

To those who feel concerned

AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) Palestine Ramallah, Gaza and Jerusalem is asking financial support for the project "Communication Skills in Palestine".

AFSC Palestine Youth Program

In the aftermath of World War II AFSC gained experience resettling refugees and displaced persons, and was asked by the United Nations to organize relief efforts for Palestinian Arab refugees in the Gaza Strip. This continued until the United Nations Relief Works Agency began operations on May 1, 1950. From its initial engagement with refugees in Gaza, AFSC has been committed to peace-building as well as relief efforts.

Today, AFSC through its Palestinian staff and partners in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem supports young people and their communities to enable them to marshal local resources that can directly meet pressing humanitarian, social and educational needs.

Over the past eight years the AFSC Palestine Youth Program has worked with over 4,000 young people, offering them the opportunity to use their talents and develop their skills to undertake projects that they themselves have identified in their local community. In this project AFSC works in partnership with universities, youth organizations and the Palestinian Ministries of Youth and Education and the United Nations (UNRWA).

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) West Bank program together with Friends International Centre in Ramallah organized already two basic communication courses of 30 hours in five or six days in October 2011 and April. In October 2012 we organized a follow-up course level I. AFSC Gaza office organized also a basic course in October 2012. These courses were taught by Marlies and Sytse Tjallingii, two Friends from the Netherlands who were supported by the Dutch yearly Meeting of the Quakers, two Monthly meetings and individual Quakers and other concerned people in and outside the Netherlands. They are fully qualified trainers in communications skills, former teachers from University of applied sciences in Zwolle, Netherlands. They offer the trainings for free. We are grateful for this support because of the impact on the staff of AFSC and many professionals in Palestine who

are working in NGO's, education, therapists community development etc. The communication skills are trained from the background of Neuro Linguistic Programming, Solution Focused Therapy, Non-Violent Communication and from the Alternative to Violence Project. All the trainings brought together about 60 participants in Ramallah and Gaza. All the trainings had simultaneous interpretation. The communication skills courses are an important instrument to bring Palestinian professionals together to become more aware of their own way of communicating and of the fundamental structures of communication. They learn to look at their own history and culture and become more conscious in choosing the values in their life. They learn to practice more, and new ways of communicating with each other. The target of this

communications skills project in Palestine is to train Palestinians to get an international recognized certificate which is achieved by an examination after 130 hours of communication training.



Participants developing a communication skill

It is important to increase the number of professional Palestinians who are trained in communication skills and it is also important to increase the level of communication skills up to level III, IV. It is a support to local NGO's and social institutions. It is also a valuable input in cooperation and starting training in communications skills by Palestinians.

We kindly request your financial support for the continuation of this project. This support will be used for the costs made in Palestine, for translation of the handbooks, simultaneous interpreters during the course, materials and hiring accommodation. All the participants pay a substantial part of the costs for catering and materials. Details are given in the budget and the project proposal.

For AFSC Palestine Program

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