

# IMPACT

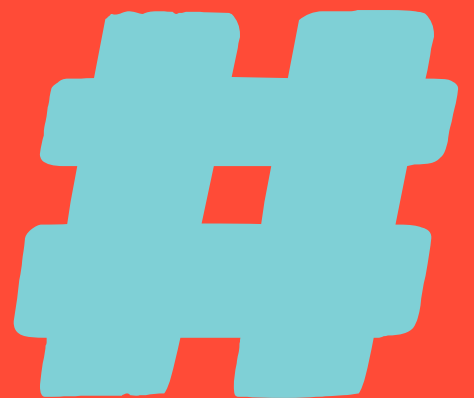
TRANSFORMING  
CONFLICT WITH ARTS  
AND CULTURE

# LAUNCH REPORT



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# INTRO DUCTION

# IMPACT'S HOME OF HOPE

'Home of Hope' is a welcoming, diverse space for collective sharing, learning and solidarity. It aims to be an inspiring and informative platform for issues related to human rights, social justice, peacebuilding and conflict transformation through arts and culture. Members form part of a thriving community that fosters meaningful relationships for co-creation, peer learning and solidarity, where people can share knowledge, build community, and feel supported.

## Who is it for?

The IMPACT platform is for artists, researchers, cultural practitioners, community leaders and those working towards peacebuilding, human rights and social justice. It will provide a space to gain and share knowledge as well as connect with each other. It is also a platform to inform policymakers and funders of current knowledge and practice internationally, to positively influence policies and fundraising.

## What will it do?

- Provide a **learning environment** including stories, methods and approaches that could enrich thought and practice, leading to positive change in communities
- Consolidate **existing knowledge, networks and resources** as well as expand the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation
- Foster **collaboration and co-creation**, to grow community between artists, academics and cultural practitioners
- **Advocate for the role of arts and culture** to address conflict, human rights and social justice issues
- Build a community that promotes and creates **solidarity** for people, where they have the space to pause, show **care**, and support one another.

# HOME OF HOPE CONT.

## Why is it needed?

The world today is feeling more and more polarised, with growing instances of local and regional conflicts escalating, as well as a rise in authoritarianism and a rollback on human rights and freedoms.

The ecosystem of arts, culture and conflict transformation remains fragmented, with members of the community feeling isolated and disconnected geographically and thematically. There is an appetite to learn from and engage with like-minded people, but a lack of opportunities and platforms to do so.

IMPACT has been addressing this gap for some time through virtual events series (Creating Hope Together, Conflict Kaleidoscope, and Solidarity Loom), peer learning activities (Hope Hive), and sharing human stories (Arts for Humanity Autobiographies - AHA Stories).

Following feedback from our virtual events, surveys, and conversations with partners, IMPACT held a development workshop in Paris in September 2025, which led to the creation of the Home of Hope. The platform will not only build a community online, but also encourage in-person gatherings and connections.



# RESOURCE HUB

As part of Home of Hope, we have also launched a Resource Hub including resources from across the world on arts, culture and conflict transformation. It is a read-only open-source database including key research, organisations, events, and creative content. Contributions are welcome via the online form here.

