

## Concept:

*“The Bridge Center – WAY to transitional justice and social cohesion in Lebanon for studies and research”* is envisioned as a permanent research center dedicated to promoting civil peace, fostering social cohesion, and providing a platform for addressing historical grievances and conflicts. The hub aims to be a dynamic space that adapts to evolving events and contributes to the development of comprehensive policies for sustainable peace in the nation.

## Objectives:

### 1. Promote Transitional Justice:

- Research on Historical Injustices: The hub will engage in thorough research to document and analyze historical injustices and conflicts in Lebanon. This involves identifying key events, understanding the root causes, and assessing the impact on different communities.
- Truth and Reconciliation Processes: Develop and advocate for mechanisms that facilitate truth and reconciliation processes. This may include establishing commissions, organizing hearings, and supporting initiatives that encourage individuals to share their experiences, fostering a sense of acknowledgment and healing.
- Implementation Advocacy: Advocate for the implementation of transitional justice measures at the national level. This involves working with policymakers, legal experts, and civil society to ensure that recommendations from truth and reconciliation

processes are integrated into national policies and legal frameworks.

## **2. Civil Peace Development:**

- Analysis of Contributing Factors: Conduct in-depth analyses of social, economic, and political factors contributing to tension within Lebanon. Identify patterns of conflict and sources of division to inform targeted interventions.
- Conflict Mitigation Strategies: Formulate strategies to mitigate conflicts and enhance social harmony. This may involve community-based initiatives, dialogue programs, and conflict resolution training to equip individuals and communities with the skills needed to navigate disagreements peacefully.
- Support for Local Initiatives: Provide resources and support for local peace building initiatives. Collaborate with community leaders, NGOs, and grassroots organizations to strengthen their capacity to address conflicts and promote peace at the grassroots level.

## **3. Youth Empowerment and Vision Building:**

- Youth Engagement: Actively engage young people in discussions on national reconciliation and peace building. Create platforms for their voices to be heard, ensuring that their perspectives are considered in the development of policies and initiatives.
- Educational Programs: Develop and implement educational programs that focus on promoting values of tolerance, understanding, and inclusivity. Equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute positively to the nation's future.

- Leadership Opportunities: Create opportunities for youth leadership and participation in decision-making processes. Empower young leaders to play an active role in shaping the direction of the country, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

#### **4. Policy Development and Advocacy:**

- Stakeholder Collaboration: Collaborate with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to develop and implement policies promoting social cohesion. This involves creating a collaborative platform where diverse voices can contribute to the policy-making process.
- Legal Reforms: Advocate for legal reforms that support transitional justice and peace building efforts. Work with legal experts to identify areas of the law that may need modification to better address historical injustices and promote reconciliation.
- National Framework: Contribute to the creation of a national framework for dealing with disagreements and conflicts. This framework should provide guidelines for addressing issues at various levels of society and governance.

#### **5. Research and Studies:**

- Ongoing Social and Political Landscape Research: Conduct continuous research on the evolving social and political landscape in Lebanon. This ensures that the hub remains informed about current challenges and opportunities for promoting social cohesion.
- Publication of Reports and Studies: Publish reports and studies that provide insights into potential sources of conflict and

- effective strategies for peace building. Disseminate this knowledge to policymakers, researchers, and the general public to foster a broader understanding of the issues.
- Academic Collaboration: Collaborate with academic institutions to enhance the knowledge base on transitional justice and social cohesion. Support academic research that contributes to the hub's objectives and facilitates a cross-disciplinary approach to addressing societal challenges.

## **6. Public Awareness and Dialogue:**

- Seminars, Workshops, and Public Forums: Organize seminars, workshops, and public forums to facilitate open dialogue on national issues. Provide spaces for constructive conversations that promote understanding, empathy, and the exchange of diverse perspectives.
- Multimedia Content Creation: Create multimedia content, including documentaries, podcasts, and educational materials, to raise public awareness about the importance of social cohesion and transitional justice. Use various platforms to reach a wide audience and stimulate public discourse.
- Community Outreach Programs: Implement community outreach programs to foster a culture of inclusivity and understanding. Work directly with communities to address their specific needs, building trust and promoting unity at the grassroots level.

