

Ms. Mai Shbeta (Israel) – YPA3

### **The Interfaith, Intercultural & International Dialogue Program**

Since the Israeli state was established, there is an ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians in Israel and the West bank.

People grow up to this daily life of conflict, and sometimes don't even have the chance to meet and talk to people from the other nation and from the other religion and culture, although they see each other almost on a daily basis- at shops, at work, on public transportation and at school.

The fact that I am studying at a university that contains Jews, Muslims and Christians from both sides of the conflict, and the fact that sometime I see them just pass each other on the campus without noticing each other and saying hello, is bothering me a lot.

The program I am working on is to be held at the Bar Ilan University in Israel. As it is a rather religious (Jewish) university, the dialogue will include a dialogue about the conflict, with a relation to the three religions, in order to create and find a common interest for the participants.

#### **The program will include the following:**

1. A weekly meeting for about four hours (during each semester), where the participants will discuss different topics connected to religion and the conflict.
2. A joint weekend for the participants where they will have the chance to learn more about practicing religion and get to know each other better.
3. An exchange for dinner where each two participants from both sides will have dinner at each other's families.