

# GLOBAL YOUTH VOICES

## MIDDLE EAST

### *Engaging Youth in Health Promotion... ...peace-building through cooperation*

The Global Youth Voices-Middle East project seeks to create youth driven action and community health promotion, while building cooperation through scientific collaboration.

#### **The Project**

The Global Youth Voices process is based on a model, known as EIPARS, which uses low and high end technologies to allow youth to document the strengths and challenges of their communities, and then take action on selected issues of importance.

In 2004, students in two Bedouin high schools in Israel began the process of issue identification using photography. The youth took pictures, wrote captions about their photos and used the pictures to identify important issues in their communities. Then the same youth planned and carried out action projects. See the results at [www.globalyouthvoices.org/middle-east](http://www.globalyouthvoices.org/middle-east)

#### **Student Involvement**

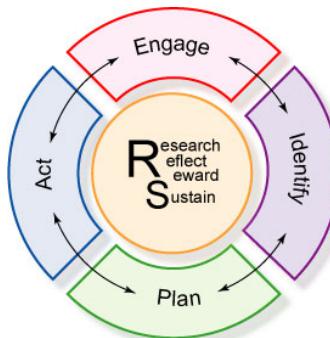
The project involves university students as facilitators of the youth groups. Students in disciplines including medicine, health, social work and education become involved by running groups as part of their academic program. On an annual basis, these students collaborate on improving the Global Youth Voices process and sharing their research experiences.

#### **Building Cooperation**

In 2005, the program was expanded to include Bedouin, Jewish and Palestinian schools. As the project grows, university students from all over the region can become collaborators in the research. Students can engage and empower youth while learning about health promotion, conducting health promotion research and follow CISEPO's success into the student sector.

#### **TeenNet**

The TeenNet research program, led by Dr. Harvey Skinner, is based at the University of Toronto and York University. The program was established in 1995 to generate new knowledge and develop practical ways to engage youth in health promotion using interactive technologies. For more information visit the website: [www.teennet.ca](http://www.teennet.ca).



#### **CISEPO**

The Canada International Scientific Exchange Program ([www.cisepo.ca](http://www.cisepo.ca)) was established in 1984 and is run out of Mt. Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto. CISEPO's objective is to use capacity building for peace-building. The program uses the sharing of knowledge to help develop needed expertise and professional capability in various sectors. CISEPO's successes include the establishment of MEHA (Middle East Hearing Association) which has successfully screened tens of thousands of newborns for hearing loss.

**For more information or to become involved in Global Youth Voices please contact us.**

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