

School for Peace Activity Report 2007

Courses served 666 people in direct programs.

I. Encounter and Training Programs for Arabs and Jews in Israel

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Groups in conflict with Tel Aviv University: one semester, 10 Arab and 10 Jewish graduate students, with Prof. Arie Nadler of the Social Psychology Department: sustained dialogue plus readings, for a critical understanding of the inter-group encounter.

Dialogue course with the University of Haifa: a one-semester course, with 17 Jewish and Arab students, in the Department of Social Psychology, with Prof. Ramzi Suleiman. Sustained dialogue plus readings, for a critical understanding of the inter-group encounter.

Dialogue with Netanya Academic College: for 23 Arab and Jewish undergraduate students. The second such course at Netanya, with Dr. Anat First of the School for Media Studies, and modeled on prior SFP university-level courses combining theory and experiential components.

Learning about the conflict: a two-day workshop for 48 Jewish students at Ruppin College, as part of their course requirements on the history and sociology of the conflict.

FACILITATORS TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

The annual **SFP facilitators training program** (April–November) had 16 participants (8 Jewish, 8 Arab) for 130 hours; the training included learning through dialogue, supervised observation of an actual youth encounter, co-facilitations and lectures; many trainees come from other NGOs in the field.

In addition, the SFP conducts in-service facilitator training with lectures by staff and guest experts, who this year included:

- Tali Fahima who spoke about her personal journey from being a product of her Zionist upbringing to guarding a Palestinian fighter with her life.
- Bassem Canaana who spoke about different models of Jewish–Arab cooperation and management, as they are manifested in Israeli Jewish–Arab organizations.

20 facilitators, Arab and Jewish, and NSWAS residents attended these sessions.

WOMEN'S COURSES

El Ein, with Ben-Gurion University: 14 weekly meetings, for 13 Jewish women and 15 Arab–Bedouin women from Beersheba and Rahat, providing tools and skills for critical analysis, dialogue and activism to working women and mothers, most in a university setting for the first time.

Women in a Time of Change– Central Region with Tel Aviv University: now in its 12th year. 9 meetings at TAU and two days of dialogue at the School for Peace at NSWAS, for 11 Jewish–Israeli women from Rosh Ha'ayin and 11 Palestinian–Arab–Israeli women from neighboring Kufer Kassem; this non-formal education course aims to empower women without higher education.

Women in Time of Change- North: Run for the first time in cooperation with recently founded Safed Community College, with Prof. Ariella Friedman, for 19 Jewish and Palestinian women, with 9 weekly sessions.

YOUTH ENCOUNTER PROGRAMS

Three-day workshops:

- for 23 Arab students from Acre High School and 23 Jewish students from Givat Brenner High School.
- for 36 Arab students from Nazareth Municipal HS and 32 Jewish students from Zafit HS, Kfar Menachem.
- for 23 Jewish students from Hareali HS, Haifa, and 31 Arab students from Acre HS.
- for 44 Jewish and Arab students from Naora HS and Einot Yarden HS.

Uni-national: An Arab students' workshop was conducted for 65 students from Eilaboon high School on issues of identity and Palestinian culture.

International: A Palestinian-Jewish-German youth encounter at NSWAS, with 40 Jewish, Arab, and German young people, for 3 days of study and dialogue about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Staff in-service training : This year we concentrated on learning from the results of a newly published report on three years of research on SFP youth encounter programs and how to apply these findings in our programs.

New Project – The Future Vision of Palestinian Citizens in Israel

Utilizing the Future Vision document published by the Higher Monitoring Committee of the Arabs in Israel, 12 Jewish and 9 Arab mental health professionals met for four days to negotiate the future of their relationship within Israel. The purpose is to keep the document on the national public agenda and generate a constructive debate.

II. Cross-Border Encounter and Training Projects

NEGOTIATING OUR FUTURE

Conducted jointly with the Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (CCRR) in Bethlehem. In this two-year project, an Israeli delegation is negotiating a peace treaty with a Palestinian delegation. Also a joint SFP and CCRR research team will produce a document about the process. In 2007, we conducted:

- A two-day preparatory workshop at the SFP for 30 Jewish and Palestinian- Israeli citizens; and a parallel one in Palestine.
- A three-day meeting of the six Israeli committee heads with the six Palestinian committee heads to plan the negotiation;
- A second meeting of the Israeli and of the Palestinian delegations to finalize basic principles; and
- A four-day Israeli-Palestinian plenary session in Turkey for all 60 participants, to launch the negotiation process, in five committees: refugees, Jerusalem, security, borders, and natural resources.

III. Outreach Programs

WORKSHOPS

A seminar for 12 British visitors at NSWAS, focusing on the work of the community and its institutions, and the relevance to British and European life, with special attention to the issue of Islamophobia in Britain.

