

PRESS RELEASE



A TRUE CRY FOR PEACE

COEXISTENCES AND BREAKING THE ICE / 19-30 AUGUST 2026

A UNIQUE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CENTER FOR HUMANISTIC EDUCATION AND THE CENTER OF LEARNING AND DIALOGUE – NES AMMIM

Coexistences, a Lausanne-based association known for its commitment to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, is joining forces with Breaking the Ice to organise a support programme in Switzerland from 19 to 30 August 2026 for 11 facilitators from two intercultural centres in Israel, one Jewish and one Arab. The programme aims to develop dialogue methods rooted in a relationship with nature.

TAKING ACTION FOR DIALOGUE / BUILDING TRUST

At a time of increasing polarisation and radicalisation, with discourse that stigmatises one or the other side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, another, more constructive path exists.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme aims to train agents of change, rebuild relationships of trust and open concrete pathways towards a fair and lasting resolution of the conflict.

To achieve this, our priorities are to enable participants to:

- deepen their interpersonal relationships through the experience of an intense, uninterrupted daily life immersed in nature;
- discuss subjects that are often too sensitive to address in Israel;
- enrich their experience through encounters with Swiss society and culture;
- raise awareness in Switzerland of these dialogue initiatives.

In addition, on Friday 28 August, the group will visit Lausanne City Hall, followed by a meeting at 2:30 p.m. at Villa du Parc de Mon Repos with the International Relations Office of the City of Lausanne. The group will be staying in a chalet in Morgins. Most activities will take place outdoors, under the guidance of Noha Khatib and Avi Chen. Daily mountain hikes organised by Coexistences volunteers will include an overnight stay in a mountain refuge. During their stay, the facilitators will acquire practical tools enabling them to introduce these methods within their respective centres in Israel.

THIS PROJECT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY:

In Switzerland

- **Coexistences**: a Swiss public-benefit association whose mission is to foster and promote closer relations and dialogue, particularly between Israelis and Palestinians.

In Israël

- **The Center for Humanistic Education**: a centre promoting dialogue between Arabs, Druze and Jews, based at Kibbutz Lohamei Ha'Getaot in the Galilee.
- **The Center of Learning and Dialogue**: an organisation based in the Arab village of Nes Ammim, whose mission is to bring local communities closer together through dialogue.
- **Professional facilitators**, Ulfat Haider & Avi Chen: an Israeli-Palestinian woman and an Israeli Jewish man, each with extensive experience in mediation and intercultural dialogue, and for whom the natural environment provides a setting conducive to rapprochement and reconciliation.

Press contact

Nicolette Manson
Programme Coordinator
+41 (0)79 764 33 11
> nicolettemanson@gmail.com

Massimo Sandri

President
+41 (0)77 534 71 71
> m.sandri@coexistences.ch