



## **SUMMARY**

1. Message from the Editor
2. Campaign News
3. Network News
4. Theme(s) in Focus
5. Highlighted Resources
6. Opportunities and Events

## **1. MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

**Dear friends,**

Spring brought us rather busy days here at UNOY Peacebuilders!

In this edition you will learn more about interesting workshops which are being held in May as part of the Interplay project. In the following pages, we will give you a glimpse of the complex debates and practical learning within these sessions. You can also read about future workshops which you can still sign up for.

Regarding capacity building, Stephanie Moy, our International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator, just got back from a training course in Budapest, followed by a conference in Azerbaijan, and she wrote a couple of pieces about her experiences. Lillian Solheim, our International Network and Programme Coordinator, is getting ready to fly to the Philippines and 'learn by seeing', part of the Jobshadowing project, which is this month's theme in focus.

Moreover, UNOY Peacebuilders representative for the UN has been advocating in Geneva and shared his ideas about the importance of peace education with us.

The rest of the team is busy too. We are working on gender mainstreaming, communication, and projects on-going and ahead. 2011 is the European Year of Volunteering, and we are glad to make a difference through our organization!

Enjoy reading our newsletter!

Peaceful regards,  
Catalina Barzescu  
Editor

## **2. CAMPAIGN NEWS**

### **2.1 First convention of the Global Youth Movement for the United National Alliance of Civilizations**

**By Stephanie Moy**

From 6 to 10 April 2011, I was in Baku, Azerbaijan, to attend the First Convention of the Global Youth

Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations (GYM). Launched in 2005, the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is an initiative of the United Nations dedicated to intercultural which aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions.

The Youth section of the programme started during the UNAOC Forum in Istanbul in 2009. UNOY Peacebuilders attended this forum, as well as the one in Rio in 2010, where were defined the goal and objectives of the GYM.

The overall goal to the GYMAOC is to highlight and recognize the strong message of peace and understanding set forth by youth in times where tensions and conflicts often threaten positive intercultural co-existence as well as to advance and support the mainstreaming of their voices and participation in UNAOC initiatives and messages.

The convention was opened amongst others by Azad Rahimov, the Azerbaijan Minister of Youth and Sports, His Excellency President Sempaio, High Representative of the UNAOC.

This year, 80 youth from all over the world attended the 3-day convention in Baku which aimed to create the Charter of the movement and develop an activity plan. Through working groups, plenary sessions and lots of discussion, we managed to agree on the Charter. This step was crucial in order to state the goal and objectives of the GYM and how it will function. Now the GYM can actually start to work on the following priorities: Mobilize and strengthen youth organizations, Highlight results of youth actions and support networking, Support the mainstreaming of youth's voice and participation in all sectors of the UNAOC.

Volunteers have been appointed and will receive their first tasks very shortly!

On a personal level, it has also been a great opportunity to meet so many inspiring youth and two of them in particular! One of the participants was Armand from Amahoro Youth Club, our member organization in Burundi. I also got to meet Fakhrinur from ATYA, our member in Azerbaijan. It was really inspiring to meet members with different realities but striving for the same ideals.

I look forward to the next GYM meeting!

### **22 Workshop "How to do Advocacy"**

**By Catalina Barzescu**

On 11 April 2011, I attended the workshop on advocacy hosted by Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. The workshop was organized as part of UNOY Peacebuilders' current Interplay project, which challenges teams to research the impact of EU's development policies

on (post)conflict countries. A group of 15 people attended the meeting, which was held at the UNOY office in The Hague.



The discussion began with an overview of the term and the implications of doing 'advocacy'. Basically defined as the act of pleading for a cause, idea, or policy in order to exert influence, advocacy is of different types, from its formal side, lobby-ing, to networking, raising awareness, and mobilizing. Our group brainstormed for ideas as to why advocacy is undergone, mentioning dialogue, and giving voice to unrepresented groups as what they understand by this activity. Cultural differences as well as the political culture were deemed as important to keep in mind when doing advocacy.

