

IDEAS BEYOND BORDERS PRESENTS

# The 2019 Semi-Annual Report

MISSION | PROGRAMS | SUCCESS

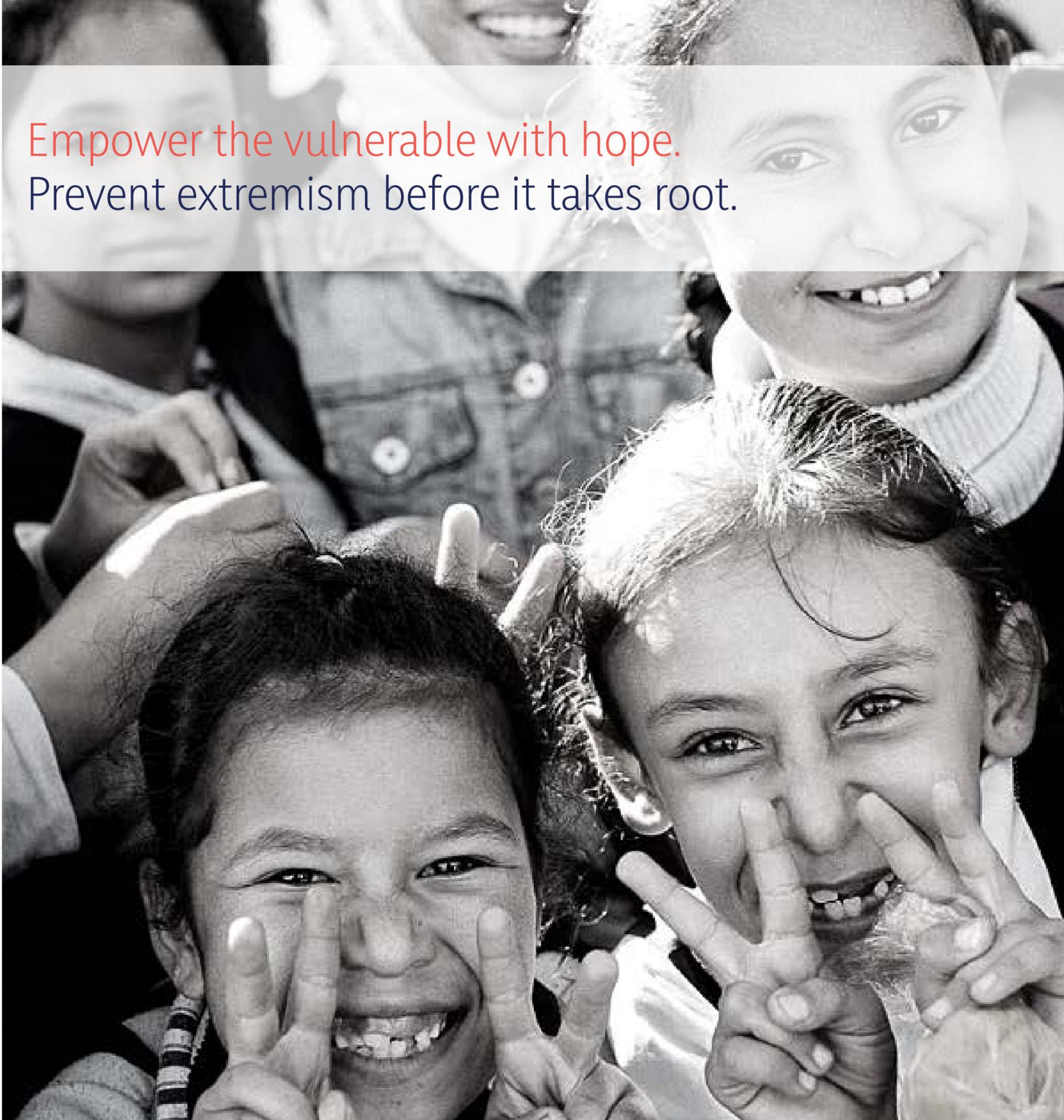


# OUR MISSION

Millions of people across the globe are denied access to perspectives that inspire and empower, fueling authoritarianism and extremism.

