Concept Note: The Peace Project — Local Action, Lasting Peace

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Applicant: Ali Aqsam, Centre for Youth Development & Engagement (CYDE)

Geographic Focus: Shikarpur & Sukkur, Sindh

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Context / Problem

The districts of Shikarpur and Sukkur, though deeply rooted in cultural diversity and spiritual heritage, have increasingly witnessed growing social divisions, intolerance, and reduced community cohesion. Rural youth and women remain excluded from meaningful civic and peacebuilding roles, while platforms for dialogue between communities of different faiths are rare or nonexistent. Mistrust, misinformation, and the absence of youth-led initiatives have weakened the social fabric of these regions. At the same time, there is tremendous untapped potential among young people who, when equipped with knowledge, leadership skills, and creative platforms, can become ambassadors of peace, empathy, and coexistence.

Proposed Solution (Overall Goal and Objectives)

Overall Goal: To cultivate a culture of peace, empathy, and interfaith coexistence through locally led, youth-driven, and community-centered initiatives in Sindh.

Specific Objectives:

- To build the peace leadership capacity of youth through experiential learning and dialogue.
- To promote interfaith understanding and collaboration among diverse social and religious communities.
- To strengthen grassroots ownership of peacebuilding efforts through inclusive, creative, and participatory approaches.

Proposed Interventions:

1. Capacity Building of 25- 30 Young People on Interfaith Harmony.
2. Develop 10-15 Social Action Projects.
3. Interactive Dialogue with community stakeholders including CSO's, religious leader' academia where young leaders will share their learnings and experiences.

4. Document at least 5 Case Stories.