

HaBonim Dror and WZO Educators Dialogue about Jewish Peoplehood and Mifgash

Over forty educators and administrators from throughout Israel came to Oranim International School for a professional development seminar exploring Jewish Peoplehood and the role of mifgash (encounter) between Jewish young people in Israel and abroad.

In August 2018, Oranim International School facilitated an inspiring professional development seminar for HaBonim Dror and World Zionist Organization (WZO) educators and administrators. Participants explored the meaning of Jewish Peoplehood and *mifgash* (encounter) as a tool to promote Jewish Peoplehood. The day-long seminar motivated participants to incorporate *mifgash* into their work, and gave them practical ideas and tools for doing so. They left the seminar with a sense of empowerment and excitement as they began the new year.

Participants came from a wide variety of professional roles, including top administrators from the HaBonim Dror youth movement, Ulpan directors and teachers, *shlichim* (representatives of Israel abroad), and educational counselors. The seminar showed them the importance of *mifgash* between young Jewish people from Israel and abroad in their diverse work contexts.

From Theory to Practice

The day began with an exciting lecture from Professor Ariel Feldstein of Ben Gurion University entitled “How a Leader is Born.” The lecture traced the development of several leaders from throughout history. Next, Professor David Mittelberg, Chair of the Oranim International School Steering Committee, gave a fascinating lecture providing a theoretical introduction to Jewish Peoplehood.

The seminar then shifted focus from theory to practice. Dr. Roberta Bell-Kligler, Director of the Oranim International School, presented a case-study of a *mifgash* that “blew up,” and participants analyzed the case study in small groups, discussing what to do in this situation. Inbal Barel, Director of the Hebrew Division of WZO, discussed the role of Hebrew in their work.

To end the day, Lori Abramson, Program Director of Educational Tourism and Evaluation at the Oranim International School, facilitated a workshop where participants thought through how they could apply what they learned that day in their work context. How is Jewish Peoplehood relevant to their vision for their work? What concrete program ideas do they have for the coming year in the area of Jewish Peoplehood? Participants brainstormed ideas such as pairing local branches of HaBonim Dror from around the world, and facilitating *mifgash* between Ulpan students and native Israelis. They left the seminar excited to pursue these ideas.

Building Connections

This seminar brought together diverse groups and organizations to learn together and think practically about how to promote Jewish Peoplehood. Oranim International School is excited to build on the connections developed through the seminar.