

Youth Re-Connections *for Peace*

PALESTINIAN, ISRAELI AND IRISH TEENAGERS EXPLORE WAYS TO MAKE PEACE

IN 2007, SIXTEEN TEENAGERS FROM THE VILLAGE OF ZEBABDEH, in the northern West Bank of the Palestine, led by the Revd Fadi Diab, came to Ireland, to connect and make friends with sixteen young Irish people from Ballinteer Community School in Dublin. Each student produced a scrap-book outlining their life-story in their respective cultures and communities. In 2008 a subsequent visit enabled a further sixteen from Zebabdeh to travel to Northern Ireland, where they connected with young people who have been affected by "The Troubles" mainly through bereavement or injury, and also met key participants in the Irish Peace Process.

Contacts have continued and as part of an ongoing commitment to learn about the culture of the other, a reconnection visit is planned for Irish participants to travel to Zebabdeh and Jerusalem to re-connect with their Palestinian friends and make new connections with Israeli students, under the auspices of the diocese of Jerusalem. The exciting programme of activities represents a mutually-beneficial opportunity to develop partnerships between young people, and a unique way for Ireland to share its experience of conflict and peace-building in other regions.

The project is only possible through generous support from people like you, and we would be most grateful for any financial assistance, no matter how small, that you might be able to make.



THE ZEBABDEH YOUTH GROUP FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION was set up to explore a sense of identity for young people, in the context of a shrinking Christian community in the Holy Land, by connecting with students abroad and in their own community.



THE NORTHERN IRELAND group consists of young people who have been affected by "The Troubles" mainly through bereavement or injury. It is a cross-community group which promotes reconciliation.

THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME in Ballinteer Community School is a targeted and integrated response to early school leaving in the local community.

In-school, after-school and holiday-time supports are provided for students to give them a positive experience of school and allow them to connect with other students in order to develop their sense of identity and self-esteem.



Programme Contacts

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For donations, bank details are as follows:

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BIC: BOFIE2D

Name: BCS/Scoil Mhuire SCP Project

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Thank you!

www.youthconnectionsforpeace.com

