

A final meeting on October 10, 19:30 Talitha Kumi
A talk with Dr Salm, chairman of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility, Future"

As Dr Martin Salm was in Israel at the time of our project, we agreed to meet him before the Germans flew back home the following day. Some Israelis came from the Negev, Palestinians walked the way up to the hill, the Germans passed the Tunnel Checkpoint to the main spot of the project. All three partners had a delegation present to summarize the project.

Dr Salm first gave a short history of his foundation: Following the fall of the Iron Curtain after 1989, the German Parliament together with many industrial companies had decided to grant money for former forced labourers under National Socialism, who had had to work like slaves for the industry, for the state or private firms from 1933 to 1945.

It took a long time until the money was collected and distributed among 1.66 mio former forced labourers in 98 countries. € 5.5 billion were provided by the German government and industry. The foundation was founded in 2000 primarily to make payments to former forced labourers. The payments were completed in 2007. It was a big task to find out these people, to organize the transfers of money and to help the people to apply for the recompensation. After the first aim had nearly been finished, the foundation wanted to continue, to inform and educate young people all over Europe about what had happened and to build a bridge between the past and the present. The Foundation established a program "EUROPEANS FOR PEACE", that put the human rights into the focus and to support international projects dealing with human rights. In 2012 more than 30 project applications were accepted, among them the project "Women at the cooking pot and men into war?", the only one with a trilateral approach with Germans, Israelis and Palestinians.

We have put together some statements of the delegation members during our evaluation talk in Talitha Kumi. They need no commentary.

Opinions about the project

- Jakob (Germany): I liked the trilateral meeting on the basis of human rights. Although sometimes emotions arose, we are friends now and not enemies. The project brought young people together and only young people can solve the whole conflict.
- Dima (Palestine): There are differences and conflicts between us, but we are all human beings. Until now I have seen Israelis only as soldiers, I never accepted them. Vice versa the Israelis see Palestinians only as terrorists. We all know the differences now, but we respect each other, understand each other and regard many as friends. The project helped a lot with that. We should rely on teenagers, because in the future the young people are the leaders.
- Ameera (Palestine): The subject about men and women was nice, it is relevant for everybody. It was the first time I met Israeli young people and I realized that there are also people who want peace. Politicians have only talked about it, but nothing has happened. We should continue with this or other projects to end the conflict. I can tell now Palestinian friends that I know people who like friendships with us.
- Ameer (Palestine): Sometimes we were bored about speeches of politicians. It was important that our topic was not a political one, furthermore it can help us at university.
- Carolin (Germany): It was important to tell our lives to each other. I hope that human problems are more important than politics in the future. The Nazi time is always a topic in every German family.
- Eynat (Israel): During our project I also thought about myself. I have learned a lot.

- Marie (Germany): The project has changed our family life at home, my family members shared the feelings of Palestinians and Israelis. In the course of the project the feeling of being a real good group developed.
I would like to continue with another project, maybe with the same people. Of course one project is not enough to change attitudes and to see clear results. It was sad, that only Germans could visit and stay in Palestinian or Israeli families and homes.
Our interviews with all kinds of people were very helpful, we could get an insight into the thinking and emotions of Israelis and Palestinians. Especially interviewing each other showed that as young people we have many things in common and that we are nearer as many think.
- Jakob (Germany): I see the direct connection between German, Israeli and Palestinian history. Without World War II, the Holocaust and all the terrible consequences, it would hardly have been possible to create a Jewish state.
- Elena (Germany): Although Germany is directly involved in the conflict because of its special history and the relationship with Israel and the Jewish past, we were kind of "neutral", when conflicts and discussions between Israelis and Palestinians started.
- Carolin (Germany): By commemorating the past we have to shape the present and the future. Projects between the three cultures must continue. The foundation could establish an own program for the three participating groups.
- Nis (Israel): Without the project I would never have talked to Palestinians.



Chairman Dr Martin Salm (EVZ) listening to the results of the project



The key to gender equality is education, getting to know other cultures, friendship, peace.
Traditional roles are only changing gradually.
Our demands: Men and women at the cooking pot - neither men nor women into war!
Human rights for men and women - life is so colorful and joy!



