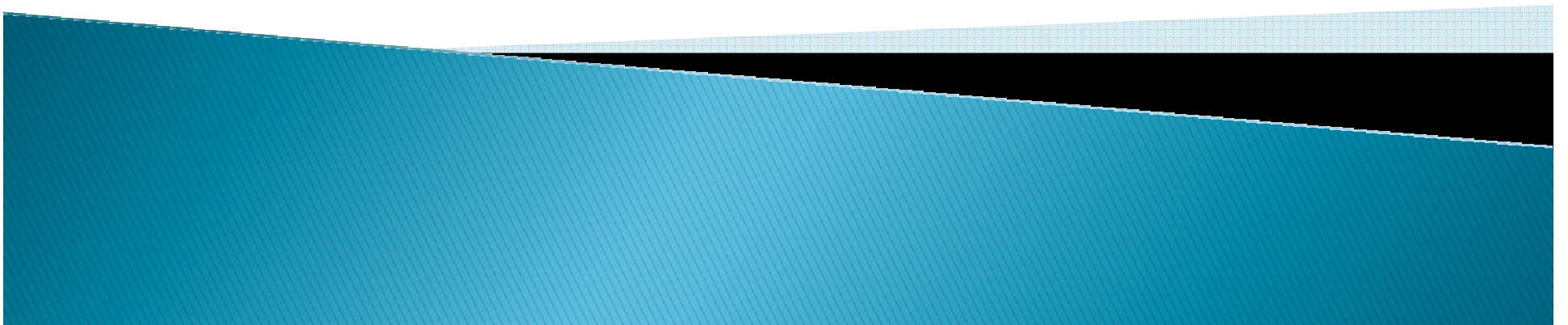


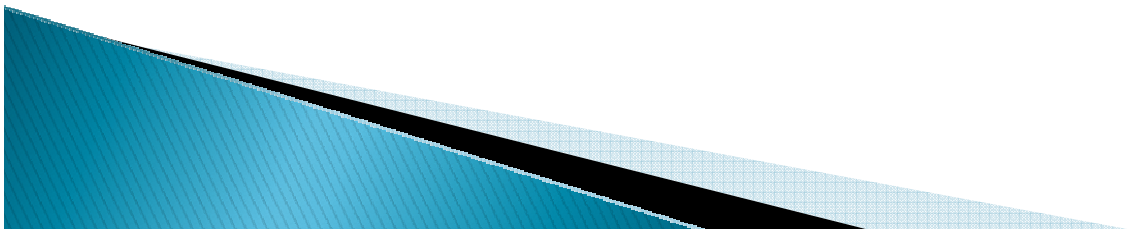
The Role of Education in Kurdish National Reconciliation

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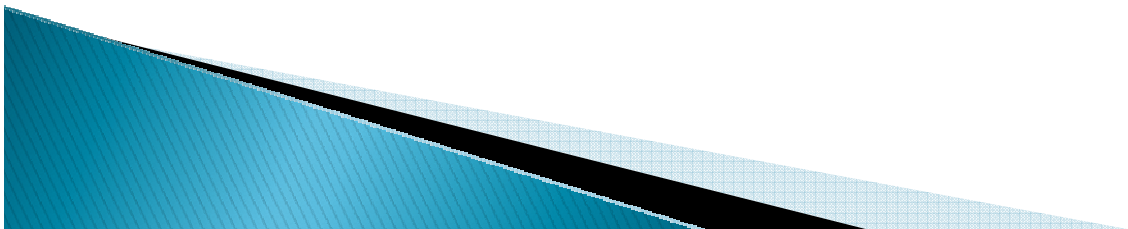
Introduction

- ▶ In the post–conflict zones, reconciliation between past and present is a must process in order to move forward to a brighter future.
 - Sometimes it is easy to accomplish it
 - while other times might take several generations before any sort of reconciliation occur.
- ▶ The notion was that governments could and should promote the process of reconciliation through political or diplomatic channels.



Introduction (cont.)