The participants then divided into teams made of three or four members, teams in which they attempted to develop, step by step, an advocacy project strategy. The steps were related to a cause of their choice, which could be chosen from the UN's millennium development goals. These goals, I learnt, are eight anti-poverty causes which UN nations agreed to achieve by 2015. Some goals are eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics, and developing a global partnership for development.

After each team identified an issue to focus on, we drew up a 'problem tree', a tool used in order to understand the causes (roots) and consequences (branches) of the problem.

Furthermore, the teams formulated strategies for advocating their cause, using project management tools such as the SWOT analysis of their (imagined) organisation (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats), and a analysis of their objectives. The action step of the process included constructing a message for the potential donors, public, and policy makers of the project in order to promote the teams' actions and ask for support, and then writing up an 'elevator pitch', namely a brief, and catch statement of the action. Actor and relationship mapping was discussed as well, as participants built up a graphic illustration of their interaction with their publics.

Finally, participants gave their feedback on the session and expressed their interest in UNOY and its future activities. The workshop was indeed a challenging learning experience for me, and I also felt inspired by the other participant's enthusiasm. I was interested to find out that advocating for a cause follows a plan, or a strategy, similar to what other types of companies, or businesses follow. In addition to this, I realized the complexity of the advocacy process, and the amount of planning it requires. It's no easy task, I'm sure of that, so I'm eager to learn more!

### **23 Training course for facilitators** **By Stephanie Moy**

From 21-29 March 2011, the International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator of UNOY Peacebuilders took part on 7 day training for facilitators involved in non-formal education with youth in the field of human rights.

The training was organized by the Council of Europe in Budapest (Hungary). The aim of the course was to ensure a high quality standard in organising, implementing and evaluating study sessions and training activities as also securing an effective follow up of these study sessions and other training activities organised and run in cooperation with the Council of Europe with a focus on human rights.



Helped by 6 advisers, 31 participants from 25 countries European countries, all youth workers or youth leaders, worked for 7 days on how human right, non-formal education and facilitation technique. Most of the organisations the participants represented are working in cooperation with the Council of Europe to organize a study session. UNOY Peacebuilders' study session on Youth and Volunteerism in Peacebuilding will take place in October 2011.

The training was great opportunity to learn from the experienced advisers, but also from other participants. Between the plenary sessions, the workshops, the thinking groups and the practice phase, I learned a lot! The diversity of profiles and backgrounds made the training a very rich

environment to discuss and debate and think of possible cooperation. More information about human rights and non-formal education as well as training materials is available on the website of the Council of Europe.

#### **2.4 Education about Peace Education: Culture of Peace Advocacy at the UN**

By Oliver Rizzi Carlson

In the historic, international hallways of the United Nations, a multitude of people from every country in the world are busy going to meetings, addressing agenda items relevant to their governments and organizations, and making contacts. Peace education is seldom included; but once mentioned, it is immediately recognized for its relevance and importance.

Advocating for peace education in the midst of governments, international organizations and even NGOs, very few of which promote the issue directly, appears as a lonely journey. But as soon as one starts to speak about it, people's eyes light up, new ideas and proposals flow, and diverse groups gather to talk about it further – it seems the momentum is building very quickly to create a real consciousness about peace education at the international and institutional level.

In a sense, this advocacy addresses an often-overlooked group of learners: institutional authorities and policy makers. They, too, should know about peace education, be exposed to its concepts and benefit from its empowerment, so that their far-reaching decisions can be taken conscious of the peace dynamics involved.

The official international efforts for the creation of a culture of peace include the International Year for a Culture of Peace, the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, and the Decade for a Culture of Peace, which ended just last year. They come from UNESCO and the UN itself, and serve as tools and stepping-stones to promote peace education policies within the UN now and into the future. This year, peacemaking and peacebuilding traditions were taken into account during an OHCHR consultation on cultural rights and heritage; peace education and empowerment were promoted within the context of a report on violence against children as well as a draft resolution on children living and or working on the street; and synergies were created for the promotion of the Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training adopted at the Human Rights Council last month – just to cite a few examples.

With the creation of a Culture of Peace Working Group, we will now work together with other NGOs to focus on the Human Right to Peace. The Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council is to prepare a draft declaration on the right of

peoples to peace. The Advisory Committee states in its progress report that “a right to peace without reference to education is inconceivable,” and mentions education as a “necessity for building a culture of peace”.

