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COEXISTENCES / DECEMBER 2023



coexistences

SUPPORTING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE

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In times such as these with the widening of the gap between the conflicting parties, we think it would be good to come back of the achievements of this year. The success of the traditional “Petit Nouvel-An” Grand Ball to that of hosting three dialogue groups this year, is proof that mutual aid, solidarity, listening and dialogue are our unflagging values.

In the following pages you can read the narratives of these projects and we hope that they will warm your heart a little. The ongoing tragedy of the last two months, unrelenting with no cessation in sight, makes us fear the worst and we are filled with sorrow and dismay. Despite everything, you will see that certain bonds have held tight.

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YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE BEREAVED FAMILIES FORUM, 2-11.06.2023

Fourteen young people from each community in Israel, in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, two interpreters and two facilitators spent ten days in Switzerland in a chalet and then in host families with the aim of reinforcing their relationship far from the conflict and of developing their notion of becoming future members of the Young Ambassadors for Peace. A conference took place on Saturday 10 June 2023 in Lausanne.

The Bereaved Families Forum or PCFF is a prominent binational organisation from the civil society founded in the beginning of the 21st century. It is the only organisation which reunites 600 families from both sides who have been closely affected by a bereavement, either that of a child, a father or a mother, a brother or a sister or an uncle or an aunt.

The Forum organises a host of activities: presentations in schools across the country, internal dialogue, education, international advocacy, and is at the origin of an annual event, *The Alternative Memorial Ceremony*, which commemorates the memory of both peoples' losses. At the beginning it was followed by a few hundred people, the ceremony now draws more than 17,000 in situ and around 300,000 worldwide.

Four years ago, the Forum decided to set up the *Young Ambassadors for Peace* programme in order to develop a space of leadership for the young people in the network.

ARRIVAL AND STAY IN THE MOUNTAINS

The group we hosted this summer have been working for two years. Fourteen youngsters, eight Israelis (7 women and 1 man) and six Palestinians participated in the trip, two other Palestinians did not receive their Swiss visas.

The group arrived on Friday 2 June and stayed with host families until 4 June. All these families spent lovely moments at the welcome evening and the family day which followed were opportunities to get to know each other.

The group then left for the chalet in the Diablerets from 4 to 8 June, where they lived a unique experience of intense coexistence through moments organised by the facilitators and a lot of informal time devoted to preparing meals and cleaning the chalet. They all worked in groups on their practice as witnesses, devising ways to make short videos to show their programme on the internet and creating games for the yearly summer camp for the children of the network aged between 8 and 12. The aim of these games, inspired by their mutual experience here in Switzerland, is to learn words in both languages, and address subjects stimulating acquaintance with the other. This uninterrupted living together for four days allowed them to get to know each other more profoundly, to experience live what living together could be and reinforce the ties within the group.

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Two excursions and a presentation of the Swiss political system were organised by members of Coexistences. The presentation of the History of Switzerland and its political system raised resonant and pertinent questions. Far removed from their own experience, the system of cantonal autonomy, the existence of four national languages allowing local and religious cultures to live together, the many political, economic and international centres, were many of the aspects which brought hope within the group.

The accompanying members witnessed the equal treatment between the participants, the mutual recognition and understanding that these stays in Switzerland produce.

EXCURSION, FORMATION, COMMUNICATION

On Thursday 8 June, we took them to Bern on a guided visit with emphasis on the Federal Parliament where they met Mario Carrera (ex-diplomat of the DFAE (Federal Department for Foreign Affairs) and head of the DDC (Department of Development and Cooperation) followed by a visit of the House of Religions, which intrigued them.

We are so proud to have offered them two days at the IMD, a management school of high standing, where seven professors gave 5 master classes on the following themes:

- 1 Allow oneself to take leadership as leader of peace
- 2 How to steer difficult and constructive conversations
- 3 Establish a communications strategy
- 4 Manage one's stress and build up one's resilience
- 5 Setting up of a unifying narrative

The group had the feeling it was treated like VIPs and adults, giving them a sense of responsibility. They were inspired, committed and highly appreciated these classes.

