

Combatants for Peace

A unique group of Israeli and Palestinian former combatants engaged in a non-violent joint struggle to end the Israeli occupation, visit England for the first time 21st to 30th July 2010

Hosted by **Encounters** in association with
Amnesty International UK, The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace,
and The Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University.

From 21st to 30th July 2010, **Encounters** hosts a group of Israeli and Palestinian members of the pioneering **Combatants for Peace** movement for a UK tour of public events to share their personal stories and non-violent creative methods for resolving conflict, with a focus on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

The **Combatants for Peace** (CfP) movement was started in 2005 by Palestinians who had been part of the violent struggle against the occupation and Israelis who had fought in the Israeli army. Having put down their arms, **CfP members** are engaged in a non-violent struggle against the Israeli occupation and for a viable peace in the area. They are committed to using dialogue and reconciliation as a way to promote the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem, alongside the State of Israel.

CfPis represented in the UK by 16 members of the Tul-Karem/Tel- Aviv group, one of the five bi-national local activist groups operating in Israel/Palestine. This unique group uses theatre as a tool for dialogue, action and transformation.

For an organisation whose bi-national members routinely risk arrest and resentment from within their own communities simply for meeting together, this extraordinary UK visit offers a safe space for CfP members to deepen relationships within their group as well share their creative approach through a series of public events.

Their UK hosts, **Encounters**, are an arts practice working at the intersection of social and ecological sustainability to offer frameworks for people to explore their identity and imagine new interconnected stories to live by.

Encounters and **Combatants for Peace** invite you to join them at:

[Warrington Peace Centre](#)

SATURDAY 24th JULY

10am - 5.30pm Rainbow of Identities workshop

Day-long experiential exploration of the complexities of conflict, led by Combatants for Peace.

[Click here for more details](#). Places are free.

To apply please contact kerri@waking-up.com to complete form by Friday 16th July.

7.30 - 9.30pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. Book via lynn.hitchen@foundation4peace.org or 01925 581236.

[Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University](#)

TUESDAY 27th JULY

7.30 - 9.30pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. Book via Andrew Rigby at <mailto:lsx134@coventry.ac.uk>.

Frontline Club, London

WEDNESDAY 28th JULY

7.00 - 9.00pm Israel and Palestine: Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. Chaired by The Guardian's Middle East Editor, Ian Black.

Book at <http://www.frontlineclub.com/events/2010/07/israel-palestine-combatants-for-peace.html>

Amnesty International UK, Human Rights Action Centre, London

THURSDAY 29th JULY

10am - 5.30pm Rainbow of Occupation experiential workshop led by Adrian Jackson, expert on the Theatre of the Oppressed, and Artistic Director of Cardboard Citizens Theatre Company. [Click here for more details](#). Places cost £60/£30 concessions. To apply please contact kerri@waking-up.com to complete form by Friday 16th July.

7.00 - 9.30 pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. Chaired by Kristyan Benedict, Campaign Manager, Amnesty International UK.

Book at <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/combatants>

More about the events and workshops:

No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace reveal some of the personal stories of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that are simply not heard in the UK or Europe. Moments of seeing 'the other side' through different eyes - seeing others' daughters as your own, the enemy's' doctor as your own life-saver; stories of meetings of minds rather than guns, transitions from checkpoint commando to creative peace-maker, from desperation to reconciliation; life-changing shifts in perception that pave the way for compassion and collective imagination of how to live alongside others. The evening offers a mix of forms of presentation and dialogue including theatre scenes to bring some of these stories to life, inviting the audience to respond and take part in shaping the proceedings.

Rainbow of Identities (Warrington) and Rainbow of Occupation (London)

Both are day-long experiential, participative workshops offering up to 30 places at each venue. The workshops will draw on the innovative methodologies of Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed to explore the complexities of conflict, the roles of oppressed, oppressor, the victim and how our real and projected identities perpetuate notions of hopelessness and despair. We will look for ways to view the other / the enemy / the alien / the one who is dangerous as intrinsically linked to us. We will look at how we can transform our own narrative through the active and different choices we make. The workshops are a place for profound personal exploration and questioning of our identity in relation to others, rather than an opportunity to discuss the politics of the Middle East.

Combatants for Peace UK visit is funded by

J.A. Clark Charitable Trust, The Cornish Foundation and other donors

For further information about the visit, please contact **Ben Yeger**, Creative Director of Encounters and UK representative of Combatants for Peace on <mailto:ben@encounters-arts.org.uk> or 07977 449901.