



CROSSING BORDERS
TEACHERS
MANUAL

USING AND DEVELOPING
THE CROSSING BORDERS CONCEPT
AND MAGAZINE IN THE CLASSROOM

Edited by
Garba Diallo, CB Director
and Søren Søgaard, Journalist and CB Trainer

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Acknowledgements

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Teachers, schools and other educational organizations interested in participating in the Crossing Borders program can obtain free copies of this manual by contacting one of the CB coordinators listed here or the Crossing Borders Headquarters in Elsinore, Denmark. Interested parties will be offered a short training session which accompanies receipt of the manual.

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Crossing Borders Non-Profit Organization
The Crossing Borders Teachers Manual



Preface

This manual is meant to encourage and assist Arab and Israeli (Jewish and Arab) teachers in using the Crossing Borders youth magazine in the classroom as a framework for teaching about mutual knowledge, understanding and cooperative coexistence in the Middle East. Another important aim is to inspire teachers and educational institutions in the Middle East to develop the concept of Crossing Borders as an integral part of the education system. The concept of Crossing Borders is defined as learning to live, study and work together on issues of common interest and concern, with tangible and useful output in absolute equality. Such a direct experience of living under the same roof, eating at the same table, learning useful skills and creating/producing something relevant and interesting to the participants will help demystify the “other”, providing him/her with a face, name, family and story. It will reduce fear of the stranger as the genesis of violent conflicts, often leading to a lose-lose situation.

The Manual's Structure and How to Use It

The manual contains educational ideas, activities, simulation games and core concepts on how to use and develop the Crossing Borders concept in the classroom. The inputs also include a background presentation of Crossing Borders and its development, understanding conflict, the importance of dialogue in intercultural education and peace building. In order to make the manual practical and user-friendly, the main part consists of concrete classroom activities that can easily be used by teachers. In this way, the teacher can browse through the manual and locate relevant activities for his/her purpose. Many of the activities can also be developed further and function as sources of inspiration for teachers to develop additional educational ideas and activities.

Contributors

The manual was produced from materials and ideas developed by the teachers, coordinators and organizers of the four Crossing Borders workshops held in Turkey between March 2004 and June 2005 for Israeli (Arab and Jewish), Jordanian and Palestinian teachers involved in the Crossing Borders program. The manual's materials were developed by these pioneering educators for application in their institutions as a tangible contribution by educators to the search for sustainable peace in the Middle East.

What is Crossing Borders?

Based in Elsinore, Denmark, Crossing Borders (CB) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides space and skills training for youth and educators from societies in conflict. Since its establishment as a project in 1999, CB has provided a neutral space for dialogue and training for Arab and Israeli youth and educators to participate fully in the process towards peace in their region. Crossing Borders activities comprise training courses, seminars and workshops in conflict management, intercultural communication and media skills designed for youth and teachers. CB's other core activity is the publication and distribution of the bi-monthly Crossing Borders Magazine by and for Arab and Israeli youth. Crossing Borders' methods and principles are based on ongoing dialogue, equal participation, shared ownership, and concrete and joint output with learning elements of immediate and long-term benefits to the participants and their communities. At the end of the manual you will find a background article by Garba Diallo, Director of Crossing Borders, along with a list of contributors to the manual.

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