At the end of the day on Friday 9 June, the group gave a public conference at IMD in front of a public of about 40 people, conference which was broadcast live to 1000 ex-students of IMD.

On Saturday 10 June there was the farewell evening which constituted a beautiful and warm moment of sincere thanks and utter joy.

The group was filmed by team of the RTS (Swiss radio and television) as the subject of a report by Stephane Amar transmitted for the 30 years of the Oslo accords. It was broadcast in the programme *Mise au Point* on the RTS on Sunday 27 August: <https://www.rts.ch/play/tv/redirect/detail/14268652>

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THANKS

Our warm thanks to the Sandoz Foundation who financed the entire stay of the *Young Ambassadors for Peace*, as well as Shlomo Ben Hur and the direction of IMD who enabled the realisation of the two-day focussed classes at IMD. Our recognition goes to all the volunteers who took part in the success of this stay: Dominique Benmuvhar responsible for the welcome meal, Halina Sandri who coordinated the host families, Daniela and David Hersch who accompanied the group during their stay in the mountains, François Feihl and Massimo Sandri who joined their excursions, Franzi Lehman, Valérie Rochat and Céline Rozenblat who arranged several reservations and prepared a farewell dinner and the host families who generously opened their homes to the participants, to the two interpreters as well as to the two facilitators: Robin and Schlomo Ben Hur, Geneviève and George Conne, Delphine and Ariel Friedman, Daniela and David Hersch, Miriam and Paul Kuelling-Lazega, Marion Mendelzweig, Can Ongen, Sophie Poffet, Véronique and Jacques Rochat and Caroline Vuillemin.

SINCE THEIR RETURN

In view of the situation on the ground (massive demonstrations in reaction to the tentative of a judiciary overhaul, the situation in the POT), they came together as a sign of solidarity, are proactive and ready to answer all the demands for voluntary work the Forum requests of them, a clear change in comparison to the participants of previous years. They would also like a follow-up alumni programme.

Above all, they all participated (except for two participants barred from entry into Israel) in the Forum's summer camp organised in July over the last 8 years. This camp brought together 50 children aged 8 to 12 from Israel and the West Bank. According to their facilitators and donor who took part, it was the most successful yet. They demonstrated and exemplified, by their behaviour and relations with one another, what trust, solidarity and respect between Israelis and Palestinians can be.

The group participated on 21 September 2023 in the UN International Peace Day and signed the Charter.

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NEXT STEPS

- They will receive training on TikTok videos to improve the quality of their films in the aim of putting out their action on the social network, and the getting-to-know-each-other games used during the summer camps;
- The communications strategy professor from IMD offered them two other classes in 3 and 6 months to help them develop their strategy on the social networks;
- The Young Ambassadors for Peace programme which was threatened to disappear continues; the facilitators are in the throes of recruiting a new group;
- The facilitators would like to come back to Switzerland in 2024 with a new group, thanks to Coexistences.

Since 7 October, despite and shock and horror, the feedbacks of our hosts reveal a great self-control. They have held several “uni-national” meetings in order to advance and exchange their reactions in a protected discussion group. In the same vein, a mixed meeting is planned. Thus, the group is filling its role as a support network reference.

FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN, 9 NOVEMBER 2023



THE YAP GROUP DURING AN EXERCISE IN FRONT OF THE DIABLERETS MOUNTAINS.
PHOTO: EDGAR BLOCH

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TO REINFORCE THE MEDIATORS OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, 13-22.08.2023

After a first seminar in September 2022, we were able to assess the results of an intermediary meeting at the end of January 2023, and we welcomed the participants for the second and last seminar from 13 to 22 August, first in Estavayer-le-Lac, then in host families in Lausanne. It helped us explore certain issues from the first seminar and helped them build their support network.

