

Fighters for Peace

Country: Lebanon

Organisation responsible: Fighters for Peace

Period: Since 2013



Activity: Fighters for Peace is the only organisation in Lebanon that unites former fighters from different political, religious and social backgrounds, all of them working for a more peaceful country and region.

Objectives

Engaging with the youth and civil society activists, and in particular our fellow ex-fighters, in order to build a lasting civil peace and a true reconciliation in Lebanon.

Reaching further, beyond Lebanon, to support our neighbours who are also being torn apart by civil war and violence – from Libya to Iraq to Syria.

Description

Since 2014, Fighters for Peace have held dialogue sessions with students and youth all over the country. In politically volatile and tense areas, they addressed potential new combatants, acting as an awareness raising mechanism for the recruitment of new fighters. In schools and universities, they created an opportunity for students to explore a hidden page of their country's history, as the civil war in Lebanon has never been properly documented, interpreted or taught to students.

Other activities focused on building peace, community cohesion and reconciliation include:

- Visiting schools, universities, refugee camps and other institutions and conducting dialogue sessions.
- Building an online museum of testimonies of former fighters, thus contributing to Lebanon's collective memory.
- Creating a safe space for reflection and offering psychosocial support to former fighters.
- Reaching out to (former) combatants in other countries.

Beneficiaries

Lebanese society

GOAL 3: Strengthen the responsibility to protect the victims

(103) Facilitate young people's disengagement from violent groups. Work with young population who have joined violent extremist groups to channel their aim for change into constructive, nonviolent and inclusive activities and approaches.

GOAL 2: Reinforce education and resilience at local level

(59) Strengthen local capacities for violent extremisms prevention and community resilience to violent extremism. In order to identify, manage and leverage the local partnerships needed to prevent violent extremism, CSOs must analyse local contexts to understand them, conduct trust-building processes with partners and capacity development of endogenous structures.