

...The travel to overcome prejudice, intolerance, hatred, narrow-mindedness... CIF Italia Peace Project 2015

If you want to talk about my experience in participating in the Peace Project, I will not finish talking about it for days. My participation in the Program 2015 in Italy was a dream I do not want to wake up from, my first visit to a European Country.

I'll never forget how I met with Maria Stefani, my host family in Rome. When I arrived, I felt comfortable like home. After a long journey, I found a large dining room and a variety of delicious food, Maria is an excellent cook!

We had to wait for the arrival of the other participants: Zohar, the Israeli participant, a social worker extraordinarily social. I felt as I had known him for a long time; we tried to hide what we might call hate, malice, feelings enemies might have and see each other as human beings in a context of fellowship. We have become friends, yes, I feel we have succeeded in achieving the goal of the Project: tolerance, peace and friendship among the participants. I will always also remember Roberta, the Brazilian colleague, a quiet woman; Esra from Turkey lively with a beautiful laugh.

We visited famous places in Rome, places that tell the history of this Country with its greatness and beauty. We then moved to the city of S. Maria C.V. in the south of Italy and Headquarters of CIF Italia. When I arrived in my host family there, I felt part of the family, happy to meet other relatives and their friends.

In this first phase of the Program we were introduced to social services in Italy and other relevant information to better comprehend its welfare system. We also visited some of these services that helped us understand more concretely the theoretical information received. I had the opportunity to learn and compare this system with the one existing in my Country.

I've become friends with a large number of people. I cannot forget these people, from the CIF Italia family represented by its President, Mimmo Merola, most wonderful man, the host families, friends, and even the city of S. Maria C.V., with its streets and sites.

I also visited Pompeii and the Island of Ischia, two wonderful days...thank you, the most beautiful in my life.

...Rome will not forget.

Nasim Kashur

CIF Italia 2015 Participant from Palestine