

OBJECTIVE 03

To support reconciliation, dialogue, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities

PEACE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

AZİZE UMMANEL



PEACE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

ÇOCUKLARIN GÖZÜNDEN BARIŞ

Η ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΜΕΣΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΑ ΜΑΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΠΑΙΔΙΩΝ

Photo: Azize Ummanel's Photo Archive



THIS ACTION INVOLVED

An art workshop for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth (6-10 years old), in Nicosia.

Publication and dissemination of the "Peace Through the Eyes of the Children" album.

Exhibition of the artwork at the Eaved House Museum from 15 to 18 February 2018.

Presentation of the action at the 3rd Cyprus International Congress of Education Research, which took place in Famagusta, between 7-10 December 2017.

ABOUT AZİZE UMMANEL

Azize Ummanel, an expert in early childhood education with a PhD in Education from Dublin City University, wished to gather data on the perception of Cypriot children within the context of the political situation at the time. Through her Grow Civic action, she wanted to investigate and understand how children perceive concepts like war, peace, and negotiation.

STORY OF THE ACTION

Azize Ummanel aimed at raising children's awareness on peace, tolerance and respect for diversity. She worked with children aged six to ten from both communities to create an album and organize an exhibition of their art based on the theme: "peace". She reached out to 30 children from both communities and the workshops were conducted mono-communally and enabled children to express their ideas on "peace" through artwork.

Photo: Azize Ummanel's Photo Archive



"I had a great opportunity to work with children and discuss with them the concept of peace. I believe our discussions made them reflect on this concept and helped them understand each other in a better way. Adults who participated in this action and exhibition also had a chance to think about peace from a child's perspective."

Azize Ummanel

Photo Credit: Azize Ummanel



During the workshops, children expressed what peace means to them. Azize Ummanel then compiled, analyzed and prepared their artwork as an article on their perception of peace, to be presented to higher education. The article was presented at the 3rd Cyprus International

Congress of Education Research, Peace Education in Educational Research and Applications: Multiculturalism, Immigration and Identity, which took place in Famagusta between 7-10 December 2017.

The children printed their artwork on canvases and an album entitled "Peace Through the Eyes of the Children" was published and disseminated. The exhibition took place at the Eaved House Museum between 15-18 February 2018, and targeted decision makers, CSO representatives, activists, and the children with their families.

"Although I worked separately with Turkish and Greek Cypriot kids, all children and their families were invited to come together at the exhibition. In the album, children had the chance to see both languages as well as their peers' drawings. I believe this was an opportunity to understand what children in Cyprus think about peace. When those kids visited the exhibition and saw their drawings, their faces filled with happiness and excitement. They stood confidently in front of their drawings, showed them to the other participants and took pictures."

Azize Ummanel

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Advocacy plays a major role in the inclusion of different members of society, reflecting their insights, beliefs, and expectations on a given subject. Children may not have the age of maturity but it should not stop their active participation in advocacy. Azize Ummanel wanted to reflect their expectations and wishes and enable them to develop necessary skills, such as tolerance and respect towards others.

Photo Credit: Azize Ummanel



WHAT'S NEXT?

Azize Ummanel is planning to continue her bi-communal actions targeting youth.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION

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