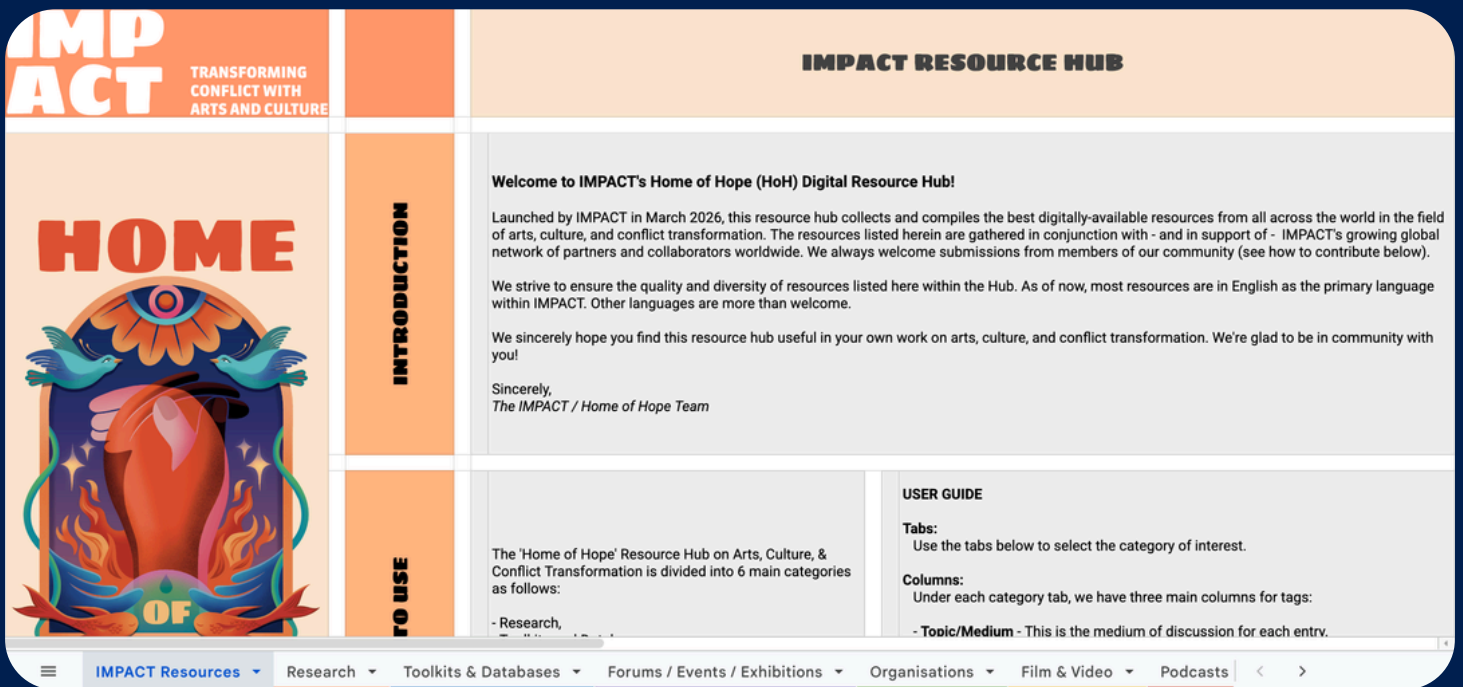


Image from the Resource Hub interface.

# HOW TO JOIN

We are inviting people to join the platform who want to learn, are interested in sharing and connecting with others, looking for inspiration, wishing to show solidarity, and eager to be part of a community.

Home of Hope is hosted on the WhatsApp Community platform, where you can share updates and info, ask questions, build connection and solidarity, and be part of a supportive community. You can join via the request form below!

**Join  
Home of Hope  
here**

Once you have joined the WhatsApp Community platform, you can join one or all of the four groups: Networking, Creative Approaches, Care, Well-being and Solidarity, and Opportunities.



# LAUNCH EVENT

# HOME OF HOPE LAUNCH EVENT

As part of the International Community Arts Festival - ICAF in Rotterdam, 25-29 March 2026, we launched the *Home of Hope*. We held a two-hour interactive session, introducing IMPACT's work, outlining the new platform, and engaging participants in the three main groups of the community: Care and Well-being, Creative Approaches and Practices, and Opportunities. The 30 event participants were divided into three groups on a 20 minute rotation to experience each session. The session finished with a call to join the online *Home of Hope* community.

ICAF was the perfect launch pad for *Home of Hope* as a place that brings together the global community arts sector and explores how art can create connection, foster empathy and open space for collective imagination. This year's theme was "Space for Imagination", which directly aligned with IMPACT's ideology that arts and culture act as both a creative and imaginative tool, as well as tangible approaches to conflict transformation and peacebuilding. *Home of Hope* supports this mission and acts as a community platform to bring people who share this ideology together. Learn more about ICAF [here](#).



ICAF



# IMPACT OF THE EVENT

Within the first month post launch, *Home of Hope* has gained 70 new members from 25 countries around the world. This exposure is an excellent starting point for our new, thriving community. Beyond engagement, this event was essential for bringing *Home of Hope* to life, and showcasing the power of community, meaningful connection, and sharing space with like-minded people; it helped illuminate how online communities can also flourish and be enriched.



