

WARSZTATY DLA MŁODZIEŻY POLSKIEJ I IZRAELSKIEJ

„SPRAWIEDLIWI WŚRÓD NARODÓW ŚWIATA”

OŚRODEK „BRAMA GRODZKA – TEATR NN”, LUBLIN 2010.

OPRACOWANIE: IZABELA BŁASIAK, DOMINIKA MAJUK, BARTOSZ GAJDZIK.

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The workshop deals with the theme of the Righteous Among the Nations. During the workshop participants will get to know the story of saving a Jewish family during World War II in Chełm (Eastern Poland). The story will be shown from two perspectives – the Righteous and the Survivors. For this purpose there will be used oral history (fragments of relations by Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska – the Righteous and the Survivor – Bencjon Drutin).

This story would serve young Israelis and Poles as a meeting place and opportunity to discuss the difficulties of a memory of the Righteous and Survivors. A common platform for dialogue between Polish and Israeli youth would be built in this way.

Workshop time: 90 min.

Target group: students of secondary schools in Poland and Israel.

Number of participants: 30 people (15 Israelis + 15 Poles).

Number of working groups: 4.

After the workshops, participants will be able to:

- explain the term "Righteous among the Nations", explain who and why gives such a title,
- summarize the story of the family Grzesiuk and Gipsz (the Righteous Among the Nations and Survivor of the Holocaust),
- characterize the motivations for rescuing Jews during World War II,
- understand the complexity of the issue of saving someone's life in emergency situation (in the context of the realities of occupation),
- discuss the problem of memory of Holocaust in the families of the Survivors and the Righteous,
- use and analyze the source material of "oral history".

References:

1. Fragment of an oral history – relation of Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska, Righteous Among the Nations (Chełm 2007) – audio and text version.
2. Fragment of an oral history – relation of Bencjon Drutin, Survivor of the Holocaust (Israel, 2009) – audio and text version.
3. Archival and contemporary photos related to the history of families of Gipsz and Grzesiuk.
4. Scan of the poster announcing the prohibition of helping Jews, under the Regulation of Hans Frank, 15.10.1941, imposing the death penalty for all forms of aid to Jews.
5. Scan of an Ausweis of Rachel Gipsz.

Needed materials:

- self-adhesive labels (20-40 units),
- pens and markers (30 pieces),
- A4 paper with the inscription: "Question to the Righteous Among the Nations" (4 pieces),
- A4 paper with the inscription: "Question to the Survivor of the Holocaust" (4 pieces),
- A3 paper with the inscription: "Righteous Among the Nations" (1 piece), A3 paper with the inscription: Diploma of "Righteous Among the Nations" (1 piece),
- A5 envelopes (30 pieces).

Workshop

Introduction to the workshop (5 min.)

The moderator greets the participants and informs, that the workshop would deal with the topic of the Righteous Among the Nations.

1. Exercise – Write your name (10 min.)

Needed materials: self-adhesive labels (20-40 pieces).

Participants sit in a circle. Each person receives a self-adhesive label and writes his/her name in their own language. The Poles ask the Israelis, how to write their names in Hebrew and write the names of Israelis in Polish. As a result, each participant has a label with his/her name written in two languages. All participants stand in a circle and read their names loud.

2. Exercise – Who are we? (15 min.)

Needed materials: a set of photos [annex 2.1].

The moderator divides participants into 4 groups. In each group participants repeat their names and say, where they come from, where their families come from and where they were during the war.

The moderator notices, that during the workshop, participants would learn about the history of a Polish family Grzesiuk and a Jewish family Gipsz, who were living in Chełm during World War II. The moderator gives each group a set of photos [annex 2.1], associated with this story and asks participants not to turn them over. Each group tries to guess, how people or places shown in the pictures link to this story. Then each group can turn the picture on the other side (with descriptions of the pictures) and can see, whether the assumptions were right. Each group presents its photos.

3. Exercise – Can You Hear Me? (10 min.)

Needed materials: track with a story of the Righteous and the Survivors [annex 3.1], work paper [annex 3.2].

Participants, sitting in groups, listen to the oral history of the Righteous Among the Nations, Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and Survivor of the Holocaust – Bencjon Drutin [annex 3.1]. The moderator gives the participants work papers, that have to be filled in while listening to the track [annex 3.2]. After filling the work papers, all the groups read loud, what they have filled and the answers are compared.

