



Soliya: Your Partner in Global Learning & Inclusion

Soliya is a nonprofit organization that enables crucial conversations among young people across lines of deep differences to build skills, attitudes and relationships conducive to collaboration. We believe multiculturalism is the reality of the modern world and we must subscribe to certain values and master particular skills to make multicultural societies work. Partnerships with universities and colleges are at the core of how we enable such conversations and prepare the new generations for a multicultural society.

Our Values

At the core of our learning model lies a strong commitment to multi-partiality and authentic, non-conformist views of expression. We embrace diversity and opposing views when they fall within the boundaries of a value system driven by a promise to non-violence; freedom of speech and a spirit of inquiry; empathy and tolerance; individual freedoms and human dignity; open access to information and technology; broad participation in decision-making; and taking responsibility for our actions and expressions.

Our Mission and Vision

We envision inclusive and tolerant societies where diversity is embraced and conflicts are transformed into opportunities for collaboration. Our mission is to empower people to deal with conflicts driven by differences in identity, beliefs and values, with confidence and empathy. We pursue our mission by providing a niche in global learning that combines the power of dialogue with the reach of new media technologies.

Virtual Connect Program

The experience offers young people — often for the very first time — the opportunity to voice their opinions on a global scale, critically explore pressing and potentially divisive issues, and be exposed to vastly different perspectives in a safe environment. For 2 hours X 8 weeks, students in small groups, participate in synchronous virtual exchange in the presence of two trainer facilitators. They are guided to discuss current and historical events as they engage in interactive activities that complement classroom learning. Connect Program is integrated into accredited, undergraduate courses in disciplines such as international relations, political science, conflict resolution, history, cultural studies, and media-studies.

Virtual Facilitation Training and Practicum

Through Soliya's two-part Facilitation Training (4 hours X 5 weeks) and Practicum (2 hours X 8 weeks), graduate students, teachers and professionals gain indispensable dialogue facilitation and conflict resolution skills, which they hone by facilitating live cross-cultural conversations through Soliya's Connect Program. Facilitation Training and Practicum is integrated into accredited graduate courses or offered independently to professionals and to educators. UN-Habitat awards facilitators with a certificate upon completion of Soliya training.



Partnership with the United Nations

Soliya is an implementing partner of [the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations](#), an initiative of [Kofi Annan](#), the former UN Secretary General to explore and address the root causes of polarization between societies and cultures. The initiative currently has the support of [144 members](#), out of 118 are member states and 26 are international organizations. [UN-Habitat](#) awards facilitators with a certificate upon completion of Soliya training.

Partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Since 2009, Soliya and MIT's [Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory](#) at Brain and Cognitive Science Department collaborates on research and evaluation on the impact of Soliya's cross-cultural experience on behavior on individual and group levels. Students provide [quantitative and qualitative feedback](#) through MIT's customized surveys and games which to date has consistently pointed active learning by the participants.

Collaborative Learning Platform

Soliya's custom-built videoconferencing application and broader learning ecosystem enables meaningful engagement — both live and asynchronously — between participants across widely divergent time zones and bandwidth environments. The platform is designed for collaboration with features that balance power dynamics and maximize engagement. While our online platform requires video conferencing, our technology can host users from low bandwidth environments without impacting user experience from high bandwidths.

Curriculum

Our interdisciplinary curriculum combines best practices in conflict resolution and cross cultural communication to topics that cut across national and cultural boundaries. Our learning targets gaining self-awareness of own biases, assumptions and triggers; bridging opposing views; identifying a cross-cultural foundation for human values; asking pointed questions and applying critical thinking towards moving a group process from a stage of conflict to a stage of collaboration.

Cost and Pricing

Soliya is a non-for profit organization and welcomes partnerships towards cost sharing to make virtual cross-cultural exchange accessible and affordable for all. The cost covers lifelong access to the online learning platform and Soliya community where participants continue to connect and as an alumni; the technology set up and live technology support for each student; learning materials and the curriculum; facilitators, personal coaches, trainers; and the certification when applicable. Program participation rate per student is calculated based on a percentage of the credit-course it's being integrated into. Group rates are available for organizations, campuses and companies interested in Soliya's custom-designed training and programming.

Does Soliya offer scholarships?

We are pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships for our Facilitation Training and Practicum. If you are interested, send an e-mail to ayca@soliya.net explaining towards what goals you wish to apply your training. Students interested bringing Connect Program to their campus should contact their faculty. We offer free Connect Program pilots for select universities based on financial need, as well as demographic and geographic representation to balance diversity.