**70 new members**



**+25 countries**

# IMPACT OF THE EVENT CONT.

The *Home of Hope* platform and launch event were promoted on IMPACT's social media via Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn as well as in our newsletter. These posts gained traction and received a lot of engagement. Three Instagram posts in particular received a high volume of engagement\*:

## Collaboration post with Samya Arif, logo designer:

- 4665 views
- 175 likes

## Profile Highlight from Seba Kourani, facilitator:

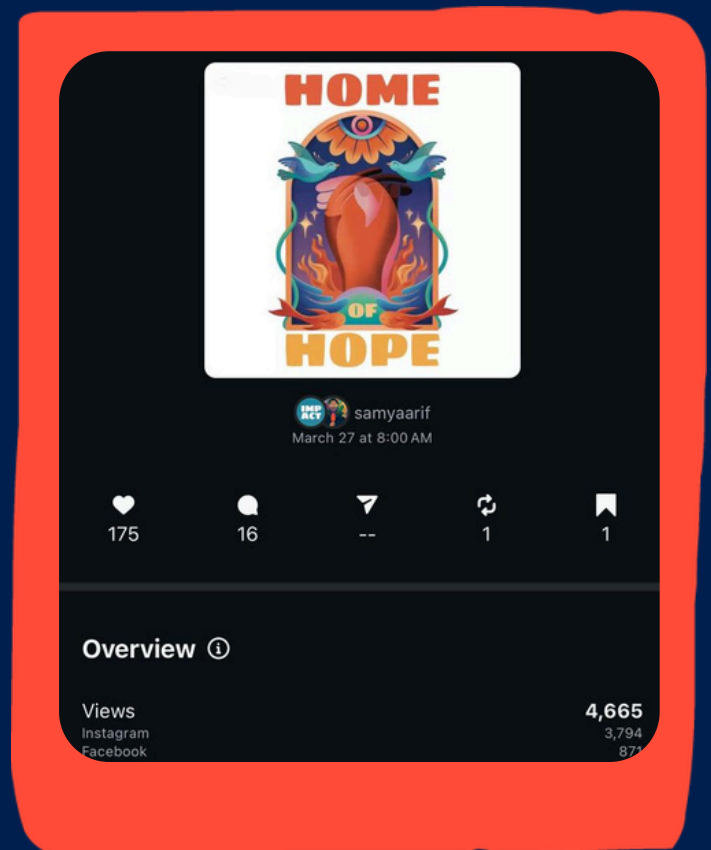
- 806 views
- 403 accounts reached

## Event Recap Post

- 582 views
- 320 accounts reached

## IMPACT Newsletter:

- Launch of *Home of Hope*:
  - 550 opens (23% open rate)
  - 103 clicks
- Post launch event:
  - 529 opens (30% open rate)
  - 123 clicks



# BEHIND THE SCENES

The making of IMPACT's *Home of Hope* launch event was a collaborative process. Much like the community platform is designed for a diverse audience intersecting a variety of fields, our team of international facilitators from various backgrounds worked together to create and deliver the event.

Over the course of three months, this team met online to work on the event from formulating the outline, coming up with interactive activities, brainstorming meaningful engagement, and determining how to bring the spirit of *Home of Hope* to life in an interesting, engaging manner.

These sessions also helped solidify what each main group would entail and who it would be directed towards (See more on page 12). It was through these collaborative sessions that we solidified each main group of Home of Hope.

Throughout this process, there was also a lot of logistical work to be done, from coordinating travel and accommodation for the international facilitators to the event, setting up and trialling the WhatsApp community platform, informing our network, and creating social media content.



Our team of facilitators. Photo credit: IMPACT

# MAIN GROUPS OF HOME OF HOPE

Each main group of Home of Hope represents one of the three major platforms members can join on the online community. We used these main groups to structure the workshop, allowing participants to engage in each aspect of Home of Hope on a rotation.

