



ACADEMICS4GAZA

Academics4Gaza: Training Global Academics to Tutor Students Under Siege

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Power Dynamics



Who Benefits?



Discussion Direction

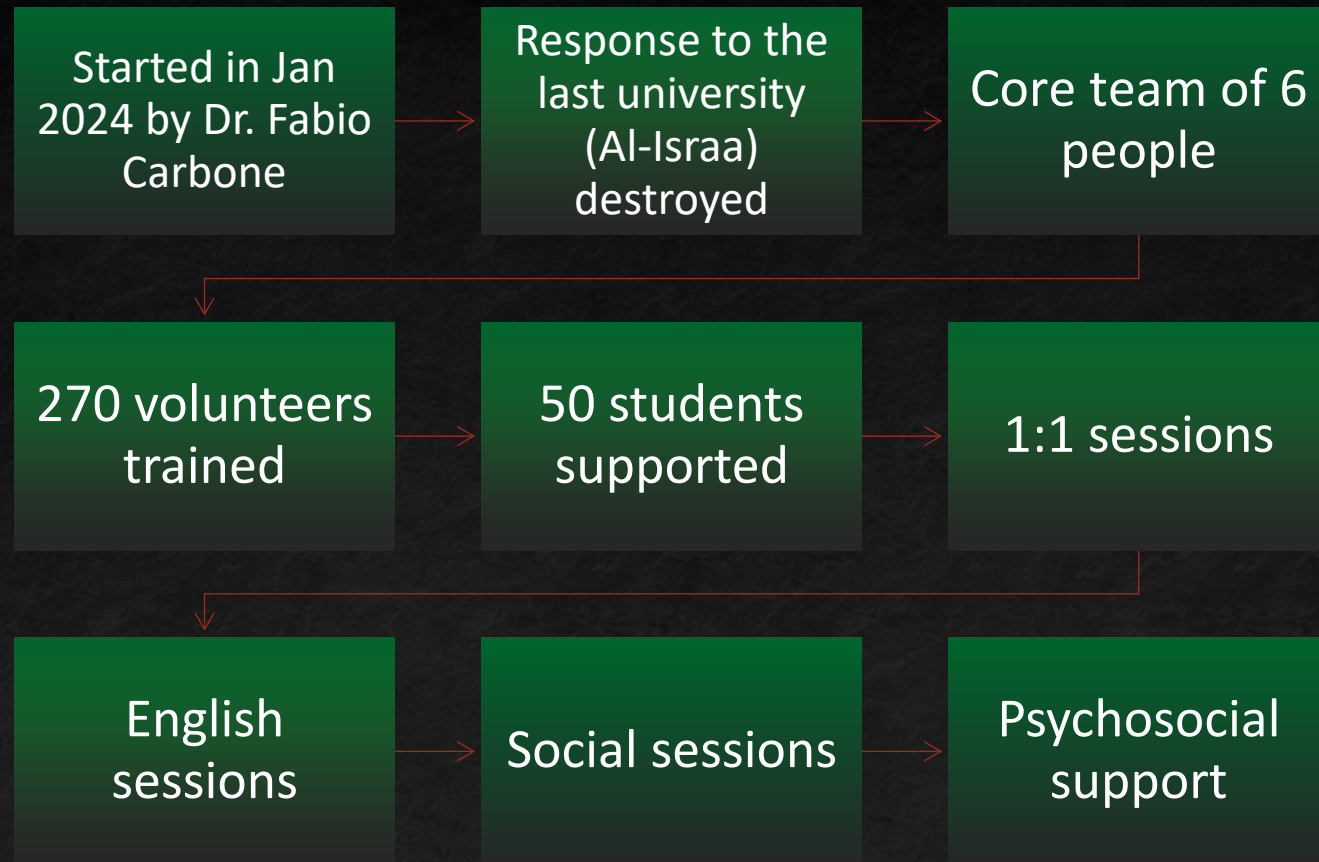


Action Items



Genuine Change

Overview – A4G



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Tutors



Hail from 52 nations worldwide

Top 5 Countries: United Kingdom, United States, Palestine, Singapore, Italy

Discipline examples: Architecture, chemistry, computer science, film, hotels & tourism, languages, law, medicine, peace studies, pharmacy, political science, statistics

Majority already had experience teaching online and with cultural diversity

Most common concern: disclosing university affiliation

Questions

What is epistemic in/justice?

What is the role of higher education in disaster and displacement?

Can/should academics be agents of social innovation?

How do university systems and broader sociopolitical views impede equity?

How can social workers respond to educational violence?

