

## Teaching and Learning Experience Sharing (TALES) Workshop

# Reconciling Aggrieved Parties: The Role of Tolerance Education



## Dr Rabbi Abraham COOPER

*Associate Dean, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles*

### Date

**23 Sep 2019 (Mon)**

### Time

**1:00 to 2:15 p.m.**  
(light lunch from 12:45 – 1:00 p.m.)

### Venue

**ACC209**  
2/F, Jockey Club Academic Community  
Centre, Baptist University Road Campus

### Biography

Rabbi Abraham Cooper is the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a leading Jewish human rights organization with over 400,000 family members. Born in New York in 1950, Abraham Cooper has been a longtime activist for Jewish and human rights causes on five continents. For three decades, Rabbi Cooper has overseen the Wiesenthal Center's international social action agenda and worldwide promotion of tolerance education. He is widely recognized as a pioneer and international authority on issues related to Digital Hate and Terrorism. Rabbi Cooper's trailblazing work in Asia has helped counter negative stereotypes about Jews and open new venues in dialogue and intergroup relations in Japan, South Korea, The People's Republic of China, India, and Indonesia. His editorials have appeared in The Washington Post on Faith, the Huffington Post, Foxnews.com and have also been published in newspapers around the world.

### Abstract

Can aggrieved parties torn apart by ideology and historical difficulties reconcile? Yes, through hard work and a sustained commitment to honesty, mutual respect and a commitment to looking towards the future while not forgetting the lessons of history.

#### **Enter the role of tolerance education**

Tolerance education can help enlighten aggrieved parties of one another's concerns, fears and aspirations. It can challenge relevant actors to understand the positions and unique circumstances of the "other side" while also observing their dignity and universal rights.

Grasping the historic and contemporary contexts of disputes can help feuding groups confront their own prejudices and break down barriers to understanding between peoples.

Tolerance education also reminds us of the consequences of intolerance and of the failure to confront discrimination in all its forms.

A devotion to continued learning and a search for the truth also plays a role in the promotion of tolerance and understanding. This requires both learning from the past and committing to act to address the challenges of our time.

Disputes between groups at loggerheads involve human beings, and each person must learn to challenge their assumptions and prejudices while also taking responsibility for their actions.

Tolerance education takes us back to first principles, giving different groups the tools they need to work and live peacefully among one another.

By raising awareness and building the skills to work through disputes and discord, tolerance education can help each of us see one another differently than before, re-examine our roles and recommit to transcending differences peacefully. In our increasingly diverse and complex global society, tolerance education is as important as ever in strengthening our ethical foundations, leadership practices, bias-free decision making and conflict resolution skills.

### Enquiries and Registration

For enquiries:  
**(852) 3411-7231**

Please visit  
<http://chtl.hkbu.edu.hk/regworkshop/login.php>  
and register now!