 **Creative Approaches**

 **Care, Well-Being, and Solidarity**

 **Opportunities**

# CREATIVE APPROACHES

The Creative Approaches aspect serves as a space for exploration, exchange, and experimentation. It brings together artists and practitioners interested in harnessing the arts as an avenue for social change and peacebuilding. By sharing practices and testing different creative approaches, this group aims to help members learn from each other and expand how artistic work can engage with communities, foster dialogue, and contribute to meaningful transformation.

This part of the workshop was created by Seba and Dessa, and was structured around two main pillars: **Hope** and **Play**. The intention was to bring connection, playfulness, and expression into the space through simple games and creative exercises. Gradually, the session built toward the idea of movement and the collective act of imagining and building a Home of Hope together.

The session ran with three different groups, and each one was interesting in its own way. Participants played, interacted, and each group had short reflections around the meaning of play, togetherness, and shared hope.



Photos from the Creative Approaches session. Photo credits: IMPACT



**One special moment happened during one of the games, when another participant and I realized that we shared a similar level of hope. Through our discussion, we discovered that we were both “seeing the world from our window,” which opened a reflection on how we understand one another without always knowing the full background behind what each person sees or carries**



**Seba Kourani, Home of Hope  
Facilitator**

# CARE, WELL-BEING, AND SOLIDARITY

The Care, Well-Being, & Solidarity group serves as a space to pause, share, and support each other. The idea is to bring what you're carrying — questions, reflections, frustrations, or simply how you're feeling. Diverse perspectives are welcomed, and nurturing care and solidarity as collective practices remind each other we're not alone.

This workshop was built around collectively weaving a loom. The different threads were meant to represent the systems we work inside: funding structures, institutions, oppression, injustices, violent conflicts, time pressure, precarity, etc.. Each participant chose the type of thread that best resonates with their ideas or their questions related to this session, their work, and themselves.

The use of the loom enabled conscious and reflective participation. Among the participants, interesting images and concepts emerged to discuss the theme—quite distinct from one another, reflecting each participant's background. At the same time, the loom dynamic, passed from hand to hand, allowed small exchanges to arise: some more amicable, others more tense, but all interesting.

There were a few recurring associations, for example yellow ribbons to symbolise positivity and hope. One participant identified the threads falling outside of the loom, and wanted to tie them together and to the centre of the loom as a symbol of bringing those on the margins centre stage. Another chose to tie his string to the loom itself, recognising the importance of framing and structure to holding the space for everything else.



Photos from the Care, Well-being, and Solidarity session. Photo credits: IMPACT

# OPPORTUNITIES

The Opportunities aspect seeks to serve as a space to find meaningful and beneficial opportunities, discuss how you find and engage with opportunities, ask for and/or share advice, and support one another. IMPACT imagines this space as an engine for circulating opportunity that intends to be more than a passive announcement board. We want to promote participatory action in what is shared and discussed to build community and solidarity. In this regard, our interactive session on Opportunities involved participation, sharing ideas, and generating feedback.

This session was divided into three core parts, the first part entailed asking participants to share a major opportunity they accessed and how they accessed it. We also asked participants to think about what opportunity they are looking for, and what is one they can offer to emulate the circulatory nature of opportunity that IMPACT wants to represent within Home of Hope. The aim of these questions was to understand where opportunity comes from in the field and how opportunity is both something we have and want.

The second part was a collective brainstorming session on defining what opportunity means within this field, to grasp what individuals see as important when understanding opportunity. The final part of the session was feedback led. We asked participants to share how they would like opportunities to be communicated with them on the Home of Hope platform. This feedback will help to shape the Home of Hope platform for the community it was designed for.



OPPORTUNITY @ ACCT  
?

collaboration	exchange
something <u>new</u>	finding
access	→ wealth
meaningful engagement	transform
→ thinking partner,	everyday aspects
critical engagement	of your life to
	act + culture
firm, rooted, local	↓
ethical / anti-capitalist	methodology,
	practice

Communication strategy

balance - connection, not info overload

Slowed down communication  
→ forum based - develops overtime

Space to critically look at info  
→ eq. grants

○ Heavy space for discussion

Timeline

# NEXT STEPS

IMPACT sees the launch event as a catalyst for Home of Hope's potential. It was the first step in building a global community and showcasing the power of bringing people together. In person events like this one can enrich the online community IMPACT has created, by bringing aspects of it to life and reaching new groups of people. This new network of people can help grow the online community and garner input for the Resource Hub.

