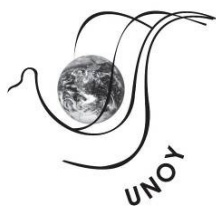


Peace It Together NEWS
The Monthly Newsletter of UNOY Peacebuilders
Number 59 – December 2009



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1. MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

2009 has been a successful year for us, particularly with the happy celebration of our 20th Anniversary. This month, UNOY Peacebuilders held a gender equality training in collaboration with two other organisations, and were also represented at a number of other trainings and seminars in November/December. In addition, the 2009 membership selection process has been completed by the ISG, and we happily welcome four new organisations into our network.

On behalf of UNOY Peacebuilders, I wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to being in touch with you in 2010.

Peaceful regards,
Lee Bremner, Editor

2. CAMPAIGN NEWS

2.1 Gender Equality in Peacebuilding Projects by Edgar Khachatryan



UNOY Peacebuilders, Peace Dialogue and PATRIR organised and implemented a study session on Gender Equality in Peacebuilding Projects in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The study session took place at the European Youth Center in Budapest from 29 November to 6 December. 26 participants from around Europe came together for the session, and were joined by participants from Kenya, Egypt and Pakistan, making it a very diverse and dynamic group.

The study session aimed to explore how youth peace organisations can address and challenge gender inequality when implementing peacebuilding projects and activities. Participants had the opportunity to discuss a number of different topics such as Gender

Concepts through the Human Rights Lens; Gender, Youth and Peace; Gender Sensitive Project Management; Gender Mainstreaming; and were given resources to develop their own gender projects and developed ideas on follow-up networking projects.

As a valuable basis for the whole study session we perceived the use of cultural diversity to challenge existing gender roles, individual perspectives of participants towards gender, their experience on work related to gender, youth, and peace building, and gender's place in daily life as deserving special attention.

Additionally, space was given for participants to deliver their own workshops on gender issues which gave them the opportunity to get to know each other and each other's work better.

“UNOY-Budapest 2009 was an attractive activity with motivated young people, who really was working for what they believe in.” - Eraldi from Albania

“It was an intensive, challenging and fruitful week. We learned, found, and shared many things from you and all other participants. I am happy that I experienced such a beautiful week in my life. I will do my best to use these experiences in my future practices.” – Famil from Azerbaijan

2.2 TC Dance and Conflict Prevention in Germany by Marloes van Houten

UNOY Peacebuilders' Projects Coordinator went to Luzernsommern, Germany, from 23-30 November for an international Training Course on how to use Movement (dance and physical theatre) as a tool to work on the Prevention of Youth Violence and to address the consequences of violence among youth. A representative of U Move for Peace, a Belgium member organisation of UNOY, also took part. The other training participants were youth workers, psychologists, dance therapists and educators from a variety of 15 European countries.

In the theory part, the causes, forms of escalation and consequences of violence were addressed, as well as different dance and how to use them while working with youth on conflict prevention projects. In the practical part, the participants were introduced to dance and movement techniques through an experimental learning process, which meant that they had to practice the particular movement technique. After each practical session there was a group reflection planned to share experiences and to discuss how to imply the technique in our work with youth.

The last two days of the training were used for project planning and management, and the participants were informed about funding opportunities of Youth in Action. Also, the trainers facilitated working groups where a start was made to develop a project proposal related to using movement as a tool to work on

conflict prevention or traumatised. It was a very inspiring week where the diversity of backgrounds of the participants highly contributed to the case study material that was presented and discussed. Hopefully the knowledge and techniques learned will be disseminated further throughout Europe and beyond so that more and more youth workers, psychologists, dance therapists and educators discover movement as a useful tool to help youth to deal with negative emotions, to give them self-confidence and teach them discipline, and to overcome cultural segregation and social exclusion.



2.3 Expert Seminar on Promoting and Sustaining the Role of Youth NGOs by Nina Aeckerle

From 10 – 12 November a representative from UNOY Peacebuilders attended the Expert Seminar on Promoting and Sustaining the Role of Youth NGOs, organized by the Council of Europe in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. There were about 25 - 30 young representatives of many different organisations. On those two and a half days they set out with the aim to 'reflect on the role of youth NGOs in developing youth participation in Europe' and to formulate concrete, tangible recommendations for the Council of Europe as to how this body can support and promote youth NGOs. The seminar was very fruitful and at the end of it were able to draft 37 recommendations in four fields – motivating youth, retaining knowledge in the organisation, relations with donors or funding bodies, and Networking & Co-operation – which are directed towards the Council of Europe and its bodies, such as the Directorate of Youth and Sports, the European Youth Foundation, but also towards the European Commission, the European Union, the European Youth Forum and to other youth NGOs. The Council of Europe will take it from here and will see in an internal decision-making process which of the recommendations they can take on; hopefully some of them rather soon, others maybe in the long run. It is a good vibe that the participants experienced in this seminar, having the feeling that their needs are being taken seriously and that their concerns and also ideas are being taken into consideration when trying to find improvements to the ways of working of the Council of Europe.

3. NETWORK NEWS

3.1 New Members Join UNOY Peacebuilders by Lee Bremner

The membership selection process for 2009 is now complete, and four new organisations will be joining

our network. We warmly welcome these organisations, and look forward to working with them in 2010.

Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association (ATYA) is a youth NGO from Azerbaijan. They have been working towards building civil society in Azerbaijan since 2002, and join the European network. For more information on ATYA, please visit their website, www.atya.org.

Beyond Skin is a UK organisation established in 2004 which uses the arts to address sectarianism and racism in Northern Ireland, and they also join the European network. Beyond Skin uses initiatives such as internet radio station Homely Planet to promote cultural relations and education among youth in Northern Ireland. For more information about Beyond Skin, please visit their website, www.beyondskin.net.

Initiative for Peace and Justice (IPJ) is a peacebuilding organisation from Kashmir, joining the Asian network. IPJ runs grassroots initiatives in Kashmir such as interfaith dialogues, peace dissemination and environmental campaigns.

Youths for Peacebuilding and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA) is a Nigerian organisation working towards lasting peace efforts, and reducing the impact of poverty, HIV and other social disorders in Africa.

3.2 The Royal family visit Santa Maria la Ribera, educational and cultural community by Celina Valadez (Dinamismo Juvenil, Mexico). Translated by Adriana Salazar

On 4 November the Mexican community of Santa Maria de La Ribera hosted the Dutch Royal Family with the purpose to provide them with an insight of the Program "*Developing skills for life*", through a direct dialogue with the beneficiaries of it, the children and young people within the community.

The day began with a welcome by Citlati Camus, on behalf of the Cultural and Educational Community (CECATI), the Lindavista Centre and Dinamismo Juvenil. She explained the mission of the program, where more than 30 different institutions are working together with the aim to influence and promote creativity through activities that boost culture and historic memory, contributing to the recuperation of social networks and the improvement of life standards, strengthening roots, traditions, respect and love to the place we live in, and therefore, bring up the economic skills of small and medium entrepreneurs.

Many of the participants travel long journeys to attend the training activities of CECATI; nevertheless, they find it a positive experience that has helped them to change their vision of life, spread their knowledge and help their fellows with productive projects afterwards. One of the projects is "Public spaces for development", which aims to create pedagogical places

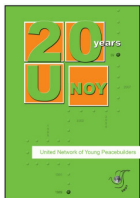
in public spots, where educational processes are boosted and the inclusion of children and young people in vulnerable situations is possible. The Program has counted on the support of different local and federal institutions, in cooperation with the International Secretariat of UNOY Peacebuilders.

Children and youth mingled with the Royal family and started a dialogue about their living conditions, the poverty and the violence they endure, but also about the solidarity they have experienced and the beauty of the Mexican culture. Three young girls told their success stories of how the training they received helped them to transform their lives.

It was a great experience for the Mexican community, specially the children, that the Royal Family, the Dutch ambassador in Mexico, the Dutch Minister of Foreign affairs and Dutch entrepreneurs, were willing to listen to their needs, problems, dreams, and the way they are working to overtake all the hurdles that their community encounters.

4. HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

4.1 UNOY Peacebuilders' 2009 Publications



In the 20 years since the foundation of UNOY Peacebuilders in 1989, the organisation has gone through many changes and developments, assisted by many dedicated peacebuilders. These two decades have been documented in *20 Years of UNOY*, released in honour of the 20th Anniversary of UNOY Peacebuilders and available for download at http://www.unoy.org/downloads/resources/UNOY/20_Years_of_UNOY.pdf. As well as history, the publication includes many quotes and stories from many of the people involved with UNOY over the years.



The *Partners for Peace* toolkit and accompanying video is a resource for organisations working with international partners. The toolkit, including both parts of the video, is available on our website at www.unoy.org/resources/partnersforpeace.html

To view our other 2009 reports, visit www.unoy.org/resources/UNOY.html

6. OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

6.1 Call for Interns

UNOY Peacebuilders is currently accepting applications for 10 openings. Download the latest call for interns from our website: www.unoy.org/downloads/UNOY_Call_for_Interns_Fall2009_Winter_2010.pdf.

6.2 UNOY Office Closed for 2 Weeks

The International Secretariat will be closing office from 21 December until 4 January 2010.

6.3 End-of-Decade Report from the Civil Society

To mark the end of the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), we ask for volunteers to support the evaluation by mobilizing responses from their own regions or areas of interest.

The aim is to reach 1000 contributions, thus volunteers' support will be crucial. The report is to be ready in May 2010, to be submitted to UNESCO. There are individuals and organizations in all parts of the world putting lots of efforts to cultivate a lasting culture of Peace. As it is a worldwide initiative we are inviting both individuals and organizations, especially if you are or feel young like us, from all over the world to take part in this process.

You can enter information directly on the website <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org>. To enter information on the website you will need to register and wait for an email within a day which will tell you how to enter data in the questionnaire. Alternatively, if you have any problem or prefer, you can send it by email. Contact details can be found here: <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/contactus.html>. The deadline for submitting your contribution is 31 December 2009. Please click on the following link to download the mid-way report from 2005: <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/2005report.html>.

Please share this initiative with other organisations working towards a Culture of Peace!

SUPPORT UNOY PEACEBUILDERS

UNOY Peacebuilders needs your help to develop and grow in outreach and strength, either in terms of finances, materials or work. Your donation of any size will be used to train and enhance the capacity of young people to engage effectively in building peace.

You can financially contribute by making a deposit in our bank account: ABN-AMRO Bank; ACCOUNT: 55 40 70 294; IBAN: NL91ABNA0554070294; BIC: ABNANL2A

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