



IDEAS BEYOND BORDERS PRESENTS

# The 2018 Annual Report

MISSION | PROGRAMS | SUCCESS

A close-up portrait of Steven Pinker, a middle-aged man with light brown hair and a beard. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The lighting is warm and slightly reddish-orange, creating a dramatic effect. The background is dark and out of focus.

Ideas matter.  
Ideas change the world.

Steven Pinker  
Harvard University Professor &  
Ideas Beyond Borders Advisory Board Member

# 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. 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.



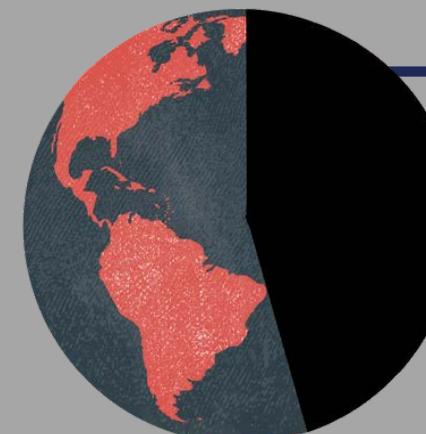
PHOTO: Students in Iraq celebrate the first day of school a few weeks after liberation from ISIS.

# THE GLOBAL THREAT

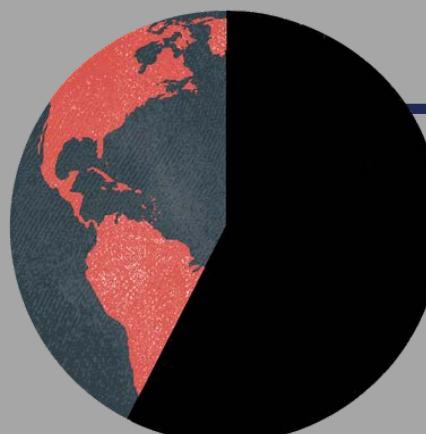
According to the 2016 United Nations Arab Human Development Report:



The MENA Region is home to **ONLY 5%** of the world's total population, but it produces:



**45%**  
of the world's  
**terrorist attacks**



**58%**  
of the world's  
**refugees**



**69%**  
of the world's  
**battle-related deaths**

Extremism and the terrorism it produces are global threats that must be dealt with, but where do we start?

Ideas Beyond Borders was founded by Faisal Saeed Al Mutar, an Iraqi refugee who endured the perils of extremism firsthand. He survived the Iraq Civil War, the murder of his brother, and several kidnapping attempts, becoming a refugee in the United States in 2013.

A practitioner of counter-extremism efforts on an international scale, Faisal created Ideas Beyond Borders in an effort to **empower the vulnerable with hope and prevent extremism before it takes root**.

...so how do  
we do it?

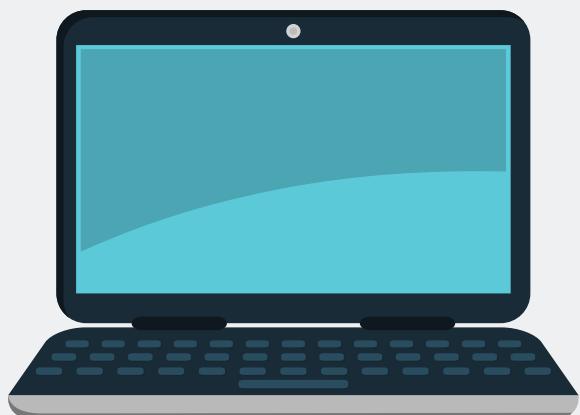




We design and implement programs that fight the spread of extremism at home and abroad.

## Why Does Extremism Spread?

Extremist ideology targets vulnerable people who frequently don't have access to global ideas, freedom of expression, or the right to speak, look, and act differently. These freedoms are included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, but are often neglected or outrightly suppressed by authoritarian regimes and those seeking control.



Only 0.6% of online content is available in Arabic. In contrast, Arabic is the 4th most spoken language among internet users.

## What is IBB doing about it?

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** empowers vulnerable individuals before extremism has taken root by providing ideological alternatives and fresh information. We're inspiring dialogue on banned or controversial topics, distributing reading material, and making it more difficult for extremists to recruit.

**403** **10**

Articles Made Accessible

Books Distributed

**2.4M+**

People Engaging Online

**600K+**

Words Translated



# OUR PROGRAMS

The biggest threat to extremism  
isn't drones firing missiles,  
it's girls reading books.

