco, California.

This workshop was the second in a three-part series geared at highlighting areas in which the methodology of dialogue has developed over the past two years.

It followed up on discussions held at the first session, held in New York in April 2002, which identified the following areas for further discussion: dialogue as activism, ways to mainstream dialogue into everyday culture, and ways in which practitioners can deal with their emotions during a dialogue.

The San Francisco session focused on the need for individual introspection among peacebuilders and the need to mainstream dialogue into culture. The presentations and workgroups revealed a wealth of information, including:

- Strategies for dealing with emotional issues;
- The importance of dialogue;
- Ways in which the practice of dialogue can be strengthened; and
- Recommendations for strengthening the capacity of dialogue practitioners and mainstreaming dialogue.

The report also includes a detailed list of organizations in California and elsewhere working on mainstreaming dialogue in innovative ways.

We hope that you will find it a useful tool in your practice. If you have any questions on the project, please contact Angela at 212.303.9445.



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Encl.

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