Project Members Gallery



Amera Amar



Marie Wagner



Melanie Christ



Melanie Karsten



Nicola Shaer



Jan Schneider



Tal Arbel



Johnny Shawan



Amit Spector



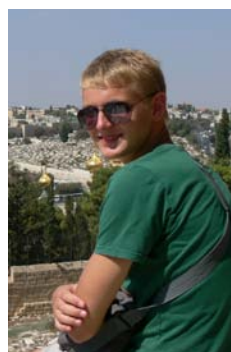
Elena Etges



Tamar Novoplansky



Carolin Manns



Jakob Nehls



Noam Vider



Yam Seanon



Bernd Mauerhof



Marian Amro



Isel Badra



Omer Meir



Alexandra
Bogdasarow



Hila Peleg



Christine Amro



Barbara Barham



John Bader



Felix Hill



Ulli Suppus



Till Bästlein



Eynat Goldmann



Ameer Abu Mohor



Dina Alaraj



Adel Istefan



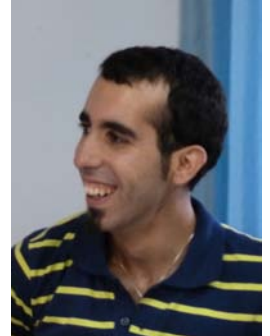
Christof Pies



Tal Pacht



Lukas Linder



Tamer Zreineh



Dima Al Mukarker



Nis Rubin



Ofri Lazier



Andrea
Günster-Wagner



Hanna Khair



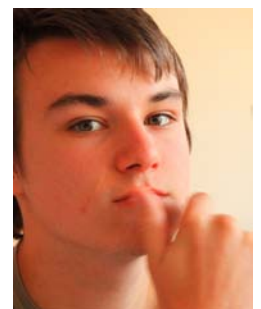
Theresa Volk



Amit Harel



Christa Wendling



Jonas Trzcensky



Making media products

After another outbreak of violence in Israel and Gaza in November 2012 we were sitting in Kastellaun (photo 1), discussing if it would make sense to create an online newspaper, a print version and a film about a region, where seemingly nothing is or will be normal, neither in the present nor in the future. We watched Facebook-entries, exchanged mails with the participants, got answers or no response at all. The strange word "normalisation" was not a reason to stop our work. Many people in Israel and Palestine don't want any contacts with human beings living just some miles away to avoid any impression that everything is "normal". Nothing is "normal" and everything is political in this part of the world and affects everybody.

We decided to finish our job. A committee (typical German!) was established (photos 2, 3), that collected all the material we got from the project members. It was quite clear that some contributed more than others, some had given us about 10.000 photos, which we had to look through and select them for the newspaper. Fortunately Elena was working in a studio in Stuttgart (photo 4) at that time and was allowed to make a movie about our project. Thank you so much! In the prevailing situation we tried to give our best and to keep the balance between all participants. As Germans we were very touched by many discussions, meetings, interviews and reports. We felt that we could contribute a bit to a real normalisation between human beings.

Our guideline was clear: Gender Equality according to the declaration of human rights.

We would like to thank all those who sent us their reports, commentaries, photos.

As we had to translate everything into English, there might be some distortions in the text. This was not our intention and we would like to apologize for that.

Without the generous donations of the foundations or organizations and the willingness of many persons to be interviewed, the project including the media would not have been possible.

Thank you all!

Carolin Manns, Theresa Volk, Alexandra Bogdasarow, Christof Pies

The online version can be found under
www.equaltimes-magazine.com

Resolution

We are a group of German, Israeli and Palestinian young people. In Germany we met with the support of the German foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" within the program "EUROPEANS FOR PEACE". We continued our work in Israel and Palestine on our chosen human rights topic

"All men are equal: Women at the cooking pot and men into war"?

We were supported by many additional foundations, churches and private persons.

In our own responsibility and on our own budget we are creating an online newspaper in English and a print one in Hebrew, Arabic and German about the results of our meetings. Despite political, cultural and religious differences we managed to work on this topic for nearly four weeks with tolerance and respect. We learned a lot about our own backgrounds, but also about the points of view of the other participants. Unfortunately it took a long time to make this project become reality, as there are many people in all countries that do not want that young people meet.

How can the situation in the Middle East change, if contacts between human beings are prevented or made impossible?

We are convinced that personal contacts can reduce clichés, prejudice and even hatred. The atmosphere of mistrust, hostility and fear must be overcome by mutual meetings and understanding.

We therefore appeal to you to promote these projects and encounters in order to create a better future for all of us.

Talitha Kumi, October 10, 2012

SIGNATURES

Felicitas	Andrea Büchelberger
Caro Carolin Manns	Helene Kanten
Tamar Novopolsky	Christine Amis
Einat Goldfarb	Hannah Kain
Amit Spector	Abraham
Omer Meyer	Christoph Pies
Tal Pecht	Marie Theres Wagner
Amit Erel	Helene Ernst
Yam Seamon	John Bader
Amira Amir	Gleny Etags
Julia	Tom Grossman
Samir Bahman	T. Bastlen
Amir	Amir
Amir	Amear AbOo
Felicitas	Amir
Jou D. Schneider	

