

## What can I do for Peace?

On the **26<sup>th</sup> of June 2019** in the evening we had our first Information and discussion evening about YSP in Vienna. It took place in the Peace Museum Vienna, in the office of IAPD.

The topic we set for this event was: “What can I do for Peace?”

Our first speaker was Jeong-Hye Yeom, our YSP Director of Europe and Middle East. She introduced “Youth and Students for Peace” to our guests and through that they could make themselves a picture of what we do in YSP and what our vision is.

The second speaker was Suad Sheikh Mohamed. Originally from Somalia, Suad has also lived in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Pakistan, and Austria. Suad works as an Assistant Consultant in the Austrian Red Cross and as an interpreter at a Catholic organization in Vienna. She shared about what peace means for her and what she thinks everyone can do for peace. Firstly, she mentioned that inner peace is important, to be in harmony with oneself. Then one can spread this calmness and peacefulness with others. She mentioned that it is important to be open to others and not to judge without knowing the background. One thing that everyone can do for peace is to smile at others, which can have already a big impact on others.

After the talks we split the group in two and had discussion rounds about different questions. The people shared about what peace is for them, what projects they would be interested in and also what they think is important for peaceful relationships. Something they stressed was that peace starts within a person him-/herself.

All of them were really motivated to invest themselves and take small steps towards making Austria a better place!

We will find a date in autumn to have an official inauguration of YSP in Austria.

Written by Beatrice Kiedler



YSP in Austria was initiated by Marlies Haider and Beatrice Kiedler, who had participated in YSP seminar earlier this year.



The main speaker was Jeonghye Yeom, YSP director of Europe and the Middle East



Discussion groups about "What can I do for Peace?"



