

UK Ambassador for Peace Gathering May 16th

Christa Kamga
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There was a consultation brief meeting on the 16th of May with a group of over 15 ambassadors for peace. At the round table, Robin Marsh, started with welcoming remarks and explaining a paper with a list of upcoming events. After discussing the programme of activities, they each shared on how to make the event successful. It was very inspiring. Then the talks became more deep, everyone gave small reports on what they do. Andreas Bachofner, Charitas Children Hospital Trustee, told us how the hospital is going on, how the doors are always open for people - we are better off than most people in the area, unfortunately, the major issue for us now is operational issues – we need people that will work, and money to run it. At the moment they find money when there is a project or when we bring something new, like a machine, but no one wants to help for day to day that's generally the challenge.

On the issue of Palestine and Israel a group that seeks to overcome the power of revenge and bad feelings between the two countries was introduced. Thanks to a common misfortune that happened to two fathers, they work together (Israel and Palestine) and talk about the price of the conflict and they have a great authority because they have paid that price. The two people of them are ambassadors of peace, and so is the film director. This is true documentary put together, and everyone was moved and encouraged to bring their friends to this very inspiring event.

About the African Day, over the round table the Ambassadors for Peace group discussed each giving their input as Robin mentioned the final product isn't ready yet. Some ideas given included, making sure it does show the positive side of Africa and not just a forum to discuss on the problems in various parts of Africa. Connecting to the diaspora, to revive sweet memories, make it cultural, introduce clothes, food and have a lively – joyful night. There are lots of positive things that happen and we can show it, so people can see what we valued, then promote, the good stuff happening there.

Margaret discussed on IRFF project happening in Uganda, how they fundraised to send money for chairs, for shoes, for windows and how things can be done to help the people on the spot. People need tools so that they can make things themselves.

David, shared how inspired by Robin, his company has reached now 22 countries and currently what they are doing in Lybia, working to see how we can donate what we have done so that other countries in Africa can start the step to being self-sufficient, they stay in the country for 5 years and then they find a way to go to the next country. They are building technical colleges to train, give tools rather than money, he feels that this is what we have got to do, he works in housing and every company has over 3000 people employed. Another idea was to discuss cultural, religious diversity living side by side, in Africa. How communities live together in harmony.

The EU meeting in the parliament on June 25th, will be about the misuse of resources by external sources, it will be a good way to make an impact. Sometimes what we do looks simple but it can have a huge impact, as we know one of our peace ambassador Charlotte and Robin came together to talk about such issues in the first place in December 2012 and that is how the EU parliament took it on board. So we have we will have someone BBC and Freedom from Torture, someone from business side, looking how to do something responsibly and also someone from DRC by Skype (on ground to speak).

The June 22nd – Youth UPF Training Day was also discussed and we explained on what is going to happen and how our viewpoints are seen. Most of the Youth events, high profile people that came where invited to speak, Baroness, Keith Best and it is really a good way to inspire the young people.

The Youth Achievement Award – was introduced, the sharma award.

September 21st we have Day of Peace, we would like to do something as we do. Anyone has got any idea how we can make things possible. Singers!! – UNESCO organized event - he was the patron of the conference and we were there for 2 days and filled huge rooms over 300 people. We can try and do something in London.

The idea of the Palestine/Jewish, peace to Middle East, and a day of no war was introduced by Dr. Ramzi to put religious leaders forward, he proposed a project of international day of cease fire. Which hasn't been done yet, but with such event we can save a minimum of 500 lives. Everyone agreed, rabi, Jews, and it was accepted. At the moment he is trying to do a website. Institution Cultural Democracy, it is new but going to be part of the UN and by the grace of almighty God, it will work, he said he believes the UPF will support such an initiative. The Olympic Truce movement as well – is an idea. One day of playing staying home.

The next best event, will be through the European Leadership Council – UN Day, to get a few of the Key members and they say how we can help and make UN stronger, there are some projects that have been done for 10 years and nothing happened. For example discuss why would a small country like Turkey should have nuclear? We talked about Burma and Syria, we need to have ambassadors for peace and people from such countries to come up and create events so we can support. Robin used social media to make the issue known but much more could be done if someone made an event. In November we have Forgiveness and reconciliation afternoon conferences, and One Family Under God, Principles of Peace and Peace building.



Mark Brann reported for the Europe news UPF:

Last weekend I was in Macedonia and with Dr. Thomas Walsh, we had a conference which is called Dialogue and Civilization, between religions, ethnic groups and it was co-sponsored by the UN. Before the conference we spoke to University and then we had subscription of about 80 people to the network.

We also met PM and speaker of parliament – generally, well received. Then Dr. Thomas Walsh gave a presentation about the Interreligious, and world summit in Korea over 40 nations that came either Head of States or first ladies.

As for North Korea and if we talk, Father Moon was given an award and now we want to substantialize our relationship with North Korea, hope some of you can be inspired to be involved in this project. – Aim is to send a container of medical supplies a month.

Youth Project, we have applied to the EU - Malta and it is to deal with North Africa and the EU sponsors various things and it looks like they will sponsor and we will have one week of dialogue. Once we have a final word on that we will let you know.

With MEPI we have been very active in the Middle East and now we are re-commencing that effort. Right now, about 200 people from Korea, Japan, Europe and USA are gathered there to renew the spirit of MEPI. Over the next days they will be doing activities.

We just about to be part of the ECOSOC - main arm in the UN, Economic and Social Council – ECOSOC, also he said the UPF is a truly incredible organization – president of ECOSOC asking for a minute of silence for the FOUNDER, so we are making progress.

Later on it was agreed by everyone that such regular meetings are very important and a platform where they can meet once a month was created. Every Last Tuesday of the Month for Ambassadors for Peace gathering will now be held in 43 Lancaster Gate.