



United Nations Association
of the United States of America

San Francisco and Marin County Chapters

March 6, 2008

John Connolly, Executive Director
Institute for Public Dialogue
2310 Marinship Way, # 16
Sausalito, California 94965

Dear John,

I am delighted to write a letter of endorsement for the Institute for Public Dialogue and specifically for the Institute's "Public Talks" proposal to the United Nations and the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee. As president of the United Nations Association of San Francisco and Marin County, I recognize the importance of encouraging an international conflict resolution process that is transparent, fair, structured and educational as a vehicle for resolving differences. The "Public Talks" process, as you've outlined it, accomplishes this in a way that encourages an informed and healthy debate between adversaries. It is my hope that the United Nations will seriously consider adopting this process.

Unfortunately there are many ongoing conflict situations where behind the scenes negotiations stall and either fail completely or fail to achieve lasting results that restore peace, stability, and dignity to all involved. The "Public Talks" Challenge Document process outlines an approach that not only can achieve very different results, but can educate the public in the process.

I wish you every success in gaining public support for this innovative and much needed process.

Thank you,

Kimberly Weichel
President