This new project was developed in 2021 by our association with the aim of offering the mainstays for dialogue we have been supporting for so many years with a space to reflect on their work, to debate fundamental questions and learn from each other without being acquainted and never having had the opportunity of sharing the other's experience.

The outlines of the project were drawn up after having taken into account the answers of our partners to an online survey. It revolves around the two seminars in Switzerland. After an introductory meeting in Israel in May 2022, the first seminar took place in Switzerland from 4 to 9 September 2022. It is the object of a separate report.

THE SECOND SEMINAR

This took place from 13 to 22 August 2023. It reunited 9 mediators, 6 Palestinians (from Israel, Jerusalem and the West Bank) and 3 Jewish Israelis. Among the participants of the first seminar, four weren't able to come, one due to a serious road accident, another due to the crucial state of health of their father, the third due to a work overload and the fourth due to a latent depression. However, they remain committed and the participants at the second seminar consider them members of the group. Four others quitted at the end of seminar 1 for various motives.

This second seminar was led by Walid Mula, an Israeli Arab moderator with a vast experience in facilitation, a teacher in facilitation and author of academic articles on the subject, and Yael Maayan, a Jewish Israeli, who also has a wide experience in facilitation and training.

At the follow-up meeting in January 2023, we focussed once again on exchanges on Hebrew and Arabic, with a simultaneous interpretation in English-Arabic-Hebrew for two participants, ensured by four professionals. Being able to express themselves in their mother tongue was one of the turning points for the group.

The following report is a summary of the feedbacks at the end of the seminar and also Fiuna Seylan Ongen's observations after having participated as an observer-participant in all the seminars and intermediary the meetings.

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OBJECTIVES

The main objectives identified for the 2-year programme were reached. Point 3 was not during this last seminar and only partially for the whole programme.

- 1 Learn from each other
- 2 Address your key concerns
- 3 Learn from other conflict areas
- 4 Create a supporting network
- 5 Offer you a re-energizing stay far away from the conflict area

GROUP DYNAMICS

The group dynamic is in place: the members appreciate each other and have learnt to work together. Thanks to the new team of moderators, at the issue of this second seminar there is a sense of solidarity and a capacity to advance together. More and more members want to know about the next steps. The group wants to continue its apprenticeship. It also wants to widen the circle of beneficiaries by integrating new members.

THE SWISS POLITICAL SYSTEM

As for each group invited by Coexistences, we organised a presentation of the Swiss global political system by Mr Ambassador Brühlart during seminar 1 and this time we were able to expose the cantonal practice to the participants. On 21 August, the group was received the General Secretary of the Grand Council, Mr Santucci, then by the ad interim Chancellor, Mr Vodoz for guided visits of the two institutions with explanations of how the canton functions and the distribution of competences between canton and confederation.

BENEFITS OF THE SEMINAR

At the end of this second and last seminar, the participants said they had grown and advanced, felt validated and had evaluated their knowledge. They also think they have entered into an ongoing training dynamics: the integration of a layered reflection through academic texts on dialogue and discussions on the texts during the seminar retained their attention and gave them the desire to learn more.

They learned from the moderators as well from each other. This programme was also a connection with oneself.

The points on the agenda of the programme of this second seminar were all covered. They were crucial and replied to the practitioners' central issues. Modifications were made to the programme in order to explore certain subjects and benefit from the quality of the work achieved.

The distance from the conflict zones and the beauty of the environment offered an emotional appeasement. The group found a positive dynamics and several participants said they felt energised.

A certificate of participation, handed to them at the end of their stay, was extremely appreciated by one and all.

AND WHAT THEN?

The desire to continue exists carried by several members of the group. The intentions below were expressed at the end of the seminar:

1 Create an online professional educational platform, a “Facilitator’s Forum”, a direct prolongation of this which aims to create a space in which the facilitators can connect, develop and reflect between peers to find moral and legal support in their work. This forum could lay the basis of an as yet non-existent professional framework in Israel/Palestine.