Ideas Beyond Borders (IBB) develops and implements international programs to empower individuals with knowledge often suppressed by authoritarian regimes and dictatorships or simply previously unavailable in the language. By encouraging youth and young adults to think critically about topics ranging from human and civil rights to science and reason, IBB is laying the groundwork for people to retain their cultural identities while questioning the status quo, pushing back against extremist hate and violence, and finding their own unique voice.

**We're Ideas Beyond Borders. Join us to make the inaccessible, accessible to millions across the globe.**



Empower the vulnerable with hope.  
Prevent extremism before it takes root.

# OUR IMPACT

**120+**  
countries  
reached

**2.4 million**  
people  
engaging  
online

**12**  
books  
translated

**1600**  
articles  
translated

Since September 2018, we've raised the Arabic Wikipedia ranking from the 13th to the 11th in available articles on Wikipedia!

**25+**  
translators  
certified

**3 million**  
words  
translated

**100s of**  
discussions  
sparked

**free online**  
distribution  
platform  
launched

**150,000**  
supporters in  
the MENA  
region

Keep up-to-date on the latest IBB news, updates, and successes by following us on [facebook.com/ideasB2](https://facebook.com/ideasB2)  
or subscribing to our newsletter and reading our blog at [ideasbeyondborders.org](https://ideasbeyondborders.org)!

# THE GLOBAL THREAT

The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) produces **45%** of the world's terrorist attacks, **58%** of the world's refugees, and **69%** of the world's battle related deaths. **Why?**

What conditions allow extremists and violence to thrive?

Eighteen of 23  
MENA countries  
have presses controlled by  
governments and religious  
influence.

Only a **single** Arab nation  
is classified as "FREE" - the  
rest are classified as  
NOT FREE.

Human rights abuses,  
crackdowns and  
imprisonment of press  
that are denied fair trials  
**have risen** in 2019.

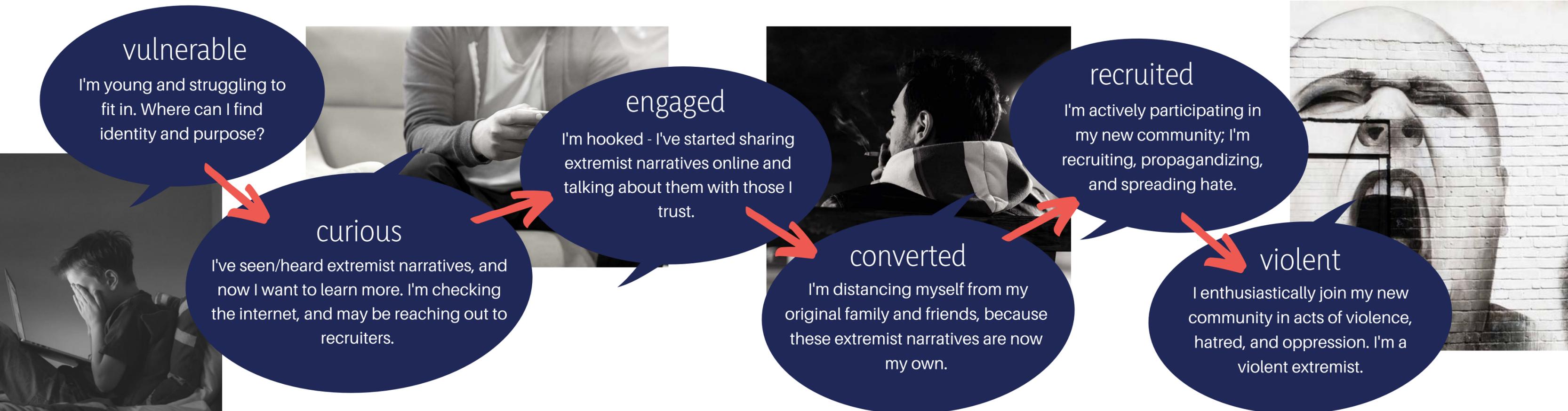
Authoritarian governments and extremist recruiters can control people in idea vacuums without alternative view points. How do we know a vacuum exists?