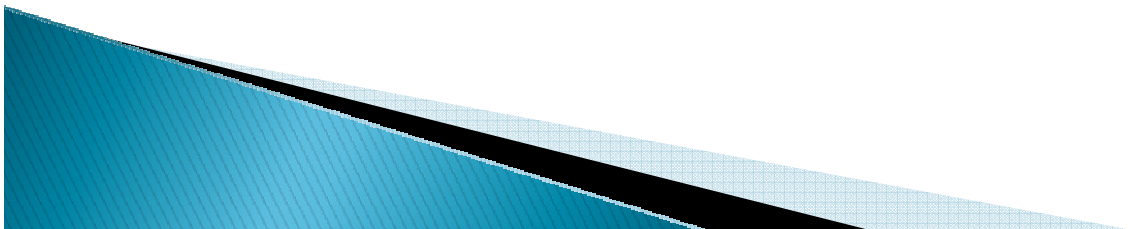
- ▶ But modern reconciliation processes must base on educational grounds.
- ▶ Education based reconciliation is rooted on win-win method which will be more stable and permanent.



Reconciliation


Reconciliation means:

- Condition in which members of a conflicting parties strive to find solutions to their differences.
- Find a gateway out of their painful past
- so that they can have a better and brighter futures.



Education and Reconciliation

Education can contribute to the reconciliation process by:

- ▶ changing attitude and perceptions among all segments of the society.
 - ▶ Especially, when the curriculum is based on protecting and promoting human rights from K-12 and beyond.
 - ▶ Education can also play a crucial role in enhancing loyalty to the land
 - ▶ and people become defenders and innovators of a success story of patriotism.
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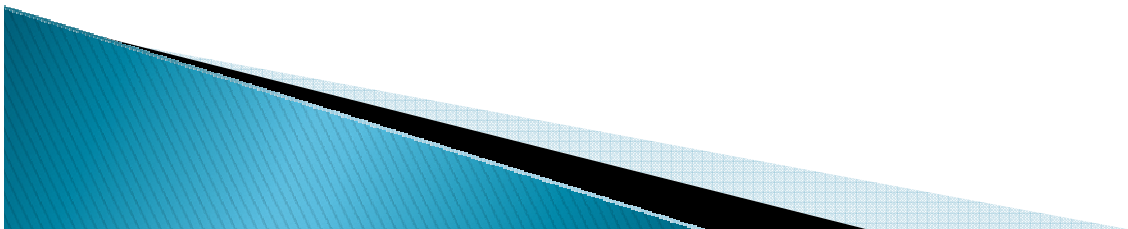
Young People as Agents of Peace

We need to start the process with youth and try to instill in their minds

- ▶ respect for all souls, responsibility towards family, social, and nation.

When we educate our young generations

- ▶ with integrity we empower them with peace mission—a notion that eventually becomes a pivotal component of the philosophy of their lives.

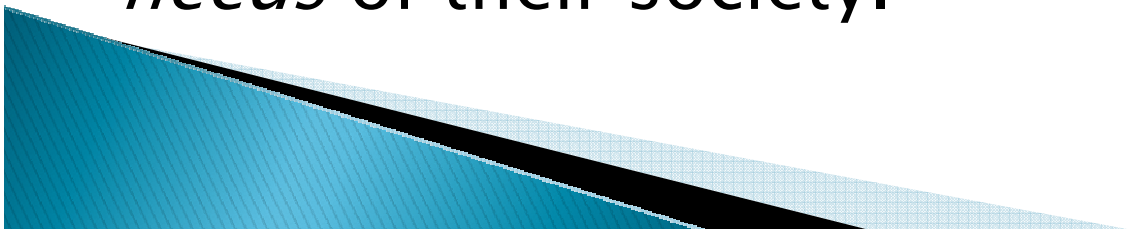


Training youth from multidimensional education

Youth are the future of their countries, therefore, our youth are the future of our nation,

- ▶ we need to educate them with integrity.
- ▶ holistically including economic, academic, cognitive, social, spiritual, and the love for humanity.

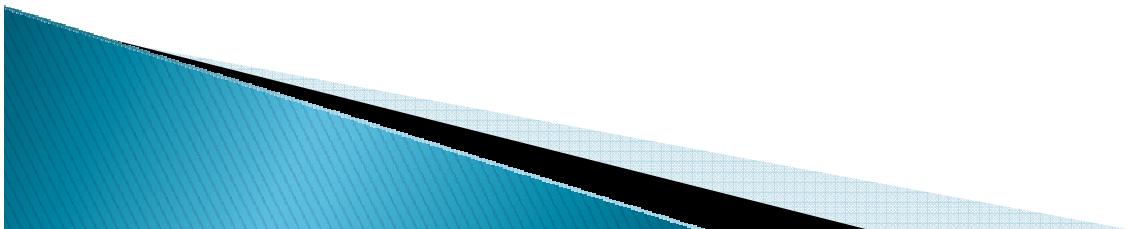
With such a concept in the education system everyone knows his/her position in the society and will do *his/her due diligence to meet the needs* of their society.