A first version of the concept was drawn up. Coexistences is going to advance the reflection with its initiators.

2 Discussion of the emergence of three work groups:

a A group to share the apprenticeships and integrate those participants in the project who weren’t able to attend the last seminar.

b A group to prepare the contents of the two live meetings/round tables: meetings of the participants (via zoom or live) around subjects of interest to them as mediators. Since September 2022, three round tables have taken place: on 6.11.2022 (*The situation and probable impact of the elections in Israel*), on 11.12.2022 (*Stress and trauma, impact on the facilitation work*), on 19.05.2023 (*Initiation of the co-developed tool by the Rossing Center and Holy Land Trust, Healing Hatred*).

A new round table was planned for November 2023 to explore the theme *Traumas and triggering elements*. It couldn’t take place. The other issues identified and communicated in the previous accounts are still ongoing: construction of a trust and safe space, balance of powers within the facilitator’s teams and in the institutions which employ them, external perturbations and group work.

c In the future, a group to prepare the content of a new seminar in Switzerland in two to three years with the mediators of this second seminar.

3 Develop initiatives (on the basis of personal centres of interests, involving certain members)

a Development of the curriculum of training combining group facilitation and mountain sport to the intention of mediators interested in using sport as a vector of dialogue. The curriculum of this training would cover the construction of a process structure covering the issues such as team spirit, group identity, decision making by the majority or by building a consensus, personal and collective narratives This would consist of training over 6 week-ends and ending in a stay with Coexistences in Switzerland.

b The initiators of the podcast project (see our NEWS 40) confirm that it is still pertinent. An introduction was recorded and shared with the participants. The round table in November 2023 will give the contents of the next episode.

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NEXT STEPS

In view of the occupations of the group participants, the history and internal dynamics, the question of whether a volunteer coordinator from the group would be able to propel the group forward or if a paid coordinator would be more appropriate to avoid depending on the availabilities and the voluntary work often uncertain of job seekers. A person has volunteered. A job description is being drawn up.

A first conceptual proposal to develop a professional platform for the facilitators has been made. A structured and calculated proposal (vision, objectives, steps, calendar and budget) is scheduled for the end of November.

The group wants to organise for this same date a new round table and develop a rolling programme of future meetings.

Coexistences received some evaluations of seminar 2 confirming its success and the satisfaction engendered.



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Since 7 October, despite multiple personal and professional urgencies, the shock and horror, thanks to their calm and resilience, the discussion group for the round tables have met a number of times, facing the challenge of moderating the alumni WhatsApp groups, have consulted each other. On 14 November, the group met with their two moderators from this summer to exchange their experiences. This was an important meeting for the group offering the participants much needed support, solidarity and warmth in the middle of the tragedy. The Palestinians shared their feelings of a double guilt in front of the horrors of 7 October, and their helplessness in front of the terrible destruction operations in Gaza. The Israelis told of their incapacity to talk to their compatriots. One of them resumed the importance of this space saying that it was there that he could show his fragility and be more authentically himself. They also concluded that their values were their mainstay, the same as before 7 October. So, the group seems to play its role as a network of support and reference.

THANKS

Our most warm thanks to the DFAE (Federal Foreign Affairs reflection group Department), B8 of Hope, the Hirzel, Dafodyle, Sandoz, Waechter and Moser Foundations for their support of our vision, their confidence in our capacity to carry out this first programme over two years and their commitment next to us. We also had the support of the Canton of Vaud through the involvement of the Civil Protection who transported the group.

Finally, many, many thanks to the volunteers who contributed to the success of the two stays: Danielle and Edgar Bloch, François Feihl, Eric Raddatz, Halina and Massimo Sandri as well as the host families who accommodated the participants, the interpreters and the facilitators of this project: Danielle and Edgar Bloch, Sylvie and François Feihl, Delphine and Ariel Friedman, Fanny Jaquet, Miriam and Paul Kuelling-Lazega, Marianne and Christian Moekli-Adler, Can Ongin, Marie-Corinne and Thierry Probst-Favret, Halina Sandri.

FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN, LAURENT ENSER, 6 NOVEMBER 2023



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BREAKING THE ICE, 28.08-5.09.23

A new group of twelve female students from the Tel Aviv Kibbutzim College, six Israelis and six Palestinians, came for a trek in our mountains and to get to know each other more intimately, far from the conflict.

Started in 2010, Breaking the Ice is now in its 12th edition: twelve girls, six Jews and six Arabs, all teacher training students at the Kibbutzim College in Tel Aviv, came for a trek in our Alps between 28 August and 5 September. They were accompanied by their facilitators, for the Palestinians Ulfat Haider as usual, and for the Israelis Liron Peleg. Responsible for watching over harmonious relations between the students in the Kibbutzim College, Liron has a long experience in facilitation, has known Ulfat for a long time, and is very committed to our project. Her busy agenda explains the relatively short duration of the trip compared to other years.

STAY IN THE MOUNTAIN

As usual, the stay was based at La Fouly. A change meant that the participants and their facilitators were accommodated in a chalet rented by Coexistences, where they also prepared their meals and held a part of their sessions. As always, the Kohlers generously made available their chalet for the members of Coexistences who wanted to come and walk for one or more days with the group. Myself apart, seven people took advantage of this possibility (against two last year). This increase in our members' participation seems to me a positive sign.

LIVING TOGETHER

The participants arrived in Geneva on 28 August in the middle of the morning and were welcomed by the delegation of Coexistences, then transported by the Civil Protection bus to Lausanne and the Valentin Catholic School where they were received by the Head, Ahmad Abu Nijmeh, our faithful supporter. Lunch was offered in the school canteen, during which Ahmad gave them a talk in Arabic (with the Hebrew translation by Ulfat) and which really touched them. Around 2 P.M, the PC bus transferred them to La Fouly, where another delegation of Coexistences was waiting for the group in its residential chalet. This comported two separate apartments which the participants were free to choose from. A little false note: nearly all the Jews chose one and the Arabs the other. Here's hoping for next year!

HIKING

Followed six days hiking, either in the immediate surroundings of La Fouly or in places further afield (Champex, Mauvoisin, Gorges du Durnand, Grand Saint Bernard) after transportation in the private vehicles of members of Coexistences. Our guide was as usual Nadja Schmidt, who however was not free the last two days when she was replaced by her colleague Marie-Jeanne Hugon Mettaz. The programme of the hike had to be scaled down due to the great difficulties in steep terrains encountered by Liron and one of the participants. The advantage of this meant there was a lot of time for dialogue activities.

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DIALOGUE

The dialogue process took place according to the usual plan, although it was accelerated in view of the short stay. A “soft” start with the first four days devoted to reinforcing listening skills, stimulation in empathy, and above all building up mutual trust. Once this was in place, more difficult issues were approached on the last two days: discrimination, narratives, violence in the Arab society and so on. Hebrew was not the exclusive communication language. Arabic was often very useful with the Hebrew translation by Ulfat or one of the Palestinian students. In the final debriefing, the Arab participants talk of their liberating experience which, for them, represented kindness and goodwill whenever they expressed themselves in their own language, the exact opposite of what they experienced in their country.

TASTE AND HAVE FUN

On the evening of their last day of hiking there was the traditional fondue/raclette at the Glaciers Inn, where we were happy to see two guides of the memorable trek in the Mont Blanc arrive, Jean Troillet and Denis Ducroz.

On 4 September, transportation from La Fouly to Lausanne in the PC bus. At noon, another lunch offered by the Valentin Catholic School. Ahmad then led the participants on a fascinating tour of his school, meeting teachers and visiting classrooms. This was a very meaningful moment for these future teachers. The farewell evening took place in the school playground, to take advantage of the cooler temperature which had at last become pleasant after this very hot summer day. The participants entertained the assembly by a lovely demonstration of dabkeh, the well-known traditional Palestinian dance.