4. Exercise – Not Holland, but Poland (30 min.)

Needed materials: Work space 1: [annex 4.1], [annex 4.2], [annex 4.3], [annex 4.4], [annex 4.5], 4 A4 paper with the inscription: "The question for the Righteous", 4 A4 paper with the inscription: "The question for the Survivor"; Work space 2: [annex 4.6], [annex 4.7], [annex 4.8], [annex 4.9], 4 cards of [annex 4.10]; Work space 3:[annex 4.11], [annex 4.12], two sheets of A3 with the inscription: "Righteous among the Nations" on the first one, "Diploma >Righteous Among the Nations<" on the second one.

Participants stay in groups. The moderator explains, that in the four corners of the room there are four different work spaces. Each group comes in turns to each position, where there are 4 tasks to be done by each group.

Work space 1: Conditions in the hideouts.

Description of the conditions in hideouts:

- Reports of the Righteous Among the Nations – Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and the Survivor of the Holocaust – Bencjon Drutin [annex 4.1],
- photo of Drutin in the basement, where he was hiding with his mother and brother [annex 4.2].

Tasks for participants: Participants reflect on the question of the conditions in the hideout [annex 4.3] and write the answers on additional papers.

Work space 2: The risk of hiding people.

Description of danger of living in a hideout:

- Reports of the Righteous Among the Nations – Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and the Survivor of the Holocaust – Bencjon Drutin [annex 4.4].
- List of possible attitudes of Poles towards Jews during the Nazi occupation (on the basis of attitudes highlighted by Barbara Engelking), testimony of Shlomo Gorzyczański [annex 4.5].

Tasks for participants: Participants think of questions they would ask the Righteous Among the Nations and the Holocaust Survivors and write them down on papers prepared in the work space.

Work space 3: Conditions of life in occupied Poland.

Description of occupation of Poland:

- Reports of the Righteous Among the Nations – Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and the Survivor of the Holocaust – Bencjon Drutin [annex 4.6],
- Scan of the poster announcing the prohibition of helping Jews, under the Regulation of Hans Frank, 15.10.1941, imposing the death penalty for all forms of aid to Jews [annex 4.7] and information about its legacy only in Poland, in the Soviet Union and Serbia,
- Photo of Rachel Gipsz's Ausweis [annex 4.8],
- Description of situation in different European countries, due to aid do Jews [annex 4.9].

Tasks for participants: Participants answer the questions about conditions of life in occupied Poland [annex 4.10].

Work space 4: Contacts between the Survivors and the Polish families after the war.

Description of the contacts between the families of Survivors and people who were helping them during World War II:

- Reports of the Righteous Among the Nations – Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and the Survivor of the Holocaust – Bencjon Drutin [annex 4.11],
- medal and diploma of "Righteous Among the Nations" for the Grzesiuk family [annex 4.12].

Tasks for participants: Participants fill two *mind-maps* ("Righteous Among the Nations" and "Diploma >Righteous Among the Nations<"). Each group completes *mind-maps* on the basis of associations and knowledge (who gives such medal, how many people received the medal, what is written in the diploma, ...)

Following discussion is a summary of the exercise.

5. Discussion – Difficult Memory (15 min.)

Needed materials: [annex 5.1] (optional).

The moderator asks, what task was the most interesting (has provided the new information, was controversial, had the strongest emotional impact). He/she asks, if something was unclear or confusing.

It is also important to discuss, if people, who survived World War II were often talking about that time after the war and what were the reasons for such behavior.

It is recommended to finish the discussion with the statement of Adela Grzesiuk-Dąbska and Bencjon Drutin, about difficult memory [annex 5.1].

6. Exercise – Memory of the Righteous, and Survivors (10 min.)

Needed materials: envelopes with a names [annex 6.1].

Participants stand in a circle. Each person gets a small envelope with a name of the Righteous Among the Nations or Survivor of the Holocaust [annex 6.1]. The moderator asks to read the names, memorize them and put the cards back into the envelopes. Then, walking around the room, each card should be replaced – participants exchange their envelopes, saying loud the name of the person, written on the paper in the envelope. One cannot open the envelop during the exercise, but has to memorize the name, that has just heard. The exercise lasts about 2 minutes (5-10 exchanges), then everyone stands in a circle and verifies, if the last name, that had been “exchanged”, before stopping the game, is the same, as the name in the envelope. The moderator asks, why it was difficult to memorize a short name, even in such a simple game. He/she encourages participants to take one of the names and later on figure out by themselves, who these people were.

5. Summary of the workshop

The moderator thanks participants for taking part in the workshop and once again indicates, that the memory is an element of a cultural identity.