CONFERENCES

- **The effects of the roadblocks** in the occupied Palestinian territories, with the PsychoActiv group from the SFP and Hiwar Change Agents Project; 200 Jewish and Palestinian participants, most of them psychologists, met at NSWAS.
- **The Peace NGOs Forum** met in Tuscany, Italy, with Michal Zak as the SFP representative, the discussion focused on "The role of Europe in the Resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".
- **Israeli-Palestinian work tank:** as part of the Peace NGOs Forum, the SFP was represented by Wafaa Zriek Srour at a bi-national conference in Turkey that aimed at studying the best practices for partnerships between Israeli and Palestinian peace NGOs.
- **SFP End-of-the-school year Conference Day:** The day included study sessions for the facilitators who worked this year with the SFP. A festive buffet, a graduation ceremony for the 2006-2007 graduates of the facilitators training course and a lecture for facilitators and NSWAS residents by the historian Dr. Ilan Pappé on his latest book, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, followed by a discussion.

TEACHER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT; CONSULTATION FOR TEACHING STAFFS:

A two-day workshop in Haifa for an ongoing project with 20 high school teachers of film and communications, joined by several Ministry of Education supervisors of film curricula; this session focused on creating a more egalitarian working relationship in the group.

International program at Beit Berl College:

Invited by the Dean of Arab Studies at this teachers College Dr. Ziad Abu Hemed, the SFP conducted a one-day seminar addressing whether and how the collective memory of the Jewish people and the collective memory of the Palestinian people are given expression in the school system in Israel; for a group of 23 German, Polish, Jewish and Arab students studying a course on the Israeli-Arab conflict in the Arab school system in Israel.

Lectures & consultation

Lectures by SFP staff during the year included:

- Dr. Nava Sonnenschein gave a lecture at the First International Workshop on Intercultural Collaboration in Kyoto, Japan.
- Dr. Rabah Halabi gave a lecture on the image of the Palestinians in Israel, at the Tel Aviv University program on conflict, run by Prof. Danny Bar-Tal and Dr. Amal Jamal.
- Dr. Nava Sonnenschein gave a lecture on the work approach of the SFP and on the identity of Jewish participants in SFP encounters, at the Tel Aviv University School for Social Work.
- Dr. Nava Sonnenschein lectured on the working methods of the SFP at the Institute for Peace Education in Tuebingen, Germany.

- Michal Zak gave a presentation at the World Mediation Forum's International Conference in Jerusalem, titled: "Some disturbing thoughts about partnerships between the oppressed and the oppressor."
- Dr. Rabah Halabi and Michal Zak participated in two panels at a joint conference of Al Quds University (Palestine) and George Mason University (USA) on "Dialogue Under Occupation" at the Abu Dis campus.
- Dr. Nava Sonnenschein represented the SFP at a working conference in Nazareth for academics, NGO staffs and educators, addressing "Education for Understanding, Equality, and Mutual Acceptance." Organized by the Center for Peace Education at Haifa University.
- Wafaa Zriek Srour gave a lecture on gender and national identity at the International Conference on Social and Individual Trauma organized by the Israel Association of Spanish-speaking Mental Health Workers.
- Dr. Nava Sonnenschein gave a lecture at the Kibbutz Teachers' Seminar College on the processes that the Jewish majority group goes through during an encounter with a group of Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Consultation: SFP staff periodically provides consultation to various organizations and staffs on how to create a more equal organization vis-a-vis Arab society in Israel. Most recently, SFP provided consultation to the educational team at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, among others.

THE RESEARCH CENTER

The center produced four scholarly articles this year that are currently under review at journals in Israel and abroad, covering the identity of Druze women in Israel; an article on youth encounters at the SFP; an article about the identity of Jewish participants in SFP; and an article on the role of language in the encounters.

The Research Center conducted evaluations of all SFP courses and monitored research components of selected SFP cross-border projects.

The third issue of *Pit'hon Peh*: a radical- social-political periodical was published. This journal brings to a wider audience a series of lectures and articles. This issue includes a lecture by Tali Fahima: "My name is Tali Fahima and I am not a Leftist activist", a lecture by Dr. Ilan Pape on his recent book *Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, an article by Yitzhak Laor on Amos Oz's book *A Story of Love and Darkness: Propaganda, Narcissism and the West*. A lecture by Bassem Kna'ane: "Dilemmas in the workplace: When Arabs and Jews cooperate". An article by Dr. Rabah Halabi: "Enlightened Racists" and a petition of Palestinian intellectuals and academics titled: "Why must we boycott 'peacemakers'"

WORK WITH NSWAS COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONS

A two-day workshop for the 7 kindergarten teachers at NSWAS, on how to understand Jewish Arab relations at different levels of the workplace: between the staff, with the parents and among the children.

A 3-day workshop for 13 teachers at the NSWAS Primary School, addressing how to integrate a critical perspective about Jewish-Arab relations into the school curriculum.