## **7. International Collaboration:**

- Establishing Partnerships: Actively establish partnerships with international organizations working on transitional justice and peace building. Collaborate with these organizations to share

experiences, access resources, and benefit from global best practices.

- Exchange of Best Practices: Facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned with global counterparts. Learn from the experiences of other countries facing similar challenges and adapt successful strategies to the Lebanese context.
- International Support: Seek support and expertise from the international community to enhance the effectiveness of local initiatives. Engage with international donors, NGOs, and experts to secure funding and technical assistance for the hub's projects and programs.

By addressing these objectives, the **Brides Center-WAY to Transitional Justice and Social Cohesion in Lebanon** aims to play a pivotal role in creating a more just, harmonious, and resilient society that values inclusivity, understanding, and cooperation.

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## **“Brides Center-WAY to Transitional Justice and Social Cohesion in Lebanon”**

### **Action plan**

#### **1. Year 1: Establishment and Foundation**

##### **Quarter 1: Planning and Infrastructure**

- Form a planning committee with representatives from diverse sectors including academia, civil society, and government.
- Secure funding through grants, partnerships, and governmental support.
- Identify and secure a physical location for the hub.
- Develop a comprehensive business plan and budget.

##### **Quarter 2: Legal Framework and Institutional Setup**

- Register the hub as a legal entity.
- Establish governance structures and appoint key personnel.
- Develop the hub's internal policies and procedures.
- Begin outreach to potential collaborators and partners.

##### **Quarter 3: Research and Needs Assessment**

- Conduct a thorough needs assessment to understand the specific challenges and opportunities in the Lebanese context.
- Initiate preliminary research on historical injustices and conflicts.
- Engage with local communities to gather input and perspectives.

#### **Quarter 4: Initial Public Awareness Campaign**

- Launch a public awareness campaign introducing the hub's mission and objectives.
- Organize a series of workshops and seminars on transitional justice and social cohesion.

### **2. Year 2-3: Program Development and Implementation**

#### **Quarter 1: Program Design**

- Develop detailed programs for transitional justice, social cohesion, and youth empowerment.
- Collaborate with experts and stakeholders to design curriculum and training materials.

#### **Quarter 2: Pilot Programs**

- Implement pilot programs in select communities to test the effectiveness of initiatives.
- Collect feedback and assess the impact of the programs.

#### **Quarter 3: Scaling and Refinement**

- Based on feedback, refine programs for broader implementation.
- Develop partnerships with schools, universities, and community organizations for program expansion.
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to measure program impact.

#### **Quarter 4: Policy Advocacy and Legal Reforms**

- Advocate for policy changes and legal reforms based on research findings.
- Engage with policymakers, legal experts, and advocacy groups to build support for the hub's initiatives.

### **3. Year 4-5: Consolidation and Expansion**

#### **Quarter 1: Resource Mobilization**

- Expand funding sources through grant applications, partnerships, and fundraising events.
- Seek international support for specific projects and collaborations.

#### **Quarter 2: Regional and International Collaboration**

- Strengthen collaborations with international organizations, sharing best practices and lessons learned.
- Participate in conferences and forums to showcase the hub's achievements and learn from global experiences.

#### **Quarter 3: Research Dissemination**

- Publish comprehensive reports and research findings.
- Organize conferences or webinars to disseminate knowledge and engage with the academic and research community.

#### **Quarter 4: Sustainability Planning**

- Develop a sustainability plan for the hub, including long-term funding strategies and partnerships.
- Explore opportunities for the hub to become a regional center of excellence in transitional justice and social cohesion.



#### **4. Ongoing: Continuous Improvement and Adaptation**

##### Quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation

- Conduct regular assessments of program effectiveness.
- Solicit feedback from participants and stakeholders to inform continuous improvement.

##### Capacity Building and Training

- Provide ongoing training for hub staff, partners, and community leaders.
- Stay abreast of emerging trends and best practices in transitional justice and peace building.

##### Adaptation to Changing Contexts

- Remain flexible and adaptive to changing social, political, and economic contexts.
- Continuously reassess the hub's strategies and initiatives in response to evolving needs.