The School System

Must

- ▶ Have a curriculum that teaches dialogue and debate
- ▶ Prepare teachers who are capable to educate for the process of reconciliation.
- ▶ Need to teach reconciliation as being about winning both parties not one wins and the other loses.

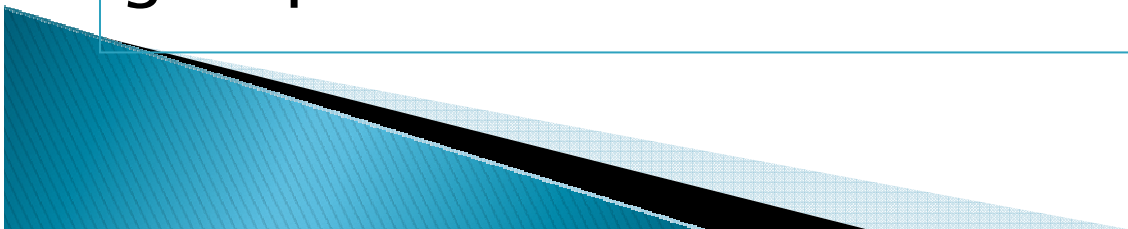


Education as a Guiding Tool for Kurdish National Reconciliation

Education can also be used as a guiding tool to

- ▶ avoid conflicts
- ▶ as a mechanism to build mutual respect and understanding.

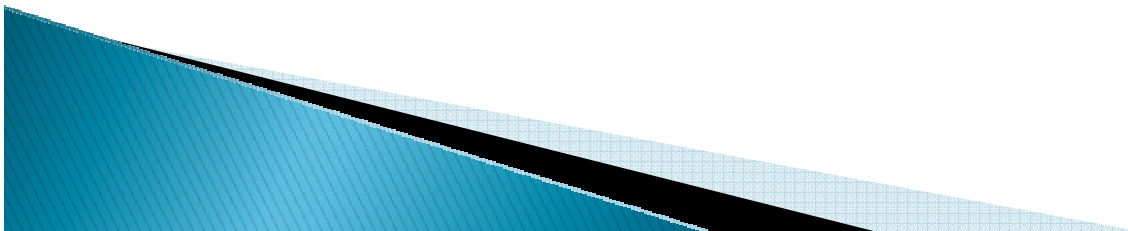
This method is used in Sri Lankan society among a variety of ways in order to create change in attitude vis-à-vis future generations in order to build harmony among various ethnic groups.



The New Education Plan

The implementation of a new education plan in Kurdistan as opposed to the existing traditional one.

To this end the key areas of reconciliation need to address poverty status, psychosocial and social intervention to serve the lower class of society.



The Education Development Program

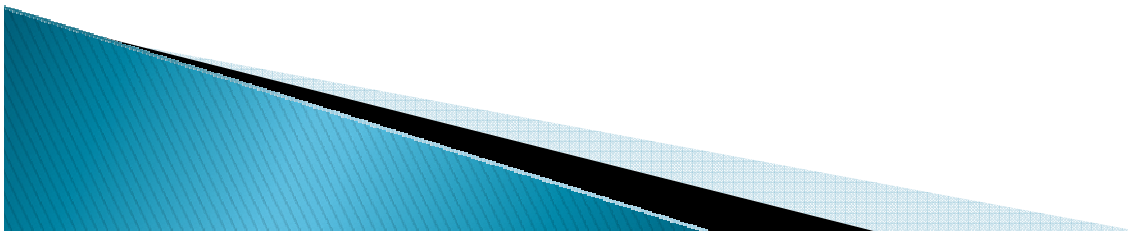
- ▶ More than service delivery, the ways to re-establish socialization and restore common identity,
- ▶ we need to identify the areas that need urgent attention, especially in the areas which conflicts are visible.
- ▶ Since conflict traps people in their past and prevent them from finding a way out to a prosperous future.