The following morning, after the last night spent on mattresses in the school gym, transportation by the PC bus to Geneva airport for the return flight.

IN CONCLUSION

As far as I can judge having followed the group during their activities, the trip was a success. Back home in Israel, the participants will, under the supervision of Ulfat and Liron, work on transmitting their experience.

Icing on the cake, an RTS (Swiss radio-television) team spent the evening and the following morning with the group. The report was broadcast on 11 November 2023, in the programme “Ensemble”, giving Coexistences a national coverage and you can watch it via this link (in French): <https://www.rts.ch/play/tv/ensemble/video/coexistences-partager-une-terre-promise?urn=urn:rts:video:14469372>

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THANKS

To conclude, I would like to mention and thank the supporters who made this trip possible:

- our sponsors: Securitas Direct, the Sandoz Foundation, Shai Maestro, the Town of Vevey;
- Danielle and Pierre Kohler for making available their chalet in La Fouly;
- Ahmad Abu Nijmeh, who, beyond his charisma, for welcoming the group and offering an important logistics aide in Breaking the Ice;
- the Vaudoise Civil Protection for transportation between Geneva, Lausanne and La Fouly, offered gratis to Coexistences ;
- the volunteers from Coexistences who ensured transportation between La Fouly and the starting point of some of the hikes.

The situation since 7 October weighs heavily on the participants, especially since the Kibbutzim College has closed (to open again on 24 December). Two of the Palestinians encountered difficulties with the justice because of their remarks criticising the armed action in Gaza. Ulfat and Liron have kept in contact with each of them individually. A Zoom meeting of the whole group is in preparation.

FRANÇOIS FEIHL, NOVEMBRE 2023



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THE “PETIT NOUVEL AN” GRAND BALL/ 24.02.2023

After two years' interruption due to the covid, the Ball took up its usual quarters in the Montbenon Festival Hall, in Lausanne. It was a real pleasure to find the Orchestre Jaune in great shape and the Tignasse Sisters who relayed the midnight music, the regulars who'd come to dance, eat and drink, and share their joy to be there. The evening was a success and we once again found the happy, cheerful atmosphere we love.

Numerous aides prepared dishes and sandwiches, mounted and dismantled, or welcomed the public. A shock team organised, with Ingrid de Muralt, Nathalie Katz, Miriam Kuelling Lazega in the kitchen, Alexis Mozer and Alain Kissling for the set up and a thousand other things, Joseph Python and his untiring team at the bar. It was wonderful to be able to count on you.

This spring, Carole Guinard announced that she was stepping down after having organised 14 balls. In fact, the first “Petit Nouvel An” Grand Ball in favour of Coexistences took place in January 2008. Fourteen wonderful evenings! In July, Massimo Sandri took over the organisation and a new ball was announced for January 2024.

CANCELLATION OF THE NEXT BALL

The brutal and deadly situation which prevails in Israel-Palestine since 7 October has led us to renounce the 2024 “Petit Nouvel An” Grand Ball. For the moment the priority of action engendered by the events means that we have to put our energy elsewhere.

We hope that finally arms will be laid down in the region so that we can dance once again without any afterthought. The date of the next ball is reserved for Friday 10 January 2025.



FACILITATED DIALOGUE SPACE / 20.11.2023

In view of the 7 October massacre, the taking of 240 hostages aged 9 months to 85 years, the massive and deadly bombings in the Gaza Strip, the wave of antisemitism across the world, our association is confronted with the worst crisis since its creation in 2006.

The strength of Coexistences is to bring together people of varying sensitivities who manage to surmount their differences to help those Israelis and Palestinians who have the immense courage to talk to one another. This posture, much more delicate than a partisan choice, is difficult to keep up during the present tragedy, and, like certain of our local partners, we are assailed by contradictory emotions which are sometimes difficult to express in confidence.