In this and future efforts, it is up to us to educate about the kind of education that is always relevant to all; to support policy makers in supporting peace educators; to implement the process to the process. And it is a growing number of us contributing our stream to the river on which peace education will be increasingly recognized and supported at the institutional level, making it a guiding principle and a way of living for the current and future generations.

#### **2.5 Publication of the project “Culture of Peace in Young People’s View”**

The project ‘Culture of peace in young people’s view’ was implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders with five partner peace organizations in the first half of 2010. Within the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), initiated by UNESCO, the project aimed to contribute to create a culture of peace through the powerful tool of peace education. The publication resulted from the activities of this project is mainly directed to organizations working in the field of peace education, being a useful resource for youth workers and youth trainers whom plan to organise activities in this ambit.

‘Culture of peace in young people’s view’ was funded by the Council of Europe and the European Youth Foundation. The project consisted in a research with youth implemented by 6 organisations from 6 European countries. UNOY Peacebuilders represented The Netherlands and worked on the activities with organizations from Italy (CEIPES, coordinating organisation), Armenia, Hungary, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The research lasted for six months, between January and June 2010, period during which interviews were carried out simultaneously in the six countries, as well as educational workshops with 121 youth people.

The publication is complemented with a DVD containing the interviews (in English or with English subtitles) of young people in each country. The DVD was created with the purpose of being used as an educational tool in international youth work (but not only) and as a stimulus to youth to reflect and learn in the realm of culture of peace and nonviolence. It can be accessed on CEIPES’ website:

<http://www.ceipes.org/Documents/Culture%20of%20peace%20in%20young%20people's%20view%20CEIPES%20EYF.pdf>

The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World is now at the end and the results achieved world-wide are already available in the dedicated website: <http://decadeculture-of-peace.org/>.

### 3. NETWORK NEWS

#### 3.1 Against Gender Discrimination

By Armine Sadkyan

On 21 March, 2011, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-Vanadzor organized an event on "Against Gender Discrimination", which was dedicated to the International day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination within the annual European-wide Action Week against racism initiated by UNITED European Network against Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees. Schoolchildren from Vanadzor secondary schools and students from Vanadzor State Pedagogical Institute, Mkhitar Gosh Armenian-Russian International University, and European Regional Educational Academy participated in the workshop.

Each year HCA Vanadzor office initiates various events targeted at presentation and discussion of different topics within the scopes of the action. This time the topic was focused on "Gender Discrimination". The goal of the event was to raise awareness of youth on different forms of discrimination, particularly, on Gender Discrimination and its stereotypes in our society.

HCA Vanadzor staff and an EVS volunteer from Germany introduced the general concept of Racial Discrimination, various forms of discrimination, specifically, Gender Discrimination and its forms.

The organizers highlighted the significance of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".



During the event, the participants had a chance to obtain theoretical knowledge as well as took part in the group work activities. Each group presented its work via "frozen picture", so that others could guess the type of gender inequality. At the end of the workshop the participants expressed their opinions about the event and their perception on the concept of gender as well as the existing

opportunities to overcome the stereotypes in their culture.

Such events provide opportunities to educate youth that are completely unaware of the presented topics and, therefore, give them a chance to obtain new knowledge and become multipliers for their environment and among their peers.

#### 3.2 Experiencing Conflict - The West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation Education Forum

By Wisdom Addo



Conflict comes about from differences - in needs, values and motivations. Sometimes through these differences we complement each other. Conflict is not a problem in itself but it is what we do with it that counts. It is important that we do something because whether we like it or not, conflicts demand our energy. In fact, an unresolved conflict can call on tremendous amounts of our attention. We all know how exhausting an unresolved conflict can be. It is not always easy to fix the problem but a great energy boost can come when we do something.

