



Memorandum of Understanding to create U.S. / Jordan Valley Sister City Partnerships

For decades, U.S., Israeli, and Palestinian leaders have failed to find a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian and broader Israel / Arab conflict, which has long served as an obstacle to regional cooperation and stability. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have called on ordinary people to get involved in the diplomatic process through sustained Track II and Track III initiatives, which can assist official diplomats by building trust and confidence for a lasting peace, in the national security interests of Israel, Palestine, Jordan, the United States and the world.

Sister city programs allow individuals on a local level to participate in improving relations through non-political cultural, educational, and other people-to-people exchanges. By creating permanent relationships which can grow and outlive the involvement of the originators, sister city programs offer strategic opportunities for citizens to help create a climate for the peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

EcoPeace Middle East, Sister Cities International (SCI) and Citizen Diplomacy Initiatives (CDI), through their undersigned officers, hereby commit to connecting Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian communities with U.S. cities in multilateral sister city relationships.

The initiative builds on the success of EcoPeace Middle East's Good Water Neighbors (GWN) project, which has successfully brought together Palestinian, Israeli, and Jordanian youth, adults, and municipal representatives from cross-border communities to cooperate over trans-boundary water resources and jointly advance sustainable development in the region.

The parties agree to incorporate U.S. cities into established GWN relationships starting with the Lower Jordan Valley, a major watershed shared by Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians, and to expand the scope of the existing collaborative projects to include cultural, educational, business, sports and other sister city activities, thereby allowing U.S. citizen diplomats to participate in the trust-building process. Working together, US and Middle East communities are a positive force for peace in the Middle East. Agreed this 17th day of October, 2014.

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Munqeth Mehyar for
EcoPeace Middle East

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Kalishman", written over a horizontal line.

Steven Kalishman for
Citizen Diplomacy Initiatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Kane", written over a horizontal line.

Mary Kane for
Sister Cities International