Conflict and Children

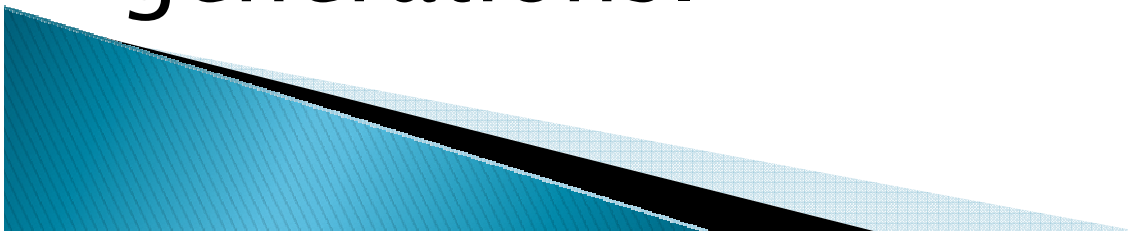
Conflict in Kurdistan has disrupted the education system. As a result, children have been prevented from building their own strengths and resilience.

Children who have been continually mistreated almost always experience lack of confidence in themselves including a fundamental loss of trust in others.



The Need for a Holistic Approach

Here the need arises for starting a holistic approach for national reconciliation in Kurdistan where the relevant state and non-state institutions work hand in hand in the revival of the education system and protect the younger generations.



The Challenge for Educators in Kurdistan

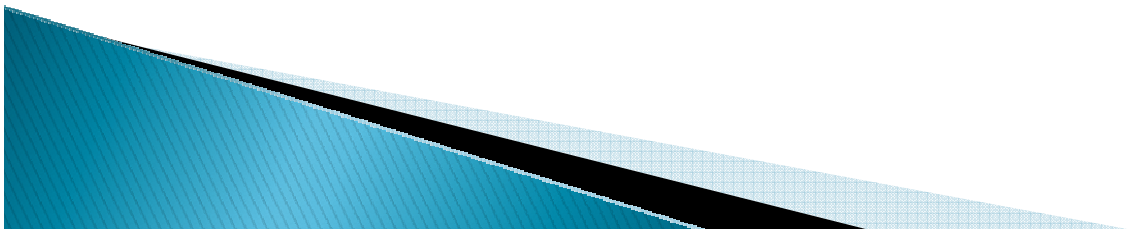
- ▶ Education plays a crucial role in finding the path out of a painful past.
- ▶ With good will, shared vision and value mission, it is important that Kurdish leadership find the way out in order to heal the wounds of the past.

An education system that can make young generation cultured, wise and thoughtful people that can reconcile the differences and build a harmonious society. This is our challenge as educators.



Reconciliation and Fundamental Values in Kurdistan

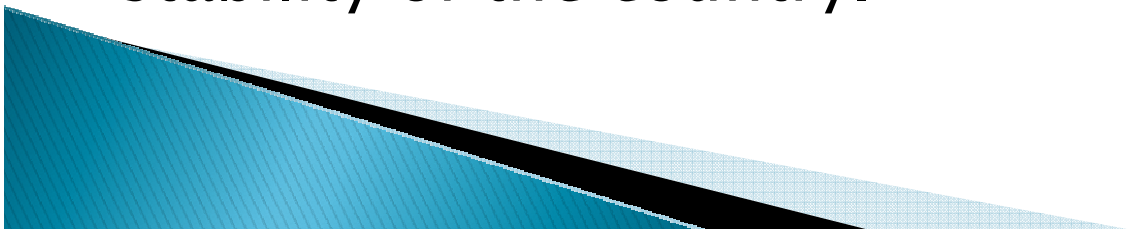
- ▶ Reconciliation must be rooted in fundamental values that are revered by all segments of the Kurdistan society;
- ▶ and classrooms could become clinical laboratories for implementing such values and practice empathy
- that would lead the students to become responsible fellow citizens.



Role of Education in Kurdish National Reconciliation

In conclusion,

- ▶ I suggest that Education Packs under the theme of using Education for National Reconciliation be introduced nationally into the schools
- ▶ where values and ethics– empathy, toleration, moderation, humanity, and skills to live in a multicultural and multiethnic country are taught to both teachers and students.
- ▶ Such a system will help inculcate a Kurdish identity among students and instructors ensuring future stability of the country.



THANK YOU

&

GOOD LUCK WITH
YOUR
CONFERENCE

