

**HANDS OF
PEACE**



Dear Friend

Watching the violence and hatred that rocked Israel and Palestine last month was heartbreaking. These weren't videos from strangers, but from people I know and love — our team, our alumni, and my friends — facing threats in their own homes and communities. I am grateful the ceasefire is holding. I also understand that, even when the missiles and rockets stop flying, occupation, inequity and fear remain. Like many of you, I've asked myself, "What can I do to make this time different? How can we work to address the systemic factors that prevent justice and equality in the region?"

Violence and hatred grow in uncertainty and distrust. As long as the roots of the conflict remain, we will continue our work to give young Americans, Israelis and Palestinians the opportunity to truly see each other and develop as leaders who can act for social change. Hands of Peace gives us all — alumni, host families, volunteers, and supporters — opportunities to choose to see the other and recognize our common humanity.

As the violence raged, we hosted uni-national conversations for alumni. Next week, we are hosting a cross-delegation dialogue, open to all alumni, to give those who choose the opportunity to discuss the current situation. In July, we welcome (virtually!) our newest Hands to Summer Program Launchpad.

We are planning events to bring our community together as well. We can draw on each other, as a Hands of Peace family, for strength and support. The last weeks have been heavy and have made it even more clear how much work there is to do.

Working with us to turn this crisis into a chance for change is the newest member of our team, Hamze Awawde, who will serve as our Palestinian Regional Manager. Having known Hamze for four years, I am thrilled he will be serving as a guide and mentor for our incoming Hands and alumni.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Rasmussen



Introducing our Palestinian Regional Manager

A peacebuilder and leader, Hamze Awawde is committed to inspiring and empowering youth to create change.

[Read more about Hamze here.](#)

Let's Cook Together

Join cultural guides Aziz Abu Sarah and Kim Passy Yoseph from Hands of Peace travel partner Mejdī Tours as they share Israeli and Palestinian variations of Shakshuka, a popular Middle Eastern recipe.

[Register for Virtual Shakshuka Cooking Class](#)



SHAKSHUKA COOKING CLASS

July 11, 2021

9 pm I/P / 1:00 pm CT / 11:00 am PT

Virtual Book Circle

In this inspiring conversation about peacebuilding, [author Sulaiman Khatib](#) reveals how he became convinced that Palestinian freedom can flourish alongside Jewish connection to the land where he was born.

[Read "In This Place Together" and register for Book Circle.](#)



IN THIS PLACE TOGETHER

with Author Sulaiman Khatib

August 22, 2021

9 pm I/P / 1:00 pm CT / 11:00 am PT

Alumni Recognition

The recipient of the [Rooftop Consciousness Award](#) is an alumnus/na who demonstrates through their work and volunteerism that, despite our many differences, we are all connected as one human family.

[Nominate Alumnus/na for Rooftop
Consciousness Award](#)



Nominate Today
ROOFTOP CONSCIOUSNESS AWARD

Deadline: July 10

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