

Building Peace through Citizen Diplomacy

The Islamic Partnership Initiative



A non-profit citizen diplomacy network
www.sister-cities.org



Successes 2002 until present

- » Wheelchairs for Peace (2002)
- » Launch of the YES program (2003)
- » Sister City Mission to Lebanon (2003)
- » Islamic Partnership Initiative Task Force (2004)
- » U.S.-Iraq International Partners for Peace (2004)
- » Peace and Friendship Mission to Morocco (2006)
- » Partnership and Peace Tour to Egypt (2007)
- » Islamic Initiative Conference Sessions (2005-2007)
- » Continued increase in number of partnerships!



Islamic Initiative Survey 2006

- » Results show intense interest in the Muslim world tempered with concerns:
 - Respondents cited terrorism, travel restrictions and safety concerns as barriers to relationship building.
 - Respondents cited lack of understanding about Islam, and the post 9/11 atmosphere as reasons for weak relationships.
 - Respondents strongly desire more educational outreach, programs and partnerships with the Muslim world.



Current Partnerships (94)

Afghanistan (3)

Albania (2)

Algeria (1)

Azerbaijan (1)

**Bosnia-Herzegovina
(1)**

Burkino-Faso (4)

Cote D'Ivoire (1)

Egypt (5)

Ethiopia (3)

Gambia (3)

Guinea (1)

Indonesia (4)

Iran (1)

Iraq (7)

Jordan (3)

Kazakhstan (3)

Kyrgyzstan (1)

Lebanon (2)

Malaysia (2)

Mali (3)

Morocco (3)

Nigeria (10)

Pakistan (2)

**Palestinian
Authority (2)**

Senegal (6)

Sierra-Leone (4)

Tajikistan (1)

Turkey (9)

Turkmenistan (1)

**United Arab Emirates
(2)**

Uzbekistan (3)

Total: 94



Success Stories

- Outreach to Muslims/ Waging Peace
- Houston Partnerships

Baku, Azerbaijan

Istanbul, Turkey

Abu Dhabi, UAE



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Where do we go from here?

We Must Work Harder

Create more relationships!



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Purpose:

- To encourage better mutual understanding and cooperation between U.S. communities and communities in Muslim majority countries through sister city partnerships, educational outreach and joint programs.



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Upcoming Activities

- Research
- Task Force
- Visibility/ Educational Outreach
- Programs



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Research

- Collect comprehensive data on 94 existing partnerships through surveys and conversations
- Draw conclusions and prepare program models/ recommendations for partnerships to share in a report and on the website



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Task Force

- The Islamic Partnership Initiative Task Force will advise on strategies and activities designed to increase the number of U.S. cities forming recognized sister city partnerships with cities in Muslim majority countries
- Task Force members will participate in educational outreach and domestic/international contact development



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Visibility/ Educational Outreach

- Annual Conference
- IPI Website
- Contact-building (NGOs, embassies, businesses, etc.)
- IPI presence in Sister Cities International publications
- Work with State Coordinators
- Promote 'Cities Seeking Cities' website



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» More Programs

- Program sharing with like-minded organizations
- Grants for program development
- Menu of program models on website
- Youth programs
- Community dialogues



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Get Involved

- Visit Cities Seeking Cities to find a Muslim community.
- Can't find your match? Contact Jenny to explore possibilities.
- Host a community dialogue on Islam.
- Reach out to Muslim organizations in your community.
- Contact Jenny or visit the website for program ideas and support.



Islamic Partnership Initiative

» Contact

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