Only 0.6% of content on the internet is available in Arabic, but Arabic is the 4th most common language among internet users. There are more books translated into Spanish in a single year than into Arabic in the last 1,000 years. Arab publishing houses and press are controlled by figures with a vested interest in quashing sentiments that threaten their power, meaning content that IS available is frequently a single narrative with a narrowly targeted outcome.

Misinformation runs rampant, and diverse narratives in ideology, religion, culture, and identity are almost non-existent.

# OUR EXPERTISE

Ideas Beyond Borders designs and implements programs that keep youth and young adults off **the road to radicalization**. We provide access to alternative view points and empower them with hope for a better future. This means taking a hard look at the hows and whys of radicalization, while working hard to build civil society in regions that need it most. What pushes extremists from vulnerable individuals to societal threats?



Most anti-extremism and counter-terror organizations address individuals at the end of the spectrum - converted extremists that are ideologically primed to commit acts of hate and violence. **Ideas Beyond Borders targets people at the beginning of the radicalization spectrum to prevent extremism before its taken root and to save lives long before acts of violence can even be conceived.** We empower youth to say no to extremist recruiters.

# OUR PROGRAMS

# The House of Wisdom 2.0: The IBB Flagship Translation Program

Translated into Arabic as "House of Wisdom", the original *Bayt Al Hikma* refers to a Golden Age in the Middle East when ideas were openly shared and scientific discovery dominated conversation in the world's biggest library in Baghdad.

Bayt Al Hikma 2.0 is Ideas Beyond Borders' revolutionary translation program and distribution platform that aims to rekindle the pursuit of knowledge, enlightenment ideas, and scientific revelation across the MENA region. We work with regional translation partners located in Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan to translate and distribute content on controversial or banned topics, including civil rights, LGBT rights, secularism, human rights, scientific principles, famous artists, authors, and poets. We translate books, Wikipedia articles, movie subtitles, and more.

**We're making the inaccessible, accessible.**

Check out our newly launched website at [baytalhikma2.org](http://baytalhikma2.org)!

## Translated Books

Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker  
Waking Up by Sam Harris  
Letter to A Christian Nation by Sam Harris  
The End of Faith by Sam Harris  
Moral Landscape by Sam Harris  
Lying by Sam Harris  
Free Will by Sam Harris  
Islam and the Future of Tolerance by Sam Harris & Maajid Nawaz  
Radical by Maajid Nawaz  
I Wonder by Annaka Harris  
Annabelle & Aiden: The Story Of Life by JR Becker

## Translated Wikipedia Topics

Women Scientists  
Logical Fallacies  
Civil Rights  
Human Rights  
Womens Rights  
Conspiracy Theories  
Biographies  
Religion & Spirituality  
Philosophy  
Astronomy  
Physics  
Evolution  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Reproductive Rights  
Bias & Bias in the Media

# Why Our Translations Matter

“ When ISIS banned the internet in Mosul in June 2016, we became totally out of this world.

No tv...no cellphone...finally no net.

I had already expected they would ban the net so I wanted to keep Wikipedia with me offline.

Wikipedia had been my sweet spot to resort to in the midst of all the tension...depression ...and fear.

So I found a way to download one gigantic file of Wikipedia 2017 (in English) and it was about 5 GBs (without pics) and

I found a special app to get it to work on the phone.

Then I also managed to get the full Arabic version in the same way.

I spread it secretly to my friends who love reading, and to my aunt.

I had been reading in it till the last moments of the war.

”

Mustafa | Mosul, Iraq



# OUR PROGRAMS

Global Conversations is our online discussion forum, engaging over 2 million people and counting. We curate content specifically designed to spark lively, spirited discussion on controversial topics - from innovative technologies to people fighting for free speech around the globe.