Thus we have taken the initiative to open a space for talking, facilitated by professionals, the objectives of which were:

- to express in confidence what we are living and/or what we feel
- to be able to go on encouraging the dialogue, with our different sensitivities
- to reflect on what our association can constructively do during this dark period.

This meeting took place on 20 November and was attended by about thirty members supervised by three FSP psychologists-psychotherapists, specialised in psycho-traumatology, Marulla Hauswirth, Laurence de Vargas-Oddo, Therese Cuttelod.

SHARING ONE'S EMOTIONS

The rules were set at the beginning of the meeting; that this was a welcoming and respectful space where we could express in confidence our feelings in the face of this tragedy, and not a debating place to air our "opinions" on events on the ground or a tribune to accuse certain people.

EXPRESS OUR SADNESS, OUR HOPE, OUR DESPAIR, CONFIDENCE, SHAME, ANGER

The participants appreciated being able to lay down their emotions and their feelings in a caring place but also, important for the follow-up of our action, to remember the moments we have experienced of successful dialogues between Israeli-Palestinian young and not so young people that we have received over these years.

Even if only the first objective was treated, this meeting was beneficial for those who participated by reminding the points which unite us in the search for a mutual understanding. The professionalism of the three supervisors is to be acclaimed.

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COEXISTENCES – HOW TO CONTINUE?

The work group, comprising Marc Dunant, Andre Katz, Jean Lazega, Sandra Modiano, Celine Rozenblat, Massimo Sandri and Massimo Tinghi, met five times between June and November 2023 following the mandate received at the general assembly on 2 May 2023.

We worked from various existing documents, the first work group's report, the minutes of the GA, in particular the statutes, benefitting from the rich experience accumulated in the varied actions of Coexistences. Lively exchanges allowed us to highlight a certain number of key points, whilst being aware of the limits of our competences and the need for an external contribution.

VISION, CHALLENGES, ACTIONS

After a first meeting in the presence of Gilles Chabré, expert in institutional support, with his help and under his leadership, we sorted out our reflections in terms of vision, the resulting **challenges** and **actions** to materialise each challenge; Gilles transformed these text elements into a document allowing us to visualise it and work on it.

In agreement with the committee, in the next step, the work group and Gilles Chabré are going to put, in an exchange meeting, this document of a vision shared by all those involved in Coexistences; that will allow everyone to appropriate it, modify it, complete it and to make a common basis which will give **vision**, **challenges** and **actions** established collectively.

The shared vision document which was revised at the issue of this update meeting, as well as the one which conserves a trace of the group's exchanges during this process, will be remitted at the general assembly in the spring of 2024.

To learn more about Gilles Chabré, see <http://www.gchabre.com/portrait/>

FOR THE WORK GROUP, MARC DUNANT, 1 DECEMBER 2023

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NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

We are pleased to inform you that we now have a secretary of recent date, Emmanuelle Allais. She presents herself:

“Married and the happy mother of an 18 year-old teenager, I am 49 and accompany the administrative and financial team in a consulting company in the sections of technology and management. Very invested in my professional life, I felt a strong need to open up to new horizons and devote a part of my time and energy to useful projects, bringing help and hope where they are needed. I had noticed the association Coexistences a number of times; their projects and their values of pacifism, listening and sharing echoed my own. I am so happy to be able to join the association and contribute along with its members to its action.”

STILL FURTHER

The next newsletter will arrive next year. Until then anything can happen. We send you our warm thoughts for the end of this year and the new one. In the hope that 2024 brings us all a more peaceful world.

And in conclusion to this newsletter, we would like to share with you an email received on 5 December 2023 and which gives meaning to our action:

Hello,

Just a word of friendship and support to thank you for your association.

Your work makes this planet a more hospitable place.

With all my heart

Véronique Beerli

THE COMMUNICATION GROUP, DECEMBER 2023