

Center for International Encounters

### **Selected Activities 2018-2019:**

- 1) Under the project title "Five days, eight nations and one show" we organized and lead an international cultural exchange program with young writes, film makers and visual artists from Israel, Palestine, Germany and the refugee communities of Berlin. Young artists from eight nations performed at the Berlin based festival "New Narratives" and promoted diversity, non-violent communication and mutual respect.
- 2) In Jerusalem we organized and lead a three-day conference on Jerusalem, connecting grass root initiatives, political activists, academics and artists from Jerusalem and abroad. In an extremely segregated city like Jerusalem, the event was one of the very few initiatives that brought people together on a broad scale, seeking together democratic and participatory ways to overcome division.
- 3) Against all odds, both the security situation and political concerns from both Israeli and Palestinian sides, we were able to develop a series of jazz performances with local and international musicians in Gaza, trusting in the power of jazz music in promoting creativity and intercultural dialogue.
- 4) We organized and lead regularly Cultural Programs and artistic activities in Jerusalem. These include, among others intercultural music exchange programs and concerts, exhibitions and film screenings (such as documentaries on the situation of the LGBT-community in the region).
- 5) International political exchange programs took place, with incoming delegations from Germany and binational Israeli-Palestinian going to Germany. Some programs were direct outcome from last year's activity and prove that we are on the way to building sustainable international partnerships and relations.

6) In Jerusalem our Center is getting known as an open house and safe(r) space to even more for organizations and individuals of the Civil Society. The Center is developing towards a hub for community and neighbourhood initiatives as a meeting point and a place for project development.

7) We develop new project lines. Based on autobiographic stories of refugee children and young asylum seekers from African nations in Israel (mostly from Eritrea and Sudan) we developed a play for puppet theatre as a form to tell the younger generation about the stories of the refugee children and to awaken empathy and solidarity. After successfully pilot projects in 2018, we will create a bigger project, with a tour through schools and youth centers.