

ALF Israeli Network Member, Galilee Dreamers, Participates in Kaleidoscope Experience



Galilee Dreamers, an active member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Israeli Network, fosters connections between students from Jewish and Arab schools in the Galilee. This program, directed by Dr. Rachel Revsin-Ravid from Oranim International at Oranim College, brings together high school students, teachers, and teachers-in-training to promote a shared society. Students collaborate locally and travel abroad to embrace and exchange their cultures. Galilee Dreamers promote hope, tolerance, and diversity appreciation, shaping a future where cultural differences are celebrated.

Recently, approximately 60 Jewish and Arab students from the Galilee Dreamers, along with their teachers and family members, traveled from Northern Israel to Tel Aviv to the Kaleidoscope Experience, "Engaging with the Complexity of Israel." Their journey began at three o'clock from Eynot Yarden Democratic High School and is a testament to their unwavering determination, even in the face of sirens and unrest in Israel.

Kaleidoscope, a unique multi-dimensional program, took place over five days in March. Themes included dialogue about post-October 7th scenarios for Israel and the region, the civil society response to the crisis, reducing friction and healing fractures within Israeli society, grooming a new generation of leadership, and social action in the current environment.

Here is a first-hand account of the Galilee Dreamers' attendance at Kaleidoscope written by Dr. Rachel Revsin-Ravid, the Galilee Dreamers' director.

I'm thrilled to recount the remarkable gathering the Galilee Dreamers attended with members of the Kaleidoscope, hailing from Canada, the USA, and South Africa (Habonim Dror Youth Movement), on March 6th, in Tel Aviv.

Dier Al Asad and Bir Al Maksur students and their teachers, Dr. Malik Hujeirat and Jasmine Masri, joined the group, infusing the bus with an atmosphere brimming with joy, laughter, and melodic music. As we passed through the

streets of Tel Aviv, the sad reality of the ongoing conflict in Israel was profound, with advertisements advocating for the return of hostages lining the streets. In line with the US Embassy, we engaged in a demonstration advocating for the immediate release of hostages, aiming to acquaint the students with the principles of democracy and the power of collective voice through street protests.

The encounter with the Kaleidoscope members was a powerful testament to the shared experiences and unity of the Galilee Dreamers and the Kaleidoscope members. Despite challenges and grief, the students gathered around dinner tables, engaging in insightful discussions about their experiences during times of conflict in the Galilee region.

Our students (some of whom are experiencing conflict, are displaced because of the war, and made great efforts to participate in this Kaleidoscope event) are juniors in the program. It was amazing to see their level of comfort and compassion during the meetings. While grappling with the complexities of articulating their emotions and perceptions in a second language (English), they courageously shared their viewpoints, acknowledging the inherent challenges yet embracing vulnerability as a pathway to mutual understanding.

The central question posed to them was: Is there hope for the youth of the Galilee? Their resounding response, delivered with unwavering conviction, affirmed, "We wouldn't be here if there weren't hope." This shared optimism and mutual desire for understanding among the region's youth transcends barriers of culture and conflict, serving as a beacon of hope for a brighter future. During the next two years, they will navigate monthly meetings with partner schools and interactions with communities abroad, fostering dialogue and empathy amidst the ongoing conflict.

The values upheld by the Galilee Dreamers, promoting diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect among Israel's Galilee communities, strongly resonate with the mission and principles of the Anna Lindh Foundation, committed to fostering intercultural dialogue, understanding, and cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Through partnership, the Galilee Dreamers collaborate to bridge divides and promote tolerance, empathy, and shared society, striving for a world where dialogue triumphs over division and understanding triumphs over ignorance.