

UWC Short Course „Acting for Peace“, Imst, Austria, August 2014

When I first registered for the UWC short course "Acting for peace - The art of conflict transformation" I had that thought which is how big this issue is we are just going to learn about and discuss. Being from Syria made the topic of this course the only exit from a still going three and a half years war. Weeks passed by so quickly, the course started at this breathtaking Alpine town Imst at the very west of Austria. The very first few days had gone and we discovered that we were not talking about peace only, we were talking about a bigger issue, about life in general. It was amazing how that great peace researcher from Innsbruck university Wolfgang Dietrich could deliver his two years program for political science students to 32 high school students' minds in just two weeks!!. What really made this course so special and unique is how it contains an amazing mixture between very academic lectures and a lot of other moments full of inspiration and humor. When I was asked to write an evaluation, I had no idea what to say until I read this sentence: "there are such inspiring people in this world, and sometimes you don't even have to look for them, they will find you." The interesting thing is that this sentence was written by a great tutor from our course and somehow it found me. With that I would never forget to tell how much love was founded during those very few days and how amazingly we are still in touch almost every hour of each day even though we're from different 19 countries but whenever one of us feels alone s/he will find peace in the here and now with the rest of our lovely group.

Jaafar