

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2019



TO KNOW, TO GROW, TO ACT
WINDOWS - CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION



"I know that what I am doing is the right thing to do. Yet, my friends who know about it will not talk in order to protect me and on the stage I will put a mask..."

M. a Palestinian participant in Windows' theatre group

Our Theatre Group is ready to meet an audience and needs your support. Any donation is helpful and highly appreciated.

[Donate via Windows for Peace UK](#)

Windows' Theater Program

"There was a guy in the audience. I watched his face during the scene, and I could see the changes in his expression. He had changed and I felt our strength"

D. A Palestinian Participant



Most of the participants in the Theatre Programme **began their journey** at Windows **around the age of 13**, as part of the Youth Media and Action Programme. Last summer, **at the age of 21, we brought them together to continue their growth as young activists.** In the last 4 months, they met for three weekends to rehearse and perform through monologues and improvisation.

Using the methods of the **Theatre of the Oppressed**, they decided to **share with the audience** the daily sufferings of life under occupation and the challenges they face working together to change this reality. The audience is then invited to step on stage, re-enact and re-interpret a scene, offering an alternative approach to dealing with the challenges presented.

In April, the Theatre group faced an audience for the first time which was composed of Israelis only. The power of theatre to promote activism was perceived by both actors and audience. In June the year-long programme will conclude with the group's performances in the West Bank and Israel.

In this project we see the goals of Windows' long term process coming to fruition: the gaps in knowledge, perceptions and attitudes between young Israeli and Palestinian participants are being filled. The Theatre group is now ready to take action on the basis of common values and a shared vision for the future.

Windows youth programs

"I don't understand why Israel doesn't allow the internal refugees to return to their uprooted villages. It will not change demography. It is so unfair"

A. An Israeli Jewish participant



At the beginning of March our Youth group from Yafat Al Nasra (Galilee), hosted the other groups (Israeli Jews and Palestinians from the West Bank) for a weekend seminar. This included the moving experience of Israeli participants being hosted in the homes of the Palestinians, as well as **a tour of Yafa, Nazareth and Maalul**, the uprooted village their families were expelled from in 1948.

As soon as their exams are over, the Israeli Jewish group will host the Palestinian participants, showing them Israeli society and its story as they see it. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the last day of the seminar in the West Bank, with the local group showing the Israelis the reality of life under occupation, which, until now, they have only heard about. The 4-day seminar will include practicing methods for raising awareness, that the participants will eventually use within their communities.

This programme began last summer with a two-week intensive seminar that took place in Germany. After returning, the Israeli Jewish girls faced misunderstandings and frustration from friends and family for bringing with them information that contradicted the common discourse. The visit to Yafat Al Nasra, added to their confusion. Palestinians from the West Bank faced criticism for meeting Israelis. Regrettably, this pressure prevented a few of them from participating in the seminar held in March, thus missing an opportunity to learn about and promote issues that are of vital importance to them, such as the Nakba and the plight of Palestinian refugees.

During the March seminar the group listened to the story of a 92 year-old man who grew up in the uprooted village of Maalul, and they watched a film about the community's efforts to return to the village. The discussion that followed attempted to explain **why internal refugees cannot return to their land**, which is now covered by forest, and **why the Israeli society is not aware of these issues**. They also discussed the military service dilemma of the Israeli Jewish girls.

As the group is now in the 11th and 12th grade, they are all busy with school

examinations, making it hard to find a free weekend to meet. A lack of funding adds to this challenge.

A Visit from France: encouraging involvement of young Europeans in promoting a justice-based future



Last fall a group of Windows' graduates visited the city of Nancy (*France*) to meet local peers. We shared with them the Israeli/Palestinian story and discussed together the historical and current role of Europe in the Middle East. **Following this successful visit, the French group visited us in April this year, to see the situation with their own eyes.** We arranged for them to meet with local NGOs dealing with asylum seekers, mizrahi women, and the LGBT community. Furthermore, together we visited a kibbutz and Arab communities in Israel. Following a tour of the seam line between East and West Jerusalem, we visited Yad Va Shem and the group traveled to the West Bank to continue their program.

Our Ongoing Projects: packing our experience, teacher training, Arabic classes, and more...



We believe that it is necessary to **acknowledge the past and deal with it**: our research team continues to work tirelessly on a **concise yet comprehensive database of history**.

New interns from Taiwan, Singapore, the USA and Israel are working with Windows team to update our **theories of change and methods** of work to be later shared with the public.

Preparations for **teacher training** in the upcoming school year are progressing well.

And if you wish to study [spoken Arabic](#) – we have the best classes in town for you.

A big thank you from the bottoms of our hearts to all the volunteers, interns and supporters that make our work possible!

Please support Windows work

Windows is the organisation I grew up in. It allowed me to meet Israelis with the **strength of an equal**, not just as an occupied civilian in front of soldiers. I witnessed how I can change the way the other side think and motivate them to **take action**. I am proud to play an active role in **liberating my society**. What I can do is limited, but **together** we have a great power to change Israeli public opinion. If not tomorrow, then after tomorrow, **change will come**, it is only a matter of time, and I am ready to work hard for it.

S. a Windows' graduate

For more information please check out our [Website](#)



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