



## Networking the Gap

**Networking the Gap** is a unique peace project. It aims to develop workshops that will bring together journalists coming from conflict-affected areas.

However, participants will **not** be war correspondents, but journalists who cover culture, health and other non-conflict related matters.

**The objective** - By participating in regional workshops, reporters will establish contacts, which they will then draw upon when writing day-to-day articles. Thus, Networking the Gap, will help to counter familiar narratives by covering unexpected topics. Consequently transforming the *foreigner* into a neighbor.

**Follow up** - The workshops aspire to enhance dialogue among journalists and to seek the 'self' in the 'other.' **These objectives are achieved by creating a forum in which journalists from opposite sides of the conflict can convene to share story ideas. The hope is that journalists will give voice to human-interest stories from the other side. Collaborative articles are strongly encouraged.** After the workshop, an Internet forum will be provided and regional gatherings will be organized to encourage ongoing networking.

**The approach**- Presently, peace journalism workshops are targeted at war correspondents or young journalists in developing countries. 'NTG' however, would cater to *non-war* covering journalists. The aim is to bring them together so they would establish connections with each other. In the wake of a Middle-East workshop, for example, an Israeli journalist would use his new contacts to interview a Palestinian *Facebook* user when writing an IT article on social networking. Currently, Palestinians **profiled** in the Israeli media are primarily associated with **violence**. The proposed article might help the average Israeli reader relate to the Palestinian on a more human level.

The program will include three-day classes held by leading journalists as well as seminars aiming at networking among participants. To this end, a database of media contacts from conflict areas is developed. Thereby providing a pool for selecting participants, among whom precedence will be given to promising young journalists (e.g. with popular Blogs).

The first workshop that would cater to 15 Middle East journalists will be held on neutral ground in Europe. Followed by the dissemination of the template to media/peace organizations (e.g. West African Journalist Association), thus empowering them to run the workshops easily and **independently**.

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