The Minds of Peace Experiment: A simulation of a potential Palestinian-Israeli public assembly

The Minds of Peace Experiment is a simulation of a potential Palestinian-Israeli public assembly. The assembly is a major Public Negotiating Congress that invites delegations from all walks of life to discuss, debate, and negotiate solutions for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is an important peacemaking tool that, together with other channels of peacemaking, can create the conditions for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This paper introduces the Minds of Peace Experiment and its practical implications. It includes theoretical background, a vision for an effective peace process and lessons from the first two rounds of the experiment which were conducted at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The experiment has been discovered to be a powerful mechanism that invites the people into the peacemaking process. It succeeds in creating peacemaking coalitions that revolve around the strong desire to replace the violent struggle with a peaceful means of negotiation. The question is: How to transform this peacemaking effect into a mass movement that can culminate in the establishment of a major Palestinian-Israeli Public Negotiating Congress?