



# Planting the Seeds for Peace

Sami Awad, The Holy Land Trust  
Palestine

## ☀ Call to Action

Support Sami and the Holy Land Trust in building resilient communities through nonviolent resistance in Palestine: [holylandtrust.org](http://holylandtrust.org). Follow Sami on Twitter: [@Sami\\_Awad](https://twitter.com/Sami_Awad)

## ☀ Values

- Imagination
- Dedication
- Leadership
- Commitment
- Tolerance
- Compassion

## ☀ Lessons Learned

**People need to be engaged in the peace process, and need to find ways to achieve peace together through nonviolent means.**

**The past continues to affect us, and all the decisions we make, in the present.**

**Conflict resolution is about communication, and communication can only truly begin when we are ready to listen to each other.** It's important to listen to others, including those with whom you do not agree.

**As the nephew of Mubarak Awad—known to many as the “Gandhi of Palestine” for his nonviolent resistance to Israeli occupation—Sami Awad grew up with big shoes to fill.**

Since being inspired by his uncle at the age of 12, Sami has dedicated his life to the study and practice of nonviolence. He founded the Holy Land Trust to unite Palestinians and Israelis in an effort to promote peaceful dialogue and conflict resolution. He now works with young people on a number of environmental projects in the Middle East.

## ☀ Language Arts

**Write an essay about nonviolence,** and the role Mohandas Gandhi played in it.

**Sami’s uncle has been called “The Gandhi of Palestine.”**

What does this mean? Create a five-minute video explaining who Gandhi was; what nonviolence meant to him; why it is important; how it can be used to bring about social change (give several examples from history); and how you could use it in your own day-to-day interactions with people.

**Based on your research, is there a link between sustainability and nonviolence?** How does climate change contribute to regional political tensions and conflicts, and how can sustainability help ease these tensions? (Use Sami’s story as an example.)

**Create a series of at least six posters, or one short animated film** in which you explain how the climate crisis is worsening the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and how a nonviolent approach to problem solving can help.

**Create an information campaign using video, words, and**

**images, to encourage people your age to understand and practice the principles of nonviolence.** How would you encourage them to adopt a nonviolent lifestyle?

**Compare activism in the 1980s or 90s to activism and peaceful protesting today.** How are the approaches similar? How are they different? Do you think we have learned anything from the history of activism? If so, explain what we have learned.

## STEM Activities

**Create a timeline either from your own experience, or the story of someone you admire who had to deal with immigration and adjusting to life in a new country.** Explain how you think such an experience can help to expand a person's view of the world, and why understanding other cultures is important.

**Research the concept of sustainability, and explain how Sami's story embodies the principles of sustainability.**

Why is sustainability important as it pertains to culture, activism, and human rights?

**Follow this [math activity](#)<sup>1</sup> to analyze and interpret hate crime data and put it into graphs using statistical analysis.**

What do hate crimes have to do with climate change, or other sustainability issues?

## Sustainability Innovations

**Sami's work has begun to transform Palestine in its fight for human rights and sustainability.** The [Palestine Wildlife Society](#)<sup>2</sup> has assisted in this process by prioritizing ecological sustainability in Palestine.

**[Seeds of Peace](#)<sup>3</sup> is a nonpolitical nonprofit organization that helps teenagers learn peacemaking skills.** They bring young people together at a traditional summer camp setting in the woods of Maine, where they offer a safe and supportive environment in which participants can share opposing views with each other and learn listening, communication, and other conflict resolution skills that can help them develop empathy for one another.

**[Kids for Peace](#)<sup>4</sup> is a California-based global nonprofit that is making our world a better place through love and action.** Inspired by Gandhi's quote, "If we are to achieve lasting peace, we must begin with the children," Kids for Peace was founded in 2006 by a mom and a high school student. From its start as a small club of caring kids, Kids for Peace has grown to become a global children's movement that promotes peace, compassion, and kindness. It now includes 350 chapters in 121 countries, with boys and girls of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.

**The [United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy](#)<sup>5</sup> recognizes that young people can make positive contributions as agents of change.** It seeks to empower youth to stand up for their rights, and aims to ensure youth engagement and participation in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)<sup>6</sup>, as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.

**[Neve Shalom](#)<sup>7</sup>, established in 1970, is a village of Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel dedicated to building justice, peace and equality in the country** and challenging the racism and discrimination that is prevalent in the country.

## Sustainability Career Pathways

**Conflict Mediator.** There are a growing number of career opportunities in the field of conflict resolution as mediators, arbitrators, and consensus-builders, among others. Mediators help parties resolve conflicts--whether they involve just two individuals, or whole organizations or communities--and whether the conflicts involve financial issues, territorial disputes, and even environmental concerns.

Want to learn more about this field? [Visit here](#)<sup>8</sup>. And if you are interested in a career in conflict resolution [read this step-by-step guide](#)<sup>9</sup>.

**Nonviolence Trainer.** Nonviolence is not only recognized as an effective protest strategy, but is increasingly sought after as a more effective means of crisis prevention. Hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and schools are all starting to recognize the value in proactive, nonviolent de-escalation of conflicts. Want to become an expert in nonviolent approaches to conflict, and train others to use these skills as well? Here's one example of nonviolent crisis intervention training to explore: [The Crisis Prevention Institute](#)<sup>10</sup>.

**Orchardist.** At one point, Sami's uncle planted olive trees to prevent the confiscation of land. Trees that provide fruit and nuts are a central source of food, and when done correctly can also be a way to heal the land. Interested in being an orchardist? [Start here](#)<sup>11</sup>.

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1 <https://advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/leadership-development/untold-civil-rights-stories/unit-plan-math-alg-1-statistics-hate-0>

2 <http://www.wildlife-pal.org/>

3 <https://www.seedsforpeace.org/>

4 <https://kidsforpeaceglobal.org/>

5 <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-un/>

6 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

7 <https://wasns.org/>

8 <https://careersinpsychology.org/conflict-resolution-careers/>

9 <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-a-mediator>

10 <https://www.crisisprevention.com/>

11 <https://www.acsgarden.com/learning/careers/orchardist.aspx>

