

C.I.F. ITALIA
Proposal for the enhancement of the CIF Peace Project

“It Won't Stop Until We Talk”!
Considerations on the 2011/2012 experience and future development in 2013...

From the very start of the Peace Project in 2011 and the outcome of the experience lived in Cyprus, we are even more aware that the sort of internal conflict and the strong feelings we are dealing with are very delicate and sensitive; not everyone is at the same stage of processing those feelings and our CIF Exchange Programs may not be totally prepared to manage effectively the situations that could arise.

In our CIF Italia 2012 program we had two wonderful people, Ofra from Israel and Mohammed from the Palestinian Territories, who have already gone through different processes, allowing them to discover each other more fully as people. We feel that our Exchange Program has merely but significantly strengthened their relationship, and this is what we feel they have taken back home. Consequently, we believe that CIF cannot carry on successfully by itself a truly effective Peace Project Program, but needs to connect with someone who is working in managing the internal/psychological conflict of Israeli and Palestinian individuals. This is where Ofra indicated the way: she belongs to a forum of Israeli and Palestinian families who are doing just that; she herself is a member and has personally lived the experience that has brought her to where she is now. More than any words we could use to explain... please click on this site to understand better what we are actually talking about:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzJkBxQC4Tg&feature=g> (The Parents Circle Families Forum; Two Sided Story):

We have then formally proposed that CIF endorse the idea of inviting two leaders from the above Forum, possibly the ones who started it, and present in Turkey their admirable project to the general group with a possible workshop to follow as well. What could be more in line with the theme of the Conference: ENCOUNTERS! This, in our opinion, could be the connection/link mentioned before that could help CIF to have a partner and continue in a more realistic and functional way the Peace Project initiated and, who knows, maybe generate even more ideas and encourage other CIF Branches with an Exchange Program to benefit from this opportunity. Let alone the chance to allow all CIF conference attendees to know more about what is going in this region, an insight to everyone, especially those who may have to deal with similar conflicts.

Well, among other areas, this is where Mohammed has offered his extensive expertise: he will try, once we have the final OK from CIF Turkey and CIF International, to present this Conference Project to various Organizations and see if we can obtain at least a partial fund; CIF Branches could also be asked, as we did for the Cyprus Conference; the potential guest speakers themselves might be asked if they are willing to contribute with whatever possible; and of course other sources could be explored...any other ideas?! On behalf of the Peace Project Team 2012/13, then, as Ofra and Mohammed would say (but maybe this is true in the daily life of each one of us):

“It Won't Stop Until We Talk”!

Ofra Leichtentritt (Israel)

Mohammed Alami (Palestinian Territories)

Domenico Antonio Merola (Mimmo) (For CIF Italia)