

## CHECKLIST FOR IMPLEMENTING CONTACT

- Is the venue of the activity a neutral, safe space in which both communities can engage in dialogue? Bear in mind that bringing conflicting groups together is not easy for those involved. An inviting environment is one in which participants feel supported rather than judged, on impartial terrain.
- Have the activities been planned in such a way that approximation occurs gradually? For example, before working together in a joint endeavour, the communities might get to know each other, be involved in small discussion groups, etc.
- Have ground rules for the contact been established and clearly outlined to all participants? Some useful points to consider:
  - The importance of taking turns when expressing opinions, and to allow all to express themselves if they wish to.
  - The need to acknowledge the views of others, even if you disagree with them.
  - The centrality of avoiding disqualifying other opinions or being offensive.
  - The required willingness to change, and the understanding that change is sometimes a painful process.
- Are there provisions in place for participants to engage in meaningful, common goals? Some suggestions to address this:
  - Through discussion prior to the event, identify possibilities for activities that are neutral (in the sense that they would not benefit one group more than the other) and of interest to participants.
  - With all participants together, brainstorm on reasons why the activity will be beneficial to all.
  - Have participants make a list of the resources each group or community has, which they can bring in to the task.
- Have follow-up activities been planned? Consider these possibilities:
  - If the collaborative action has tangible results (for example, a booklet, artistic creations or the construction of a communal space), showcase and disseminate this widely among members of the groups who did not participate in the activity.
  - It is important to take advantage of the progress that has been achieved to set up new activities or to invite representatives of both groups to further initiatives.