

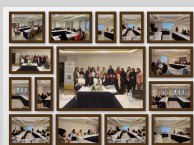


ACT NEWSLETTER September - October 2025



Regional Project - Voices of Harmony.

As part of the "Voices for Harmony" project, implemented by ACT for Conflict Resolution in cooperation with the Regional Network for Reconciliation and Forgiveness in the Arab Region and under the patronage of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), ACT highlighted a series of inspiring voices that contributed to promoting dialogue, coexistence, and countering hate speech across the region. Throughout the project, several remarkable figures shared their experiences and insights: Sohaib Al-Zoubi, founder of the "Nool" initiative, reflected on his journey in empowering youth and strengthening their vital role in spreading a culture of dialogue, cooperation, and social harmony. Dr. Raed Saleh Danna, academic lecturer and religious scholar from Jerusalem, shared how he combined his academic and spiritual roles to foster dialogue and social cohesion within his community. Reverend Dr. Naeem Yousef, pastor of Al-Jazeera Parish of the Evangelical Christian Union Church, brought a faith-based perspective on building bridges of understanding and promoting mutual respect among diverse groups. Khidhr Domle, Head of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies at the University of Duhok, contributed from his academic and research background to advancing the values of coexistence and peace.



ACT CONDUCTS INTENSIVE TRAINING UNDER THE "WOMEN AS PEACEBUILDERS" PROJECT

ACT held a three-day intensive training in October as part of the project "Empowering Women as Peacebuilders: Negotiation, Mediation, and Dialogue." Nineteen women from diverse community backgrounds participated to strengthen their skills in negotiation, mediation processes, leadership, and active citizenship. The training covered key themes including women's leadership and representation in peace processes, self-awareness and self-care for resilience, active citizenship, and storytelling as a tool for dialogue and influence.



ACT LAUNCHES TRAINING TO PREVENT CONFLICTS

ACT launched a specialized training program on mediation and arbitration under the project "Prevent to Protect: Early Action for Safer Communities", supported by the Government of Canada. The initiative aims to prevent the escalation of community disputes and violence in Jerusalem by equipping youth, women, and community leaders with practical skills in peaceful conflict resolution. The first session, held on October 14, 2025, explored local conflict dynamics, the role of family structures, and ways to expand women's participation, with seven upcoming sessions combining theory, simulations, and practice to strengthen early intervention and dialogue.



ACT ADVANCES "MEDIATION AS A TOOL FOR PEACEBUILDING"

ACT concluded a three-day training in Ramallah titled "Fundamentals of Mediation" under the project "Mediation as a Tool for Peacebuilding", supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The training empowered socially active youth with practical skills in negotiation, conflict management, and mediation, combining theory with hands-on exercises that reflected real-life peacebuilding contexts. This initiative forms part of ACT's broader efforts to strengthen the culture of mediation in Palestine and promote dialogue, understanding, and peaceful conflict resolution in partnership with international allies.

CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD

1. **ACT Holds Founding Meeting of the Network of Mediators and Peacebuilders in Palestine:** In On October 11, 2025, ACT convened the inaugural founding meeting of the Network of Mediators and Peacebuilders in Palestine under the project “*Mediation as a Tool for Peacebuilding*,” supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of civically active youth to resolve disputes peacefully and to establish a sustainable platform for coordination among local mediation efforts. Participants discussed the network’s vision, operational framework, and mechanisms for community-level intervention, explored collaboration with partner entities, and examined post-war peacebuilding scenarios within the two-state framework. The meeting concluded with an agreement to reconvene next month to finalize the network’s structure and action plan.



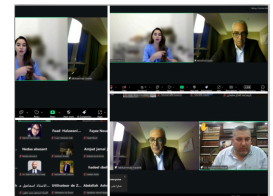
2. **Linking Conflict Resolution with**

Employability: As part of the project “*A Career Bridge: Enhancing the Employability of Al-Quds Youth*”, within the Al-Quds Program and funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), ACT for Conflict Resolution implemented an innovative training program in Jerusalem that bridged peacebuilding and professional development. Held throughout September and October 2025, the program combined soft skills training with practical learning in negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, providing students and graduates with the tools to manage conflicts constructively and strengthen their employability. Through this pioneering approach, ACT continues to contribute to shaping a generation of skilled, confident, and peace-oriented young professionals in Palestine.



3. **Linking ACT Strengthens Mediation Culture: A Forum on Key Issues in the UAE and the Arab Region:**

ACT held a virtual Mediation Forum via Zoom to discuss recent developments in mediation across the UAE and the Arab region. Moderated by Mohammad Hadeh, Chairman of ACT, and featuring Ms. Christine Maksoud, Co-Founder of *The Mediation Hub MENA*, the session explored key themes such as the legislative framework, government support, and the adoption of mediation by legal professionals and institutions. The discussion highlighted *The Mediation Hub's* regional role and future vision, while participants’ active engagement underscored the growing importance of institutionalizing mediation as a fair and effective tool for dispute resolution.



ACT PLANTS THE SEEDS OF MEDIATION WITH GAZA LAWYERS: RESTORING TRUST IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

ACT concluded its specialized online training “*Mediation as a Tool for Conflict Resolution in the Gaza Context*”, gathering thirty lawyers from across the Gaza Strip to strengthen their capacity in mediation as a fair and constructive approach to community disputes. Held between Sept and Oct 2025, the program explored key concepts, stages, and skills of mediation, complemented by real-case simulations reflecting Gaza’s realities. Participants shared powerful testimonials on how the training deepened their confidence and professional skills, highlighting mediation’s vital role amid limited legal recourse and ongoing challenges. The experience underscored ACT’s continued commitment to promoting mediation and alternative dispute resolution, empowering legal professionals to become agents of dialogue, resilience, and peace within their communities.



ACT’S SUCCESS IN RESOLVING DISPUTES: MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

ACT for Studies and Conflict Resolution has been actively involved in resolving various individual disputes, including family and real estate matters. In Sept and Oct 2025, the results were highly satisfactory, with 7 arbitration cases and 9 mediation cases successfully resolved, thanks to the dedication of our skilled mediators and arbitrators. Other cases are still ongoing, and we remain committed to supporting further peacebuilding efforts and fostering positive outcomes.

ACT AND AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO ADVANCE MEDIATION AND LEGAL EDUCATION

ACT and An-Najah National University – Faculty of Law and Political Science – signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding to promote alternative dispute resolution and strengthen practical legal education in Palestine. The partnership aims to bridge theory and practice through joint training, applied research, and community-based legal activities. It also seeks to equip law students with real-world mediation and arbitration skills, fostering a new generation of legal professionals committed to dialogue, justice, and social peace.



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