Everyone experiences conflict in his or her life. It may come in the form of a disagreement with peers, parents, co-worker, a spouse, or a complete stranger. Whatever the case, as conflicts arise we must learn to resolve them effectively. This can be difficult because everyone has different ways of managing conflict. Some have a tendency to be very confrontational and want to resolve problems head on. Others may want to avoid conflict altogether or may beat around the bush. However, neither of these options is the best solution. Is there a way that people can come to a happy medium in order to resolve any conflicts that come their way? Yes

Conflict is never fun, but the fact of the matter is that it's part of life whether we like it or not. We are bound to have differences of opinion about certain things, and that's ok. This does not mean that a full blown argument has to break out. There is a way to be heard and to also understand what the other person is saying as well. This does not mean that you have to agree with them on the topic as most people seem to think.

### **Effective ways to manage conflict in your life:**

**Talk-** Anytime a conflict arises, the natural reaction for many is to start yelling. Without even realizing it your voice begins to rise and then before you know it the other person is yelling back at you. When this happens neither one of you are hearing the other person. Be conscience of your tone and make sure that the conversation remains calm and does not turn into a yelling match. If the other person begins yelling first, try saying something like, "I'm not yelling at you, please don't yell at me. I understand that you're upset, but let's talk about this calmly so that we can resolve it."

**You don't have to be "right"** - Many thousands of conflicts have broken out because someone is trying to prove that they are right. While you may feel that you are in fact right, that does not always mean that the other person is wrong. It is not necessary to get the other person to believe exactly as you do. Something that may be wrong for you may be the perfect answer for someone else. Keeping this in mind can put things in perspective.

**Think before you react-** While we have no control over the behavior of other people, we do have control over ourselves. Thinking before reacting can also save you some future strife. As hard as this sounds, the more you practice this, the easier it becomes. Think about whether your reaction is warranted. Are there other things going on in your life that are contributing to how you are feeling? Are you really upset with this particular person, or is it possible that you are upset with other things?

**Listen to the other person-** Many times when dealing with conflict with another person, we may be thinking about a way of rebuttal or to prove our point instead of really listening to the other. If we instead attempt to really listen to what the other person is saying it may be easier to reach a compromise.

**Don't be passive aggressive-** A common mistake that people make is being passive aggressive, that is to talk in a round about way about the issue or the person without talking directly about it. This can lead to even more misunderstanding and frustration for both parties. It is always better to talk directly about the issue so that others are not left to read between the lines.

**Agree to disagree-** If all else fails and an agreement can't be reached, agree to disagree and walk away. Sometimes it is necessary to come back to the conversation later after both parties have calmed down and had a chance to think about the view point of the other person. Continuing to rehash the same thing over and over is not productive. During your time apart it may be necessary to write some things down so that you

can better articulate what you want to say to the other person.



Conflict is inevitable and as hard as we try, no one can avoid it. The next time you find yourself in a conflict, try using these techniques. They will better help you to communicate effectively with others and in the end you both will benefit from it!

#### **4. THEME IN FOCUS**

#### **"Learning by Seeing, Seeing by Doing" – Jobshadowing Project** **By Catalina Barzescu**

'Job shadow' refers to the experience through which a person explores a profession, or an activity, by actually and actively observing the daily work within that field. Initially aimed at high school students or interns, either for their professional orientation or skills developing, job shadowing can and should be applied by young adults as well. And not only, since there is no time or space limit to learning, is there?

The organisation I am part of, UNOY Peacebuilders, is now one of the ten youth-led organisations from around the world to send their leaders to another organisation working on peacebuilding to follow their activities for a week. 'Jobshadowing' is a project that began in November 2010, and its outcomes will be presented in October 2011. Throughout the year, people working on issues related to poverty, social exclusion and gender equality will not only take unique visits to other countries, but also take their expertise along to the new environment, and discuss their ideas and activities.

'Around the world' jobshadowing means just that: the organisations which will share their knowledge and understanding are based in The Hague (Netherlands), Barcelona (Spain), Amarante (Portugal), Cluj Napoca (Romania), Palermo (Italy), Cordoba (Argentina), Nairobi (Kenya), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Accra (Ghana) and Quezon City (Philippines). At the moment of writing, the project has taken young peace leaders from Spain to Ghana, from Portugal to Kenya. At the moment of

writing, UNOY's own Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator, is travelling to the Philippines, Mindanao. Our turn to host will come in June, when Adel Umar from Young Peace Brigades Ghana will, like the other youth leaders involved in the project, follow our work, have meetings with us and with donors, and policy makers, give a youth workshop, and organize an advocacy event.

