

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES FOUNDATION

Creating Awareness Proposal

Consultation with representatives of target groups about the preparation and the follow up of the conference

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Introduction

This project aims at involving representatives of chosen target groups and creating a room for them to discuss and share their opinion on the use of Palestine Israel Journal.

There will be three stages during which the involvement of those representatives will be essential.

1. Preparation of the conference
2. The conference itself
3. The follow up of the conference

1. Preparation of the conference: we have discussed with the editors of the PIJ the possibility of promoting the use of the website of PIJ which provides a wealth of important articles for the information of representatives of the chosen target groups. During the process of conference preparation they acquire a better understanding of the questions to be discussed at the conference, in this case Jerusalem. At present we are developing a strategy of what would be the most effective way to motivate people who belong to these target groups, to make use of the website of PIJ, so that they can explore on their own PC this website and make selection of the most important and informative articles. At this moment we are in the process of consultation with representatives of these groups on this matter.

Target groups

After consultation with the steering group of this project we have decided on the following target groups. For every target group, we have selected certain organisations / people who might act as representatives of those groups.

1. Students (those that have been previously involved in the roundtables and those that have reacted to Peter's Facebook)
2. Women (Free women's foundation; Gender Concerns International; Ms Tomador; Ms Borren)
3. Elderly people (HOVO, meeting with Mr. Nigten on 23rd March)
4. Migrants (migrants from Muslim countries)
5. Research institutions of the political parties (e.g. D66, CDA, Groen Links, VVD)
6. Jewish community in the Netherlands (EAJG, SIFMO)
7. Palestinian community in the Netherlands (consultation on the 5th of March with Radish Suudi; consultation meeting with the ambassador)

Students are being approached in order to spread the subject among them and to create a possibility for them to learn more about the complexity of the conflict while at the same time, it will help them realise how important and necessary is to solve those issues.

Women may have different perceptions of the conflict situations and peace making process. It is important to have a representative of this group as the input they bring will be beneficial for creating a fruitful debate.

Retired people have shown the interested in the subject and it will be a good idea to include them in the debates. Many of them have experience and have the time to be involved in such a project. In general this target group does not have much experience in using computers, and making use of computers might be a learning experience in order to widen their contacts.

Migrants play an important role, as they can share their experience of adjusting to new countries and culture. Some migrant groups have a very strong sense of identity which can be hard to understand for others. This is why it is important to have them in the conversation and learn about their opinion.

The research institutions of political parties are important key participants. They are the ones that can create further awareness and bring up the issue to the higher importance. They also have the power to lobby for further involvement of the European Union. Choosing this target group will be less political than taking political parties instead.

The representative of Palestinians and Jewish people are very important and need to be involved. They are directly concerned with the issue and their relevant life experience is needed for a productive debate. The debate will create the possibility of intimate discussion away from the public light.

The essential steps of the plan

In order to develop a plan, we discussed this matter with Bram Rutgers a member of the board of IDF who emphasised the importance of working according to plan. The elements that need to be included in the plan are following;

1. Who to approach from the target groups?
2. What are the specific interests and sensitivities within these groups?
3. How far the target groups are interested and are they willing to get into discussion with others and within their own target groups, if necessary to abandon their own pre conceptions.

Involvement of Palestine Israel Journal

The most effective way is to make use of internet as the basis for communication.

At the background of this initiative is an agreement we made with Palestine Israel Journal to promote their website to The Netherlands and other European countries, as a source of information for internet users. In consultation with the editors of PIJ we are preparing a strategy of using articles from their website as a source of information for the people who are going to be approached to take part in the discussion.

- The people who are going to be approached need to be informed about the website and its possibilities.
- The instructions that are still to be prepared will include the selection of the most important and relevant articles on Jerusalem.
- These meetings should concentrate on the relevance of the chosen articles to the upcoming conference. The articles might provide information about certain aspects

which require more attention. Also, they might provide new perspectives for further discussion.

The discussion sessions

The idea is that representatives of target groups share their ideas and thoughts on the article, read and give critical comments and maybe suggest further reading. This will stimulate the exchange of experience and might also provide possibilities for more open discussion during the conference (speaker feel more comfortable and easier to speak out during the conference).

It should be possible to have one of the editors of PIJ to visit The Hague and attend one of those sessions. In case if this idea would not be possible to adhere, there are other people who be glad to give an introduction to those sessions.

Discussion session with Palestinian Community

It is necessary to give a chance for the Palestinians to discuss and present their opinion. To this meeting, five to ten Palestinians will be invited to speak out. Additionally, it has been suggested by Yousef Ahmed to try and invite those Palestinians that can also represent the views of Hamas and Fatah. It has been discussed together with Radi Suudi and Yousef Ahmed to involve Mr. van Agt in a discussion session with the Palestinian Community in The Netherlands, where he will be able to present his ideas which he put forward in his book. This type of discussion will create a base for formulating a strategy for further activities.

Discussion session with Research Institution of the political parties

For this discussion session it was thought of inviting L.J Brinkhorst, one of the main Dutch speakers, who would chair the discussion session with the representatives of the political parties. This meeting will be used to create awareness and pressure on the political parties and to influence the process of policy making.

Interesting aspect is that 'Rights Forum', an organisation established by Van Agt, in cooperation with Brinkhorst and Van den Broek will go to Israel and occupied territories. When L.J. Brinkhorst will return from his trip, he will be invited to present a report of the trip and a proposal of what is going to happen at the June conference. This contribution at the conference will focus on the draft proposal with conclusions and recommendations made by the steering group. This will take place a week before the elections and it will fit well with the idea of coalition making.