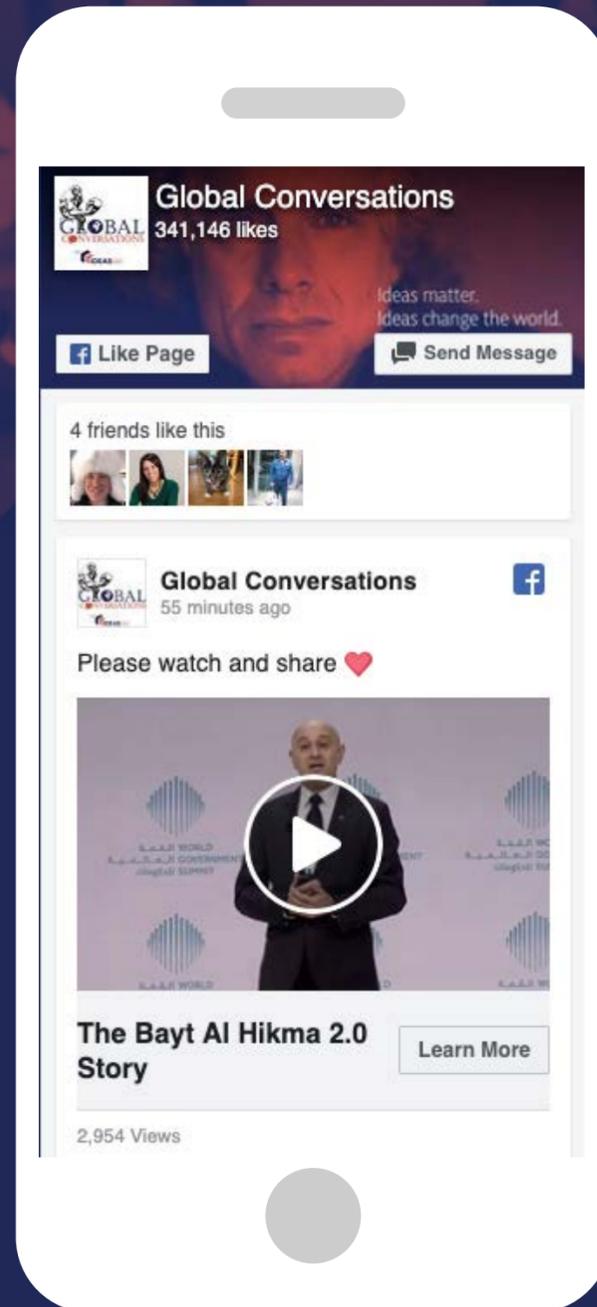
How does this advance our mission? By creating an online space where all ideas are welcome and dialogue is encouraged, we're exposing our visitors to wildly different paradigms in the hopes of expanding the conversation and their horizons.

When our community features such distinct voices, it spurs visitors to consider, debate, and understand alternatives to hate and terror-driven perspectives.

We have followers in 120+ countries, including across the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. They speak languages from across the globe, and we inspire 100's of discussions daily. We don't shy away from posting controversial topics in the hopes of elevating the conversation and getting our audience to engage in thoughtful, respectful banter.

## Global Conversations: The IBB Online Dialogue Program

a place where debate & discussion  
change minds and expand horizons



2.4M People Reached

40+ Languages Represented

120+ Countries Represented

20+ Posts Each Week

100's of Comments Daily

# OUR PROGRAMS

## Citizenship Values Education: The IBB Curriculum Program

In today's digital world, vulnerable youth face heightened exposure to extremists and their content. They're bombarded with extremist messaging on the internet and social media channels, and frequently suffer from internal conflicts of identity and belonging, inability to cope with distressed home lives, and a human longing to fit in.

The curriculum program focuses on capturing vulnerable youth turning them towards better narratives. It's a method of counter-extremism that relies on community, culture, and instilling values before youth even have the opportunity to connect with radical extremists. Education is a major, and often overlooked, component of the solution. The program also trains teachers to be a bridge between the curriculum and students while understanding and recognizing the signs of vulnerability as well as the precursors to radicalization.

