

Zien, zijn en geloven: in dialoog met vrouwen uit Palestijns gebied

Utrecht, 6 October – 15 October 2008

Introduction

The Arab Educational Institute (AEI) formulated, in preparation of the project, the need for realization of this visit as follows:

- The need for a public platform, both abroad and at home
- To experience solidarity, to re-find energy and orientation in their life and that of others
- To experience and to be energized by different thinking and lifestyles which may serve as inspiration for future activities
- To improve international communication and raise awareness.
- To offer 'breathing space'.

Through this evaluation we try to see to what extent this has been achieved and where we could have done things differently.

Organization:

N = 9 ¹	I strongly agree	I agree	neutral	I don't agree	I strongly disagree
1. The visit was well organized	9	0	0	0	0
2. The preparation we did at AEI before this trip was adequate and useful	4	6	0	0	0
3. The transport from and to activities and the host families was well organized	6	3	0	0	0
4. The catering (meals/coffee/tea) was good	9	0	0	0	0
5. The presence of a 'hostess' from the Dutch women's group was pleasant	8	0	0	0	0
6. Our requests were well incorporated	3	7	0	0	0
7. The accommodation was fine	7	1	0	0	0

¹ One of the participants left Tuesday evening (before the evaluation) to Enschede, where she would be picked up by her daughter and would stay with her (in Germany) for another month.

How did you like the various activities?

N = 9	excellent	good	neutral	poor	very poor
Monday evening: Welcome in Enschede by host families and Myra Koomen (Town Council)	9				
Tuesday morning: Walk through Enschede	8	1			
Tuesday afternoon: painting	9				
Tuesday evening: folk dance with AGAPO	9				
Wednesday morning: tour & walk in Ootmarsum	9				
Wednesday afternoon: tour by horse and cart	9				
Wednesday evening: dinner	9				
Wednesday evening: multicultural choir	9				
Thursday morning: House of stories	9				
Thursday afternoon: visit to library of Almelo	9				
Thursday evening: dinner with ZWO	9				
Friday morning: presentation at schools	8	1			
Friday afternoon: presentation by Police	9				
Interview with newspaper Tubantia		1			
Friday evening: Dutch / Palestinian traditional dress, and Palestinian wedding	8	1			
Saturday morning: shopping and market	9				
Saturday afternoon: international cooking	9				
Saturday evening: meal with SIVE; peace cloth	9				
Sunday morning: church service	9				
Sunday morning: presentation and questions	9				
Sunday afternoon: Bible/Quran reading	9				
Sunday afternoon: discussion at library Almelo					
Sunday evening: dinner at 'the Paradise'	9				
Monday: visit to Amsterdam	9				
Monday evening: dinner in Amsterdam	9				
Tuesday: training storytelling	7	2			
Tuesday evening: dinner	7	2			

NB: due to the printout (where the grey lines were not visible enough), most ladies filled this table per day (not per activity). The few marks 'good' (Tuesday morning and Friday) are marked near the activity and therefore assumed to be associated with the activity, while the marks 'good' on the last Tuesday cannot be traced clearly to one of both activities.

If something was poor or very poor, please explain: n.a.

What did you like most?

- Visit to Amsterdam (2 x)
- Visit to library of Almelo
- Presentation at schools (3x)
- Tour by horse and cart

- Presentation by police
- Church service
- Traditional Dutch dress (3x)
- Painting

What did you like least?

- Presentation to schools (1x)

Other questions:

NB: All yes/no questions have been answered by yes (!)

1. Do you feel that your visit contributed to awareness raising with regard to the living conditions and everyday life in Palestine among Dutch people? (yes / no)
2. Do you think the activities during this week contributed to a more positive image of Palestinian people? (yes / no)
3. Do you feel that the exchange of stories and information has contributed to a mutual understanding and to an ongoing dialogue? (yes / no)
4. Has your understanding of particular problems in Dutch society increased? (yes/no).
5. Have you heard how Dutch people, civil society or authorities try to deal with these problems? (yes/no) Was this useful for you? (yes/no)
6. Can you give examples of some problems in Dutch society which you observed or heard about?
 - Civil wedding more common than church wedding (2x)
 - Living together and having kids without marriage (4x)
 - No extended families
 - Divorces (3x)
 - Homeless people (3x)
 - Abused women can go to police and husband may go to jail for abuse (2x)
 - Drinking behavior
 - Children leaving the house at 18 years (2x)
 - drugs
7. Did this visit provide you with new energy and new ideas which may be useful at AEI and in the activities of the women? (yes/no)
8. Which of the methodologies you practiced during this week are particularly useful for awareness raising, dialogue and mutual understanding?
 - Presentation and questions (2x)
 - Painting (4x)
 - Dinner at the Paradijs
 - multicultural choir (2x)
 - walk through Enschede
 - Training story telling or telling stories (6x)
 - Translation for the police
 - Multi-cultural bible/Quran reading

- Presentation at schools
 - Presentation by Police
9. Do you have any other comments? (please use the opposite site)
- Looking for people who could support the AEI through Friends of young Bethlehem (FofYB)
 - Thank you for all your good effort to union of payer for better live and peace in our country and the whole (life) word
 - Volunteering during the summer school of communication; we need follow-up in all our activities, like sumud stories, festivals, exchanges of students, children and women; bringing groups to Bethlehem; selling olivewood and embroideries, products to support our activities
 - Everything was all right. We hope that we will have other occasions to repeat this project another time and have more and more experience
 - I liked how you treated me very good even I am a Muslim
 - I like to be free like Dutch people; I like to return to the Netherlands to know more and more about the Netherlands
 - I wish to live in freedom like Holland people; I like the choir singing; we hope we have another trip.
 - Thank you for everything!