This event also enabled Home of Hope to evolve for the better. Through real interactions with people and feedback, IMPACT can make the platform better suited to what people in the community want.

The launch event was the first space that IMPACT platformed Home of Hope. Next, IMPACT will be shared at [The Caux Arts and Peace Encounters 2026](#), a living residency laboratory where peace practitioners and artists come together to explore how creativity, empathy, and imagination can transform peace building practice. Another space IMPACT has on the horizon, is the potential opportunity to attend the Build Peace conference and [Geneva Peace Week](#) and continue to share the Home of Hope Community platform.

The success and achievements of the launch event for Home of Hope can act as an example for future events, funding, outreach, and opportunities related to the platform.



**EXTRA  
INFO**

# ASSOCIATED MATERIAL

Check out extra material related to Home of Hope here:

[Resource Hub](#)

[Community  
Agreements](#)

[Get Support](#)

# EVENT FACILITATORS

This launch event brought together a wonderful group of international facilitators to bring the essence of both IMPACT as a diverse global organization and Home of Hope, a welcoming community and space shared by all to life.

[See more about our facilitators here](#)



**Seba Kourani**

Seba is a Beirut-based theater practitioner working at the intersection of art, community, and social change.



**Ezgi Yilmaz**

Ezgi is the Business Development and Fundraising Manager of Salt in Istanbul, and is a member of the IMPACT Board.



**Dessa Quesada-Palm**

Dessa is a theatre maker, educator and Board Member of IMPACT from the Philippines.



**Armine Avetisyan**

Armine is IMPACT's program manager and a peacebuilding practitioner.



**Victoria Gandini**

Victoria is a cultural worker, writer, teacher, and musician. As a consultant, she supports artists, organizations, and public and private institutions.



**Rosanna Lewis**

Rosanna is IMPACT's Senior Advocacy Manager, developing projects, managing relationships with partners, and fundraising. She has over 10 years' experience working for the British Council.



**Rachel Hierholzer**

Rachel is the Event Coordinator for IMPACT, with a focus on the Home of Hope initiative and is a researcher on migrant rights.

# LOGO

Our beautiful Home of Hope logo was created by Samya Arif, a Karachi-based visual artist, illustrator, and graphic designer whose work explores female perspectives within social and cultural landscapes. Samya designed the Home of Hope logo, encompassing captivating visuals and iconography representing different aspects of home, peace, and community. You can find Samya here:

- Webpage: [www.samyaarif.com](http://www.samyaarif.com)
- Instagram: @samyaarif and Facebook: @samyaharif
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/samyaarif](http://www.linkedin.com/in/samyaarif)



# IMPACT

IMPACT is a diverse global organization advocating for arts and culture to transform conflict and build more creative, inclusive societies.

We bring people together and raise awareness of diverse voices and contexts through events and programs. We support those delivering impactful work through capacity building, making connections, and sharing their practice and learning. We learn from existing knowledge to develop useful resources, and explore cross-cutting and systemic issues linked to past and ongoing conflicts. We collaborate with partners and networks, and reach wide audiences, to make a lasting difference to people's lives and experiences.

Registered as a not-for-profit in the US, with an international Board of Directors, IMPACT is currently receiving support from Humanity United and private donors. Past funders include the Fresh Sound Foundation, Community Arts Lab of Porticus and the Mellon Foundation.

Find out more: [www.impactart.org](http://www.impactart.org)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **Home of Hope ideation workshop, Paris, September 2025:**

- Laura Alexander
- Dan Boyden
- Lina Kirjazovaite
- Rosanna Lewis

## **Home of Hope creator:**

- Kit Nicholson

## **Home of Hope working group:**

- Armine Avetisyan
- Victoria Gandini
- Rachel Hierholzer
- Rosanna Lewis
- Dessa Quesada Palm
- Ezgi Yilmaz
- Seba Kourani

## **Home of Hope event coordinator and community manager:**

- Rachel Hierholzer