

Voice by Voice - Members' Meeting, June 26, 2016

Chairperson's report, 2014 – present

Establishment of the Association Voice by Voice, Oct 1, 2014, 1½ years ago.
This is the first meeting of members – to learn from and make a next step.

Board work: Constitution of roles, Palestinian board member, meeting every 1-2 months – all skype meetings (we had the intention of having a longer physical meeting).

Registered in DK as an NGO organization + bank account in Dec 2014.

Existing videos – More subtitles have been translated into Hebrew. Some minor details and some videos still need full subtitling in at least two languages other than the one spoken in the video.
Now 40 videos.

New videos – No concrete plans but an idea to record videos with a group of Israeli school children, and one or more famous person(s), board members' own videos (optional, so far: 1). No one has yet contacted us and requested their video recorded yet

Website – New design on the way, we have had much and open dialogue about it – high priority

Facebook event – Again much and open dialogue – we want to have the new website ready first

Funding – No external funding yet, a few smaller gifts. Lectures/presentations by chairperson have given some income – meeting with fundraiser has given ideas but no money yet

Teaching material – Easy to use material for teachers and others to work with the VbV videos. A first draft is one its way, soon to be published.

PR - Presentation of VbV on relevant festivals. In media is still considered, we must feel ready for it and chose wisely. PR value of the teaching material, for example in a teachers' magazine

Networking, partnership with other organizations – Danish NVC organization Livkom, and national and international network in ALF (Anna Lindh Foundation). More can be done, especially in Israel and Palestine.

Principal discussions – we have had quite a few, important in the board to keep asking questions and raise awareness about the conflict and how we best communicate our work; + strengthens space and connection in the VbV organization (1: 'conflict' or 'relationship' or 'situation'; 2: 'experiences' or 'stories'; 3) Palestinians might step out when the word 'dialogue' is used)

Keep working with focus – It has been important to narrow down our field, there is so much that could be done, and limited resources

Future priorities:

Teaching material

New videos

Website

Lectures/presentations

Letter of gratitude from a Danish school teacher – actual experience with working with VbV.

Grateful for how work with VbV more than just giving knowledge of the conflict and life in it, *also* opened up the students' difficult talk about their own lives, in a sensitive way where focus could stay on someone else's conflict rather than their own. The letter (translated from Danish):

”To VOICE BY VOICE meeting of members. Dear VbV. I write this to express my gratitude for the project and to share the experiences I have had by using the teaching material with my students. This spring I have run two separate processes with VbV, in 7th and 8th grade. I have combined videos with teaching about the factual history in Israel-Palestine, with the Human Rights and with 'the conflict staircase'. The videos have each time been followed up by a short review of the content, then a reaction from one or more students and then a consideration of what the person in the video might be longing for or what the students themselves were longing for. The students have also surfed the video gallery and chosen one video that they showed to the classroom and explained their motivation for choosing it. When evaluating the process, the students expressed that they were shocked, angry, sad that the world also looks like that, but also satisfied that people can talk about it without accusations directed to the other side in general. Especially, Inbal touched them with her standpoint about 'choosing life'. They said that they now have a completely new understanding of how to live under those circumstances, and that they will always be able to remember this work with VbV. That it has been interesting. That they are grateful that this work VbV has been made. On my own behalf, I want to thank you for this possibility to work with conflict in the world in a way that makes it clear for the students that both sides in the conflict are humans, exactly like they themselves are, same feelings and needs. To me, it is especially important that there is built hope into this way of working. That a path is shown that could be possible as a way out of the conflict: to listen and understand and be understood. It has made me happy to see the empathy and engagement of the students, and I'm touched by the very strong connection we achieved in the process. That this way of working gives the experience to be people in the same world with the same significance, in the videos and in our classroom, same significance and not teacher/student roles. The VbV work has in this way had great value for me. Thanks for making it possible. **Kind regards, Bodil Nielsen.**”

+ email: ”I was touched by the openness and connection that came up between the students and me during the work. This was very important. It was a delicate and beautiful contact with much sensitivity, which might otherwise be difficult in the classroom if it had to come directly from their own conflicts/problems. But now, as it happened some place else, with other people, it became 'legal' to open up and be more honest about oneself than what is usual in the classroom. That's a great point, I think. Thank you for that occasion.”

Chairperson, Peter Ulrik Jensen, June 26, 2016