



Global Peace & Security Program Opportunities for Campus Initiatives

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CIVIL-MILITARY BALANCE

Combat terrorism by supporting efforts to increase humanitarian aid and assistance

- **Volunteer with Help the Afghan Children (HTAC):** Through education and other humanitarian initiatives, HTAC is dedicated to improving the lives of children in Afghanistan, enabling them become healthy, productive citizens by providing an alternative to poverty, war, and civil unrest. Become a HTAC Outreach Ambassador, and help raise awareness in your local community or opt to be a HTAC School Exchange Facilitator and pair up schools in the US with a ‘sister school’ in Afghanistan. Other options include raising funds in your local community to continue these educational programs or, devise your own campaign with help from HTAC and become a Supporter in Action! If you are interested in developing a partnership with HTAC, please contact laura@aidemocracy.org
- **Screen *Beyond Belief*:** Two 9/11 widows channel their grief by learning more about the country and people of Afghanistan. Moved by the plight of Afghani widows, they have started economic empowerment projects. Contact laura@aidemocracy.org to screen this film or get involved.
- **Advocate on civil-military balance issues:** Consult the Executive Advocacy toolkit for ideas on persuading the federal government to take actions more in line with AIDemocracy. The 100 Days Obama checklist is a great way to find out what civil-military balance issues are important right now, like the Civilian Assistance Corps and foreign assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan. Visit <http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.net/> for more information, as well.

IRAN

Support awareness and understanding between the United States and Iran

- **Screen *IRAN (is not the problem)*:** A film addressing the failure of the American mass media to provide the public with relevant and accurate information about the standoff between the US and Iran. Following

the screening with a workshop about media bias, Muslim-West portrayal by comparing how different media venues portray the same event. Contact Laura@aidemocracy.org to host this event.

- **Start a Book-club on Iran:** Get students or interested parties involved in a book-club reading about Iran's history, culture, politics and relations with the US. Blog about this on the AID blog or start your own! For recommendations, consult the GPS issue page on Iran or contact: Laura@aidemocracy.org
- **Host an Inter-cultural Discussion and panel:** Working with students, artists, political organizations, and religious institutions, bring speakers to your community who can address these topics in Iranian life and facilitate an inter-cultural, inter-faith dialogue! Contact laura@aidemocracy.org
- **Host a town hall meeting on the Iranian election:** Help your fellow students understand the events of the Iranian election this past summer by hosting a town hall meeting or discussion. Contact community leaders, professors and student leaders about speaking.

IRAQ

Work on this subject is pending a grant. Work will take place in 2010 under GPS Fellows.

MIDDLE EAST

Screen the Following Films:

America's Funniest Muslim: Azhar Usman is a Muslim comedian whose purpose is to improve and promote cultural understanding of Islam and Muslim population

Cities of Light: A film about the history of Islamic Spain, a period when Muslims, Christians and Jews inhabited the same far corner of Western Europe.

Heavy Metal in Baghdad: A film about four musicians struggling to make a go of the rock-and-roll life in the middle of a war zone.

Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet: The Prophet Muhammad' story told through the observations of contemporary American Muslims.

Our Voices Together: A short film on the lives of a few families who have lost their loved ones on 9/11 show how their relative's spirit survives through their acts of compassion for others in the Muslim community.

Outlawed: This film tells the stories of Khaled El-Masri and Binyam Mohamed, two men who have survived extraordinary rendition, secret detention, and torture by the U.S. government working with others worldwide.

A Son's Sacrifice: A documentary film of 27 year old Imran who takes over a very different family business- a traditional Muslim slaughterhouse in New York City.

Inside Islam: This film documents what Muslims really think. It is unlikely that chapters will be able to show this, maybe have one of the experts come speak.

Hold an Interfaith, Intercultural Conference: Bridge the divide between the Muslim world and the West. Focus on our similarities instead of our differences. Hold an interfaith, intercultural conference addressing issues such as religion, gender, education, media and development. Invite guest speakers and experts to facilitate the dialogue and bring an interesting perspective. Contact laura@aidemocracy.org for more details.