**Enlightenment Thinking & Values | National Historical and Cultural Education | Pluralism, Multiculturalism, and Peaceful Cohabitation  
Assimilation without Loss of Cultural or Ethnic Identity | Intercultural Workshops, Meetings, and Discussions**

We work within and understand the unique cultural and demographic environment that influences vulnerable people before extremism takes root. We hold a uniquely informed and objective position to help craft a never-before-seen curriculum to fight the threat of extremism through the public education system. Ideas Beyond Borders can bring together key strategists, educational powerhouses, and the best counter-terrorism leadership to create a realistic, actionable plan.

### The Path Forward with Our Partners:



**DISCOVERY  
SUMMIT**



**CURRICULA  
DESIGN**



**CURRICULA  
DEVELOPMENT**



**CURRICULA  
DEPLOYMENT**

## OUR PROGRAMS

# Translators for Democracy: The IBB Post-ISIS Terrorities Program

**Ideas Beyond Borders is Making an On-the-Ground Difference - starting in Iraq with a University of Mosul Partnership and expanding to 10 universities in Iraq in the first year alone.**



IBB has just launched a new program that will work with universities in Post-ISIS and Iranian-dominated territories in Iraq to build ideological resistance against extremism. We're working with local universities to create a movement of youth that will cultivate freedom of speech, thought, religion, and expression while galvanizing their peers to do the same.

We've formed a partnership with the University of Mosul, but we're readily expanding. The state of Iraq is historically home to some of the most gruesome human rights abuses and oppression from authoritarians and extremists alike. Young adults in our target areas have grown up under ISIS, Al-Qaeda, or similar regimes and are accustomed to acts of violence, threats, and aggression when consuming, spreading or discussing individual freedoms or thoughts that differ from mainstream points of view. Information on human rights, women's rights, and democratic movements and institutions is inaccessible and often wholly unavailable due to active censorship and oppression.

**How it Works: 10 Universities | 480 Students Per Year | Economic & Social Empowerment**

At each University, a program coordinator will be selected from the faculty of the English & Translations Department. This coordinator will help IBB select and qualify students that will be tasked with translating materials that promote democratic and enlightenment values. IBB will coordinate and host events that translators will attend with their peers to discuss the translated materials. At the end of the program, each translator will receive a small stipend for their efforts, as well as a translator's certification from IBB and their partners.

# OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**MBN**

MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS, INC.



أنا أصدق العلم



**WIKIMEDIA LEVANT**

JORDAN • PALESTINE • SYRIA • LEBANON



**MALA**

MUSLIM AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



narratio.org

**TEDx JerseyCity**  
x = independently organized TED event



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نظرية التطور  
The Theory of Evolution

**KI**

THE KHALIFA IHLER INSTITUTE  
WWW.KHALIFAIHLER.ORG



mino danmark



**JUSTITIA**

University of Mosul in Iraq  
I Believe in Science  
Narratio  
Kurdish Wikipedia  
& More!

# Empowering Our Regional Translators with Hope

“ Across the region, the word you hear most often from the lips of young people is 'hopeless.’ ”

Founder of IBB | Faisal Saeed Al Mutar

Young adults in Iraq face crippling levels of unemployment and a steep uphill battle to re-establishing civil society following decades of rule by authoritarian regime, civil war, and later oppression by Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Restoring commerce and financial normalcy while rebuilding the region has proven difficult.

Unfortunately this trend is not unique to Iraq. From Yemen to Syria to Egypt, oppression and economic stagnation leave young adults with the same feeling of hopelessness.