Through these trips, young peacebuilding leaders get a good glimpse of the working realities of their far away counterparts, understand the context in which they work, and learn how to improve the collaboration with them, while at the same time improving their own knowledge and skills. All organisations involved can benefit from this experience. I do agree that travelling, combined with 'shadowing' someone else doing one's work in another place and context, can be an enriching experience. And I guess I appreciate the willingness to keep learning, while being open to different cultures.

In addition to job shadowing, the organisations will give workshops and trainings, as well as promote their cause to policy makers and put together a campaign for the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2011.

Within this newsletter and on UNOY's website, we'll keep you up to date with developments of 'Job shadowing'. You can also follow the stories of the participants on our facebook page, in the open group 'Learning by seeing, Seeing by doing'.

## **5. HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES**

### **Innovations in Civic Participation 2010 Activities Report**

'Innovations in Civic Participation' (ICP) presents their 2010 report, 'A Catalyst for Meeting Global Development Needs through Youth Civic Engagement'. In 2010, ICP provided technical assistance to successfully implement new US Summer of Service programming, fostered high-level international engagement through global networks, such as the Talloires Network and the International Association for National Youth Service, and contributed to the service field around the world through cutting-edge research and innovations.

For more information:  
<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?InnovationsinCivicPa/097a65ab4b/1f3c0fd468/7285ce6828>.

## **6. OPORUNITIES AND EVENTS**

### **6.1 More Interplay workshops in May**

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders is currently organising free workshops on advocacy

and actor and conflict mapping to support participants of their Interplay project ([www.unoy.org/interplay](http://www.unoy.org/interplay)). These workshops are, however, also free and open for other people.

In May, more workshops on logframes and fundraising are held. On 10 May, Rob Watson and Lillian Solheim will give a introduction to logical framework, a tool used in the design, monitoring and evaluation of international development projects. The discussion will take place between 15:00 and 18:00 at the UNOY Peacebuilders office in The Hague.

On the following day, on May 11, Rob Watson and Stephanie Mby will give a workshop on EU fundraising, starting with 14:00 at the same location.

There is only place for 15-20 participants for each workshop. So **sign up** soon by sending a email to [training@unoy.org](mailto:training@unoy.org). Other workshop dates and places will follow soon! Check the website <http://interplay.unoy.org/category/news/>

## **6.2 Summer School Peace and Human Rights**

In August, 2011, Utrecht University will be holding a two week summer school program on Peace and Human Rights education. This years' focus will be on examples of peace and human rights education in Asia and art and creative educational approaches. This session will also include a day of workshops at UNOY Peacebuilders! The deadline for registration is the 1st of July, 2011.

For more information and to register go to <http://www.utrechtsommerschool.nl/index.php?tvpe=courses&code=S2>

## **6.3 Call for trainers and participants - Believe in Dialogue Act for Citizenship**

The Anna Lindh Foundation has recently launched its regional initiative 'Believe in Dialogue, Act for Citizenship- Exchanging Practices on Participation and Democracy' following the recent historical events in the Arab Region. The initiative aims at exchanging good practices and debate about citizenship and democracy among cultural operators, non-governmental organizations, media and young activists at the Euro-Med level as well as empowering and building the capacities of member organizations of the Anna Lindh civil society networks.

In this framework, two major events will take place in June 2011 in both the Egyptian and Tunisian capitals: the Regional Training Seminar on Intercultural Dialogue and Social Change (Cairo), and the Anna Lindh Exchange (Tunis). For more information:

<http://www.euromedalex.org/news/believe-dialogue-act-citizenship-regional-initiative-launched>

### **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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Editor: Catalina Barzescu, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Laan van Meerdervoort 70, 2517 AN The Hague, The Netherlands Tel: +31 70 364 7799; Fax: +31 70 362 2633; E-mail: [campaign@unoy.org](mailto:campaign@unoy.org)

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