

Evaluation of IAF seminar " Equity and Justice in Globalized world "

September 2011

On September 18th 2011 I joined the IAF seminar on "**Equity and Justice in Globalized world**" in Gummersbach Germany.

The participants were from 23 countries including participants from the "Arab Spring" countries. As Israeli, it was an extraordinary opportunity to meet, talk and learn, in first hand, about my neighbors.

As a social activist in Israel, that have the experience of establishing 12 NGO's in the field of welfare, education and young leadership, I found the seminar as a great opportunity to brain-storm and learn about the liberal ideas. The learning process combined philosophic aspects with the daily life experience that the participants brought to the table. I found it fascinating and helpful for my daily activities.

In this seminar, I didn't represent an organization or a group that promoting the liberal thought. I represented myself as an activist that believe in the Liberal values and want to share and to learn ways to integrate them in my activities. I found myself reading many articles at the seminar and since the seminar. The materials we got during the seminar were excellent and from wide range of the Liberal thinkers. The theories with the share of worldwide knowledge were very influential. The facebook group that we as participants established, soon after the seminar, is a great source for me to explore more about the Liberal thought.

From the logistic point, the seminar was well organized. The academy is a very convenient place, which offers all needed services, including nice rooms, high quality and varied food, convenient seminar rooms and relaxing atmosphere.

The seminar includes excellent workshops that lead by 2 talented and knowledgeable facilitators. They worked as professional, as much as friendly team, and welcome sharing and learning environment. At the seminar there were some lectures by experts. I think there should be much more lectures like them.

The seminar included two excursions: morning at Bonn, in which we had the opportunity to meet Government Officials, and a long weekend to Hamburg. The Hamburg excursion combined in a very nice way a visit of the city and a study of how Germany is implementing equity and justice issues, at the labor aspects.

I was excited to meet people from countries that Israelis usually don't have the opportunity to meet, like Pakistan, Tunisia and Algiers, as well as from places like India, Honduras and Myanmar with people that their culture and life philosophy is different from the regular western one.

Today, the social networks such as facebook and others make it easy and handy to people to consult each other and share knowledge. The main task is to start the dialog and that people will meet for the first time. I believe that the main value of such seminars is to create the pleasant platform, so group of strangers from different countries, religious and life-philosophy, can meet and share experiences as well as fun moments that will cause the first connection that will lead them to a future network.

I want to thank the FNF staff in Jerusalem and in Gummersbach for the high quality of the seminar, both in organization and content. Special thanks to: Anne Cohen-Koehler and Amir Bar-On from the Jerusalem office, who made all the arrangements and gave me the opportunity to participate in the seminar; to Birgit Lamm, who runs the amazing educational work in Gummersbach, who took care of all our needs; to Petra Pabst for the organizations and assistance during the seminar; and of course to the knowledgeable facilitators: Dr. Rolf Freier and Katja Egger

Thank you

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