Hold a Cultural Night: Sponsor an informal and fun event by hosting a cultural night! Teach people how to cook a traditional Lebanese dish, break-bread with other religious and community organizations, engage in a fast-a-thon or host a poetry recital. Bring understanding and awareness through cultural exchange. Engaging with other cultural student and religious groups is a great way to help students broaden their understanding of other cultures.

Alternatively, check out whether your school holds a cultural fair. Set up a booth about the culture of your choice, complete with books, food, pictures, and information.

Stage a Political Theatre: Bring the creative to the political and the political to the creative! Hold performances tackling the issue of stereotypes and biases by acting them out. Host a follow-up workshop with the actors and audience to address their reactions and responses.

Start a Mentoring Program: Interested in fostering more of a sense of community? Start a mentoring program on your campus or within your local community addressing the issues of Muslim American identity. Bring together Muslims, American Muslims, and people of other religions to discuss the question of faith in America.

Host a Benefit Concert or Art Display: Know of a cool band that is willing to pay to raise funds or have an artist friend who would be willing to showcase their social justice work? Combine these events with a short talk from your donor organization or from cultural groups on campus. Consider donating to a local group that works on peace and security issues or email laura@aidemocracy.org for ideas.

Host a Hope Not Hate Town Hall event: Contact laura@aidemocracy.org to learn how you can bring this great retreat to your campus, complete with expert speakers, workshops, films, and artists. Encourage the Muslim and non-Muslim relations at your school and help take action on a global and local scale.

Campaign your school to broaden curriculum: Contact your school's administration or department heads about founding a Middle Eastern Studies or South Asia Studies major if none exists. Ask them to broaden the course offerings and work with a professor to make a syllabus for a class on peace and security issues. Additionally, speak to the study abroad office about opportunities available in Middle Eastern countries.

General Peace & Security

Hold a film screening and Discussion on war and conflict resolution:

Invisible Children – the rough cut documentary about child soldiers forced to fight of the LRA in Northern Uganda

Uganda Rising – film about the 2 million Acholi being terrorized and held hostage by the Lord's Resistance Army

Great Decisions 2008 - a collection of documentaries on eight pressing U.S. foreign policy issues

Ghosts of Abu Ghraib - investigates the psychological and political context of the incidents at Abu Ghraib

Last Best Chance – a docudrama about vulnerable nuclear weapons around the world and the threat they pose

The Power of Good - the story of Nicholas Winton's efforts to save hundreds of children from the Nazi occupation

The Peacekeepers - follows the maneuvers to avert another Rwandan disaster in the Democratic Republic of Congo

I Know I'm Not Alone- this film follows rebel rocker Michael Franti on his quest to understand Iraq and Palestine

RESOURCES

Toolkits*: AID has nine toolkits to help guide you in your different campus initiatives:

- Bird-dogging Toolkit
- Discussion Toolkit
- Interfaith Dialogue Toolkit
- Legislative Action Toolkit
- Conference Organizing Toolkit
- Film Screening Toolkit
- Lobbying/Legislative Action Toolkit
- Cultural Diplomacy Toolkit
- Guest Speaker Toolkit
- Videoconference Toolkit

*Contact Laura@aidemocracy to receive a toolkit or check out <http://www.aidemocracy.org/resources.htm>

Funding & Mini-Grants: AID can provide financial assistance to your campus and community initiatives! Simply contact Laura with a request for a mini-grant via our website to help fund food, publicity, transport, or any thing else you may need.

Assistance: AID staff can provide guidance or assistance with anything you may need, from connecting to other organizations or simply brainstorming ideas. We are here to help you become a better proactive global citizen!

Fellows: Keep an eye out for opportunities to work as a GPS Fellow, Intern, Political Analyst or Regional Coordinator!

**** NEW ADDRESS: 218 D St SE, First Floor, Washington D.C. 20003 - www.aidemocracy.org ****