Brief Context

Barriers

- Systemic violation of Right to Education Initiative (Thakore, 2023)
- Erasure of cultural, historical, geopolitical perspectives (Albhaisi, 2022)
- Chronic electricity shortages due to attacks/fuel restrictions
- Students frequently arrested & detained indefinitely (Thakore, 2023)
- Frequently targeted as form of collective punishment
- Universities scrutinized for 'inciting violence against Israel' (Quneis & Rafidi, 2023)

Strengths

- Palestinians are one of the MOST educated populations in the world (UN, 2023)
- Pursuing education is a form of RESISTANCE to the Occupation (Atallah, 2024)
- Promoted in families as beacon of hope
- Individual education = communal good
- Flexible methodologies including co-teaching
- Considered a tool of revolution after 1948 Nakba

Training Module

Overview of displacement

Neurobiology of trauma

Education under occupation

Impact of lived experience

Resilience & Post Traumatic Growth

Compassion Fatigue & Burnout

Self Care / Collective Care

War trauma in the classroom

Common experiences in Gaza

Creativity & Strengths

Teaching Strategies

Insights from initial tutors

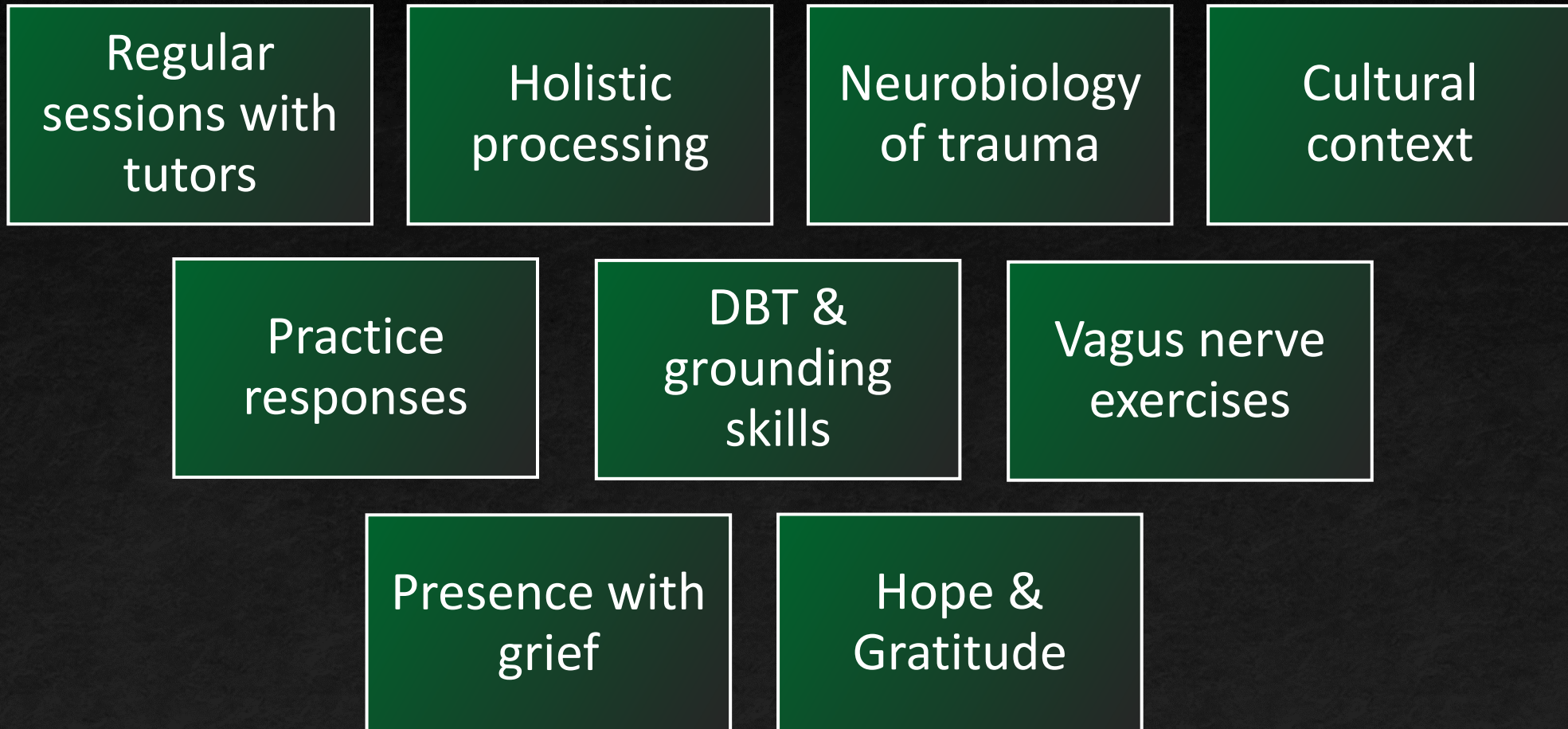
Palestinian Joy



Challenges

- Frequent internet outages
- Lack of available materials
- Scheduling
- Engaging over Whatsapp
- Questions of self-efficacy
- 'Off topic' conversations
- Addressing emotions/trauma
- Safety (institutional and student)
- Secondary Traumatic Stress

Psychosocial supports





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A radical reimagining of the university setting to include a transnational, cross-cultural, digital space that is responsive to unbearable conditions is more than solidarity and resistance to oppression – it is a refusal to allow a world to exist where learning is weaponized, and a promise to co-create a legacy that persists beyond the boundaries of human devastation.



~ Thank you ~

If you would like to view the one-hour training module please visit
<https://bit.ly/A4Gcourse>

And as always, Free Palestine



References

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