

School for Peace - Activity Report

Change Agents Program

In the last two months and beginning from June 2010, the School for Peace has been very busy organizing and implementing large projects. Since July 2010, the School for Peace is implementing a new "Change Agents" program with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This three-year program is conducted for three groups of Jewish and Palestinian professionals from Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the following areas: journalism (photo), environmental activism, and politics.



The program is organized into three components: in the first part, dialogue is conducted on subjects related to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. This deals mainly with raising the awareness of the participants. The second part deals with the tension between the professional and national identities of each group. The question is posed: "where do I encounter the conflict in my work, and how do I deal with it?" The third part provides tools for action, planning and execution of projects. In each group there are 40 Israeli and Palestinian participants, for a total 120 participants.

In parallel, the School for Peace still continues an independent 14-month Change Agents program for mental health workers. This involves monthly meetings and provides the participants with training in conflict group facilitation and activism for social and political change. This course will be concluding in January 2011.

Simulating the Arab Peace Initiative



Another large-scale program is the "Simulating the Arab Peace Initiative" two-year program for media professionals funded by the European Union. The project is for two groups: a group of 20 news editors (photo) from Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA); and another group of 40 journalists from Israel and the PNA. The aim of the project is to examine the coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian/Arab conflict both in times of war and during peace initiatives. The project began in early 2010 and

will conclude at the end of 2011 with a joint conference where the findings and recommendations of the participants will be presented.

Human Rights Youth Encounter

The “Youth Human Rights” project is a 9-month project sponsored by the Nazareth-based Arab Association for Human Rights. The project brings together some 22 10th to 12th grade youths from Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the Kfar Harok, a school in Nazareth and the Naora school in the Galilee (4 -5 participants from each school). This project is conducted in a format of monthly meetings and continued through summer. The young people observe how human rights are implemented in institutions and then report and discuss their findings.



Conducting Jewish-Palestinian encounters

The School for Peace is leading a **series of dialog encounters** that bring together about 10 Palestinian citizens of Israel and a similar number of PNA residents. The program involves two-day encounters on the basis of once every two – three months and is conducted in Nablus.

Another project for youth was a **program for students** attending Jewish and Arab youth centers in the nearby town of Ramle. Over two days in June, the young people participated in a lecture, workshop and tour of the village. The program was led by SFP facilitators.

Reaching out

In June 2010 the School for Peace organized a **training for 15 of its associate facilitators**, in order to summarize and draw conclusions regarding the 2009 – 2010 activity year.

In July, the SFP organized a **workshop for 22 students from George Mason University**. The students were coming to the Middle East in order to learn about the conflict. The workshop gave the participants a background in the Palestinian – Jewish conflict in preparation for their six weeks of internship for Israeli and Palestinian institutions.

Also during the summer, the School for Peace was busy preparing for the the new scholastic year. During this period, the staff contacted many schools about **plans for youth encounters**, of which it hopes to conduct four to five during the current school year, depending upon funding received.

The School for Peace had an active role in the planning and execution of the the “Before it’s too late” **emergency conference** (photo) that took place in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam last July and dealt with assessing the political and social developments in Israel following the attack on the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza and the racist legislation initiated by the government and the Knesset, as well as planning of activities opposing this.



A less formal but ongoing responsibility of the SFP is to receive groups and individuals who come to learn about the **working methods** of the School for Peace. A recent example of this was a half-day program for a group of board members and supporters of the British Friends of NS/WAS.

Finally, the School for Peace is beginning its **university programs** for MA students, of which there are two this year: one at the Tel Aviv University, and the other at the University of Haifa.