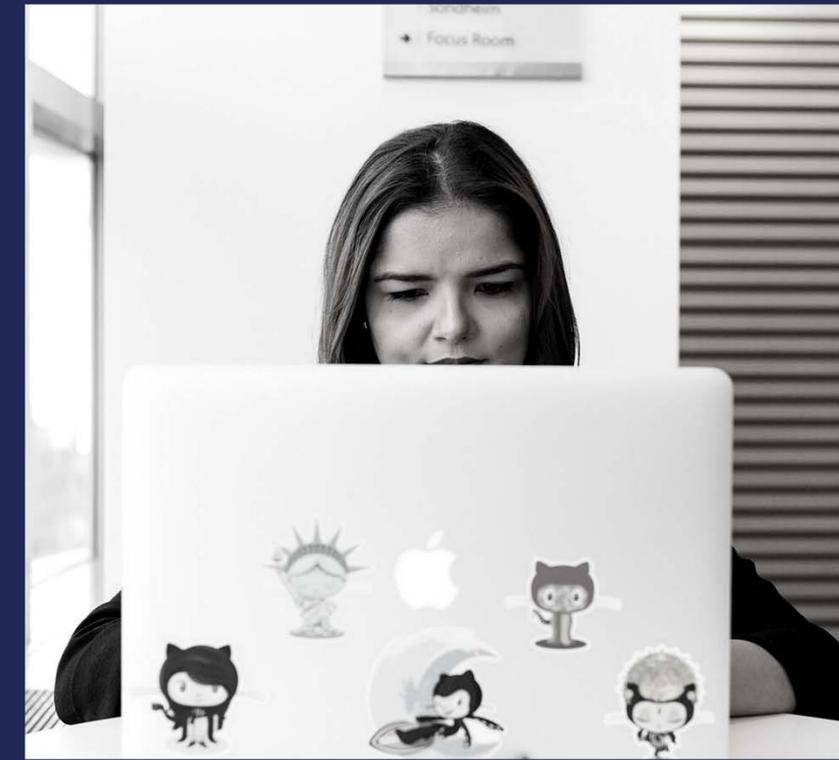
Ideas Beyond Borders has partnered with over 10+ global organizations to certify and empower each of the translators that work diligently to make inaccessible ideas accessible for Arabic speakers across the globe. Our staff works with them to distribute and verify certifications, help with cover letters and resumes, and pay our top-tier translators for their efforts.



# How IBB is Empowering Women Across the Middle East

“The greatest threat to extremism isn't drones firing missiles, its girls reading books.”

Nicholas Kristoff | The New York Times Journalist



Ideas Beyond Borders has made stalwart commitment to expanding women's rights in the region. We've translated over 100+ articles on women scientists, women's rights, and reproductive health and are working on creating a women's forum/platform that gives women a safe space to discuss, and access empowering materials. We're working to break down barriers on topics that are seen as "taboo" that reinforce restrictive gender norms in the Middle East. We've empowered over 30+ female translators, and have a gender ratio of 1:1 in our university programs. We partner with an advisory board that keeps us connected with women in communities throughout these territories.



# Why Your Donation Matters

Global terrorism has **peaked** over the course of the last decade. In 2017, the world witnessed **10,900 terrorist attacks which killed more than 26,400 people**. Of these attacks, **65% occurred outside the MENA region, including Europe and North America**.

In January 2018, 73% of Americans said **terrorism should be the top priority** for government officials and policies this year.

