



Constructive Engagement and Action in the Arab World

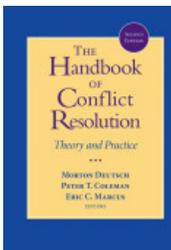
Promoting culturally relevant and science based research and practice on peace conflict, and sustainability

A Multi-Year Agenda of Exchange and Collaboration

With the hope of sharing ideas, perspectives, approaches and challenges to building prosperous societies in the Arab world, The Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity (AC4) at Columbia University has been working on a series of initiatives organized around the idea of Problem-solving in The Arab World: Constructive Engagement and Action. **Over the last 10 years, we have found an increasing demand from organizations and practitioners working in conflict resolution and peace-building in the MENA region and other Arabic-speaking countries for sound science-based resources on constructive engagement in Arabic.** To meet this demand, we embarked on a multi-year project to

- **Publish and distribute scientific, evidence-based resources** on constructive engagement and sustainable peace in Arabic and English.
- **Create joint educational offerings**, including culturally relevant curricula and training, and opportunities to dialogue and share knowledge.
- **Support research collaboration** opportunities.

Sharing resources: The Arabic version of The Handbook for Conflict



In 2005, colleagues working in conflict resolution and peace-building through national and international non-governmental organizations in Arabic-speaking countries (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Palestine, Syria), expressed

an urgent need to have science-based resources on constructive engagement made available in Arabic. Soon after, Scholars at Columbia University began to organize to meet this need by obtaining the Arabic-language rights for our landmark publication, the Handbook of Conflict Resolution. The translation of the book commenced thanks to a generous donation made by Ms. Marla Schaefer, Teachers College Trustee at Columbia University.



The cultural relevance of the Handbook: The 2012 Arabic CR Expert Group Meeting

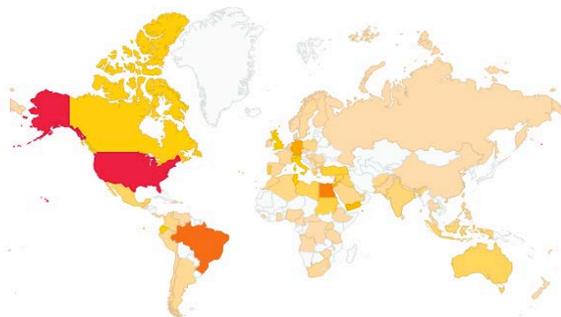
In October 2012 a meeting involving Arabic-speaking peace scholars and practitioners was convened. The objective of this meeting was to engage in a thoughtful exchange that was constructive, culturally relevant and sensitive, to share the knowledge gained through decades of research and practice on cooperation and constructive engagement, and most importantly, to edit the Arabic version of the Handbook in partnership with Arab academics and practitioners to ensure its applicability in the Arab World.



Disseminating the Arabic Handbook: A year of stakeholder engagement

After completing a thorough revision of the Arabic version of the Handbook for Conflict Resolution, in 2014 our team focused on ensuring that the relevant organizations, academic institutions, and key stakeholders in the MENA region learned about and gained access to the book. We saw 2014 as the year where we identified key partners to fulfill two of the objectives of this initiative: create joint educational offerings and research collaboration opportunities. Operating in 30 countries with the mission to promote cooperative solutions to conflict, **Search for Common Ground** has agreed to facilitate our engagement with both English and Arabic-speaking scholar-practitioners and increase the impact of curricula implementation. Today, we have created a bilingual English -Arabic platform where it is possible to request the book and reached out to key academic and community-based stakeholders. As we gained the support from individuals, institutions, and organizations that found great value in the book, we were able to target opportunities to create an impactful plan for the development and implementation of other culturally relevant and sound science-based conflict resolution trainings stemming from the Arabic version of the Handbook.

*Operating in 30 countries with the mission to promote cooperative solutions to conflict, our partner **Search for Common Ground** will facilitate our engagement with both English and Arabic-speaking scholar-practitioners and increase the impact of curricula implementation*



1 1,069
May-December 2014- Website visits

The Way forward: Seeking support for the development of a core conflict resolution curriculum at The MENA Common Ground Institute

In a strategic partnership with Search for Common Ground, our current objective is to secure funding to develop and implement a culturally relevant and science-based conflict resolution curriculum at the MENA Common Ground Institute (CGI). **The CGI is a regional, flexible initiative to enhance dialogue quality that will cover 13 countries and territories in the MENA region:** Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and Palestinian territories.



Quick facts

The Handbook web-based platform was visited more than 2,300 times since May to December 2014 from across 88 countries

During that time, we received more than 280 requests for the book from all 23 Arabic speaking countries and other regions in the world

Endorsements

We engaged in conversations with numerous organizations that expressed interest in the resource and in future collaboration opportunities.

"...this handbook would be extremely relevant and interesting for our work in the field...thank you for developing such valuable one-of-a-kind reference in Arabic" Soliya

"... We will send the Arabic handbook to friends in Libya, Iraq and Syria to ensure it reaches as many people as possible who could benefit from it" Generations for Peace

Kyong Mazzaro
 Program Manager
 P 212-870-2772
 E kmazzaro@ei.columbia.edu

Saad A. Saad
 Program Coordinator
 P 313-729-7909
 E Ssaad@arabic-menapeace.com

For more information visit:
Ac4.ei.columbia.edu
MENapeace.com
Arabic-MENapeace.com