

Stephen Hecht
Chief Executive Peacemaker
Million Peacemakers

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Thank you so much. Esteemed guests, good morning. What a great reminder that we just had of the urgency of taking action. Because we don't know how long we have, and lets all remember that we need to maximize the impact we have while we're on this earth. In the last two days we've been talking about the need for real dialogue. And when we have that dialogue which we require to achieve any of our SDGs, we inevitably will have conflict. So what we've developed is a tool to deal with conflict constructively. It's a simple yet powerful 3 step process which we call "Nonflict".

There was no word for resolved conflict, we had to come up with our own. Allow me to share with you the story of how I went from a businessperson to a peacemaker. And appropriately it started about 10 years ago at an inter-faith event.

I was always interested and challenged by the verse in Leviticus:19 and Mark:12:30, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Well how do you love your neighbor if you don't know them? If you don't know them you don't like them. And if you don't like them, how can you love them? So I decided to try bringing this verse to life. I was a member and still am a member of a business group called YPO. It's in about 130 countries, and just recently by the way, adopted the 5 P's that we're working on.

We took our members and their spouses and young adults, who are so important, to a Catholic church, and then a mosque, and then an orthodox synagogue - my synagogue - and at the synagogue, the moderator asked very tough questions of the rabbi, priest, and imam. When he got to the imam's question, it was "Why is it invariably Muslim people blowing themselves up, killing innocent women and children in the name of Islam?" It was very tense. And the Imam's answer was "I can start by talking about our differences and I might never get to our similarities. Or I can start by talking about what our three religions have in common with each other. And maybe, just maybe, the differences would take care of themselves. We pray to the same god, the three of us. We believe in the same holy land. Abraham was our forefather and yours. So we're related by blood."

When he started talking about those commonalities, the tension in the room, which was very high, went way down. The three of them started joking with each other. To finish the evening, we had people around each table stand up and hold hands, while the rabbi, priest, and imam said a prayer for peace. I was holding Father John's hand; his hands were trembling. Looking around the room there were tears in people's eyes. At that moment we had love in the room. We went from not knowing our neighbor, to love in 4 hours.

So after that event which was really powerful for me and for our members, they asked me to chair the education program for the entire Canadian region, and I wanted to take the learning of that event a step further to action.

A lot of us have conflict in our lives, I've had a lot of conflict in my life, I was also interested in geopolitical conflict. I thought I would bring in an expert to teach us how to resolve conflicts. I bought a dozen books on the topic, and I found them very difficult to get through. They're typically by PhDs for PhDs, very academic, no offense to PhDs, I know there are a few in the room, sorry. But I had a hard time reading them- I'm not an academic. And we needed something very practical that we could apply in our own lives, where we don't have to read the 950-page handbook - no offense - on resolving a conflict.

Around that time I was introduced to Dr. Amir Kfir who had brought together very conflicting groups of Turks and Armenians, Israelis and Arabs, Greeks and Turks, and Americans Jews and Muslims. And Amir agreed to work on this event, and together with a team of academics and practitioners, put together, he created a 3-step model called Nonflict, which is so simple it fits on the back of a card which you can all have after. We shared this with a group of 700 YPOers, and spouses, and young adults- our future, and our present - and it totally transformed their lives.

The conflicts that they had been dealing with which were very emotional and hard, they were resolving right there and then. So I thought let me try it on tougher conflict.

Let me go out of my own comfort zone as a Canadian Jew, to the West Bank. The other side of the Wall. My wife and stepson and I went there, and we met with a group of Palestinian activist women in a co-op in Qalandia, at the refugee camp. The founder, an 84 year old, had her first question for me; "You're from Canada. Your Prime Minister did not accept us as a state at the UN. What did the Palestinians do against Canadians?" I thought hard for a minute. And my answer was, "that's true, our Prime Minister did that. But I'm not a politician, I'm a business person that travels around the world. And all that I and the people I meet know about you is what we hear about in the media. Would you be willing to share your true story so that I could then share it when I travel?" And she said "ok".

We went around the table and they shared their stories and I took them through the three steps of the Nonflict way. Which is to understand ourselves and the other, to understand our shared reality, and then to co-create our ideal reality. By the time we got to the last step, and the question is "What can we do to overcome the obstacles that we can control or influence?" The founder came, she hugged my wife, Naomi, and she looked at me in the eye and said "thank you for being a friend to the Palestinians. We like what we learned. We are going to use it with our husbands. But more importantly, we are prepared to meet 15 Jewish Israeli women, and if you can get Obama, Netanyahu and Abbas in a room, we mothers won't let them out until there's a deal." At that point I realized I had a gift in my hand that I needed to share. They were willing to take a huge risk for freedom, so I left my career in real estate development and cofounded a non-profit called Million Peacemakers.

Our vision is a million people co-creating a culture of peace in the world. (By the way I registered Billion the same day as Million so we'll just have a party and change our name. We're working on it.) We're up to about 145 thousand so far in four years, and we believe in partnerships, we need that. For example, we work with Abhijit Pawar in India, who after using Nonflict in his company said I want to make a difference in Maharashtra province where Mumbai is. He's in Pune, and we created a group called **Tanishka Women** who we trained over 100,000 women to be empowered to make a difference in their personal lives and then in

their communities by taking action to make a difference using this process. He found it so successful, he then duplicated that with college students in the province in a program called Young Inspirators and we've trained about 24,000 college students in the last 2 years. So it's really having impact on the ground.

Since then we've also gone around much of the world with it. The book is in Spanish now, and Marathi for people in Maharashtra, and Hebrew. We're working on Arabic and French right now and I was in Japan recently and they want a Japanese version. We'll get there.

I want to share a story. One of the other groups I work with is at McGill, the International Community Action Network – ICAN. We bring together students of the Middle East to do their Masters in social work. I hosted the first retreat to teach them Nonflict, they were right off of the plane. We went around doing introductions, the person on the right said "I am Amit and I am a Jewish Israeli Zionist." The person on the left said, "I'm Adnan, I am a Muslim Syrian and all I know about you is that you are the enemy and you are not to be trusted." And Amit said "all I know about you is that *you* are the enemy and not to be trusted." So I paired them up to do Nonflict. And I stood by to watch. Within about ten minutes they realized the commonality they shared: that they both had lost their older brothers in the conflict. That commonality brought them together and they became brothers. Brothers in peace, which they still are to this day.

To finish- we believe that there is a great opportunity with religious leaders here to really transform your congregations, if you shared this. Imagine the difference you can make right now sharing effective ways of resolving conflict with your congregation; with young couples about to get married, how they could then have a much more harmonious relationship in marriage and be better role models to their children. And that would grow exponentially from generation to generation. Because learn from our parents how to deal with conflict. This act could have huge impact right away. We'd be honored to partner with any of you on achieving any of your SDGs. And I believe truly that together we can transform the world. Thank you.