

Press Release

Imagining Tomorrow

Betty Reardon talked about pedagogy being a determinant of citizens' relations within the state and human relations with other human. Pedagogy is the medium of communication between teacher and learner. Taking education as an integral part of the communication process, the classroom is the space within which communicated knowledge constructs society, and social relations within society. Knowledge constructs the discourse of the other, the relations with the other. It also teaches the attitudes and values of violence and peace. Cultivating a culture of peace by promoting values of tolerance, empathy, coexistence and justice are taught by educational institutions.

Communication Arts Department class of Public Relations in collaboration with the Civic Outreach and Engagement Unit, Dar Onboz and Permanent Peace Movement are organizing an event entitled Imagining Tomorrow. The event will be held at the Gulbenkian Theatre from 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. The objective of this event is to create awareness to stakeholders, public and decision makers about the grave cultural and social consequences emerging from establishing violent behaviors and attitudes within society through education, and the importance of strategically incorporating peace education within the government education system to establish a culture of peace.

This event is inspired by a learning activity from "A Workbook for Imagining a World without Weapons," in Boulding, Elise, *Building a Global Civic Culture: Education for an Interdependent World*.¹ The event takes the youth of Lebanon into three stages of time, the past, the present and the future. The past and the present are presented through a documentary produced and directed by two BUC graduates that were students in Lebanon during the late eighties, documenting Beirut during summer 1987. The past is paralleled by LAU Public Relations students' observations of the present 2013. The future is presented by public class proposal to decision makers. They will present a situational analysis of violence in Lebanon. They will also present a campaign plan that aims at creating awareness about the need to incorporate peace education within the education system.

Permanent Peace Movement will present a proposal for a curriculum to be introduced into the Lebanese schooling system and explain their activities in promoting peace education in Lebanon.

Public speakers are invited to speak on the issues of peace, education and security. In coordination with graphic design students, students will produce posters to communicate as messages that may be used to promote a culture of peace.

The invitation is open to public, educators, academics, all entities that are interested in the issue of cultivating a culture of peace through education.

Suggested Agenda

9:00-9:15

Welcome and Coffee

9:25- 9:45 Documentary exposing the situational analysis

9:50:00- 10:00 Abir Chaaban introducing the concept of Peace Education

10:00-10:15 Outreach and Civic Engagement

10: 25- 11: 00 Dar Onbuz

11:00-11: 20 Coffee Break

11: 30 – 12:00 Permanent Peace Movement on Peace Education

12:00-12:45 Public Relations Class Presenting Campaign Plan

ⁱ This leaning activity was conducted as a workshop in class
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/peace/frame3_5.htm