Nicholas Kristof  
New York Times Columnist



# Knowledge Beyond Borders

## Bayt Al Hikma 2.0

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're making the inaccessible, accessible.**

### Translated Works

- Waking Up by Sam Harris
- Letter to A Christian Nation by Sam Harris
- Islam and the Future of Tolerance by Sam Harris & Maajid Nawaz
- Lying by Sam Harris
- Free Will by Sam Harris

### Books Acquired

- The Better Angels of Our Nature by Steven Pinker
- The Language Instinct by Steven Pinker
- The Blank Slate by Steven Pinker
- How the Mind Works by Steven Pinker
- Uncovered by Leah Lax
- A Sinner in Mecca by Parvez Sharma

### Books Currently Being Translated

- Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker
- Radical by Maajid Nawaz
- The End of Faith by Sam Harris
- Moral Landscape by Sam Harris
- I Wonder by Annaka Harris

### Books in the Acquisition Pipeline

- Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here by Karima Bennoune
- The Hijaz: The First Islamic State by Malik Dahlan
- Age of Discover by Chris Kutarna & Ian Goldin
- Secularism by Andrew Copson
- Betraying Spinoza by Rebecca Goldstein
- Plato at the Googleplex by Rebecca Goldstein
- American Gods by Neil Gaiman
- Start Up Rising by Chris Schroeder
- & more!



# OUR PROGRAMS



The best way to solve problems  
and to fight against war is  
through dialogue.

Malala Yousafzai  
Human Rights Activist

# Dialogue Beyond Borders

## Global Conversations

Global Conversations is our online discussion forum, engaging over 2 million people and counting. We curate content specifically designed to engage 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.

With a reach of **2.4 million people** and **346,000+ likes** on Facebook, our Global Conversations page has a presence in over **120 countries**.





# OUR PROGRAMS

You can't drone your way out of a problem.

General David Petraeus  
Retired US Army General and Former Director of the CIA

# Dialogue Beyond Borders

## Campus Program

In partnership with AHA, we have connected courageous Arabic writers and thinkers such as Yasmine Mohamad, Elham Manea & other speakers to North American campuses. These events introduced their progressive ideas to students who ordinarily hear illiberal narratives coming out of the Middle East. By the end of 2018, the fellowship program reached over 25 campuses and some of the largest, most reputable universities in the world.

This has helped further the Ideas Beyond Borders mission by providing thoughtful outlets for dialogue via in person events on college campus. In 2019, footage from these events that highlight key concepts and discourse on topics like freedom of speech, human rights, LGBT rights, and more will be made available on our Bayt Al Hikma 2.0 platform for distribution throughout the MENA region.

**26**  
College Campuses

**30+**  
On-Campus Events

### Including:

Harvard University  
Stanford University  
Princeton University  
UC Berkeley  
University of Notre Dame  
Columbia University  
American University  
Dartmouth College  
University of Toronto  
University of Michigan  
University of Texas

### Topics Such As:

The Girl Who Wouldn't Submit  
Minority Muslims in the Media  
Free Speech in a Polarized Society  
Middle Eastern Conflicts  
Preventing Extremism  
Child Marriage  
Female Genital Mutilation  
Women's Rights & Islam  
Why Non-Violent Extremism Matters  
The Golden Age of Islam & Reform  
Extremism & the Age of Polarization

# The IBB Blueprint for Future Success



## Continue to develop key partnerships.

Last year we introduced several strategic partnerships across the globe. We entered a relationship with WordPress to launch our corporate site in late 2018 and our translation program platform in early 2019. We solidified a relationship with I Believe In Science, an Arab organization working to help translate and distribute our articles and books. We formed a partnership with Cleary-Gottlieb, a New York-based international law firm, to help us expand our financial goals and we continued key relationships with authors and literary agents that allowed us to gain Arabic rights and access to books.

## Expand our current digital programs while developing and implementing additional on-the-ground opportunities.

Over the last 12 months, Ideas Beyond Borders has grown its online platforms significantly. We've increased our reach to over 2.4 million people, and have translated over 600,000+ words - enough Wikipedia materials to move the Arabic Wikipedia from 18th to 17th in the most used by language. We're gearing up to make 2019 even more impactful. As we kick off the new year, we'll be expanding our programs to include more live events, workshops, and summits uniquely designed to empower Arabic-speakers and prevent extremism across the MENA region.

## Actively grow our donor base with meaningful outreach and transparency.

The success of Ideas Beyond Borders relies on donations from individuals and organizations that believe in the success of our mission. We aim to converting current fans of IBB to donors, volunteers, and advocates for our programs. We believe that in 2019, we can help fight extremism and empower Arabic speakers across the MENA region without drones, bullets, or war.

## Seek out new advisors and board members to act as authorities and advisors on MENA programs.

The advisory board and board of directors in 2018 offered invaluable expertise and leadership as we developed new programs and met our goals in 2018. We'd like to continue growth of each of our boards, adding brilliant scientific and academic minds as well as counter-terrorism experts.



# 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.

**As we go boldly into 2019, we're humbly asking for your generosity.** Our mission relies on you. We need involved, impassioned community members and donors to help us succeed.

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.

A black and white portrait of a man with short dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a light-colored tie. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

# 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 in 2019.

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

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