

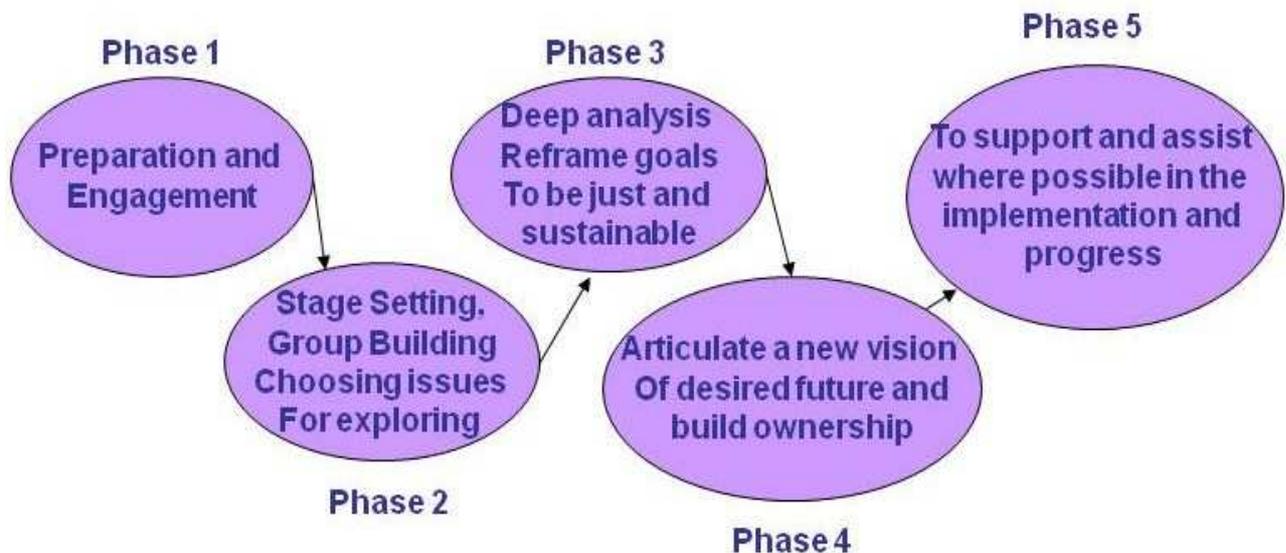
Introducing Kumi...

Kumi is a new facilitation method, designed to enable social transformation in situations of conflict. Using meaningful and honest dialogue, participants are guided through a series of steps that start with analysis and move through conflict engagement, to participatory planning.

Following an initial development stage, Kumi (roughly translated from both Hebrew and Arabic as 'rise-up') has been put into practice over the past 2 years in a series of workshops involving Israeli, Palestinian and European civil society organizations, as part of a European Partnership for Peace programme. We have trained over 35 facilitators (Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans). We have tested the approach in 14 different pilot workshops (4 Israeli, 4 Palestinian, 4 with bi-national coalitions, and 2 multi-national workshops). The project has now reached the stage where we feel we have a tried and tested method which can be applied in other contexts. Introducing Kumi into the UK is part of that process.

What is Kumi?

Kumi is a process which takes a group that is in a conflict situation, who are unable to organize themselves effectively, but who are interested in finding a way forward on a journey of exploration, of analysis and understanding, and of planning and action. The method consists of five phases



Each phase is designed to build on the one before it, although the exact order of some of the steps (especially those within the workshop) and the amount of time needed for each phase may vary depending on the needs of each particular group. A key feature of Kumi are the “doorways” between phases which provide a group the opportunity to reflect on what they have done and to decide if they are ready to move to the next phase.

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“concerned with the human factor in world development”

What makes Kumi unique?

- a) Kumi builds on three proven approaches to create its own flow as a method. It is slowly weaving around itself an individual framework of values, underlying norms, principles, assumptions, hypotheses, aims, a culture of practice and an intentional, self-regulating community of practitioners
- b) The method takes a holistic approach, addressing issues on the individual, group and societal levels, using a range of tools to analyse what those issues are
- c) It is not a neutral process- it encourages and supports activism. Kumi allows people to come to grips with (e.g.) power issues and then move on together and fight the system, not each other
- d) It is values based and action orientated
- e) Kumi has been tried, tested and shown to make a difference in Israel and Palestine, one of the deepest and most protracted conflicts in the world.
- f) It is an adaptable method which the participants design and own
- g) It includes both careful research to inform any intervention and tailored follow up to embed and sustain decisions made and agreements reached

What can we expect from Kumi?

We are still learning what Kumi can achieve, but results so far show:

- a) It enables individuals to gain a deeper understanding of themselves, the other conflict parties, and of the conflict itself, giving them confidence to forge new relationships and take fresh action
- b) It helps groups identify, understand and address together the core issues that they face both within themselves and with others, and to gain a deeper appreciation of their relationship with the conflict
- c) It demonstrates a new way of working together which inspires, motivates and encourages creativity
- d) It provides a vision to inspire action and a framework to support it
- e) It enables groups and individuals to challenge dominant discourses in society and suggest alternatives

Want to learn more?

For further information on Kumi, please visit www.ica-uk.org.uk/research

ICA:UK is running several events from late 2011 onwards which will introduce the Kumi method in greater detail; enable participants to explore and gain deeper understanding of different parts of Kumi; provide an opportunity for participants to consider how they might use Kumi in their own contexts and situations; serve as a “launch pad” for participant-led initiatives to introduce Kumi in their own conflict.

The events will be open for all, but participants from groups in conflict will be given preference to enable them to review the method critically and consider how they might apply it. For further information on these events please visit www.ica-uk.org.uk/introduction-to-kumi or contact Jonathan Dudding at jdudding@ica-uk.org.uk or (tel) 0208 314 1059