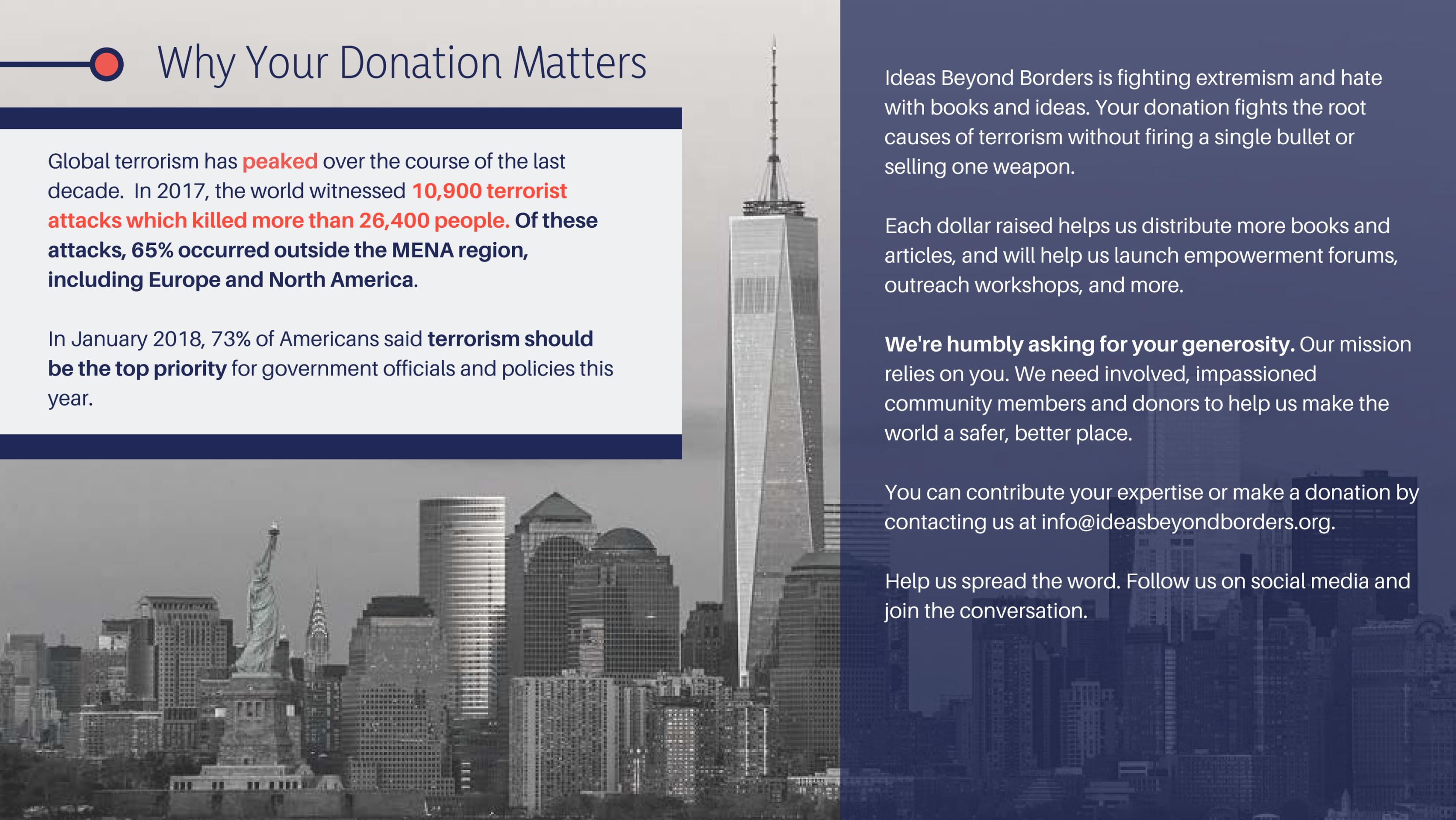
Ideas Beyond Borders is fighting extremism and hate with books and ideas. Your donation fights the root causes of terrorism without firing a single bullet or selling one weapon.

Each dollar raised helps us distribute more books and articles, and will help us launch empowerment forums, outreach workshops, and more.

**We're humbly asking for your generosity.** Our mission relies on you. We need involved, impassioned community members and donors to help us make the world a safer, better place.

You can contribute your expertise or make a donation by contacting us at [info@ideasbeyondborders.org](mailto:info@ideasbeyondborders.org).

Help us spread the word. Follow us on social media and join the conversation.





# Thank You from Our Founder

When I left Iraq, I vowed to dedicate my life to helping prevent the extremism that almost destroyed my family.

I founded Ideas Beyond Borders with the hope of changing the world. With your help, we continue to make the inaccessible, accessible for millions of people who need it the most.

Whether you've interacted with us on Facebook, translated our authors' works, worked with us collaboratively on programs or translations, served on one of our boards, or contributed small or large donations—we appreciate you, we thank you, and we're looking forward to everything we can accomplish together before the end of the year.

Together, we are empowering the vulnerable with hope and preventing extremism before it takes root.

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