

# Incredible friendship healing Bataclan wounds

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[theday.co.uk/incredible-friendship-healing-bataclan-wounds-4](https://theday.co.uk/incredible-friendship-healing-bataclan-wounds-4)



*Shared tragedy: Both Azdyne Amimour (left) and Georges Salines (right) lost a child in the 2015 attacks.*

**Can talking stop hatred? On 13 November 2015, gunmen killed more than 100 people at a rock concert in Paris. Georges Salines lost his daughter, but kept his hope and gained a friend.**

## What's happening?

Eight years ago today, Islamist terrorists attacked cafes, a stadium and a theatre in Paris, killing 130 people. One of those was Lola, the daughter of Georges Salines.

Seven attackers also died. One was Samy Amimour. In 2017, his father, Azdyne, contacted Georges to show him they were not a "family of terrorists."

Georges and Azdyne became friends and eventually wrote a book together in 2020. They say that the most important thing is forgiveness.

## Find out more

There are many examples of people on opposite sides of a conflict coming together to talk their differences out.

Forgiveness is a very important concept. "Hate cannot drive out hate," preached **Martin Luther King**, "only love can do that."

For over 30 years in Northern Ireland, Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness were sworn enemies. In 2007, they agreed to share power and became good friends.

Israeli Rami Elhanan and Palestinian Bassam Aramin became friends through a shared grief. They both lost their daughters in the conflict but now call each other “brother”.

In 2004, Israelis and Palestinians climbed a peak in Antarctica. They named it the Mountain of Israeli-Palestinian Friendship.

Georges Salines admits the friendship between two men is not enough: “Sometimes it feels like trying to empty the sea with a spoon.” But maybe sometimes it is the small differences that matter most.

## Some people say

*“Hating people is like burning down your own house to get rid of a rat.”*

**Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878 – 1969),  
American pastor**

*What do you think?*

Can talking stop hatred?

## Some say

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Yes! It is the only thing that can stop hatred. We need to learn to put our differences aside and focus on dialogue.

## Others think

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No! If it were that simple, we would not have any wars at all. A simple conversation cannot do anything to end a conflict.

## Six steps to discovery

### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Have you ever forgiven someone?

### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: Where has talking stopped conflict and where has it failed?

### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Which of the examples of dialogue in this article is the most meaningful to you? Why?

### 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - A member of your family has been a victim of a crime. The perpetrator wants to talk. Do you agree to meet them?

### 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - “Love is stronger than hate.” Hold a class debate.

### 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - It is 2030 and all wars have been ended. Write a story about how the human race ended war.

## Glossary

**Martin Luther King** - The civil rights leader was shot dead in Tennessee in 1968.