



# IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs  
and International Relations e.V.



Workshadowing

Tami Kinberg & Mira Ballmaier

**“pARTs of Terezin”**

20.07.17, Jerusalem – 23.-26.07.17, Beit Terezin

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**Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations (IFAIR) e.V.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION OF THE TEAM

The Israeli museum **Beit Terezin** and the German human rights organization **Genocide Alert e.V.** want to establish the joint project “**pARTs of Terezin**” to encourage young art students from Israel and Germany to be the voices of the last Holocaust survivors. The following paragraphs are an introduction to the visions and work of the two organizations as well as the project coordinators Tami Kinberg (director of Beit Terezin) and Mira Ballmaier (deputy chairwomen of Genocide Alert).

### 1.1 Beit Terezin

Beit Theresienstadt was established in 1975 as a non-profit organization in memory of the Jewish Martyrs of Ghetto Theresienstadt.

The campus includes a museum, exhibition halls, library, educational center, and archives holding thousands of original artifacts from the Ghetto. The archive also holds an index of the 162,000 Jews from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and other European countries, who were imprisoned in the Ghetto. The Education Center offers educational programs for school-age children, soldiers, students and groups of adults.

Beit Theresienstadt acts as a bridge connecting the victims, survivors and future generations and houses a unique collection of art work created in the Ghetto, where cultural activity was the key to keeping one's dignity in spite of the inhuman conditions.

Tami Kinberg is the director of Beit Terezin and has worked there for several years.

More information is available online: [www.bterezin.org.il](http://www.bterezin.org.il)

### 1.2 Genocide Alert e.V.

Genocide Alert e.V. is a German human rights organization, which advocates for the effective prevention and punishment of grave human rights violations such as genocide and crimes against humanity. Since its founding in 2007, Genocide Alert has conducted active political consultancy and public outreach with the aim of pushing Germany and the European Union towards a more responsible, solidary and human rights based foreign policy.

Our work is marked by Germany's history, which teaches us to never look away from systematic human rights violations. Even though the device 'never again' circulates prominently, mass atrocity crimes have occurred times and times again and shamefully continue to persist. We want to remind the civil society and policy-makers of Germany's special responsibility when it comes to the prevention and prosecution of mass atrocity crimes. We do so by not only remembering mass atrocity crimes here and worldwide but also by sharpening the awareness that developing effective tools for the future is necessary.

More information about the work of our organization are available online: [www.genocide-alert.de](http://www.genocide-alert.de) .

Genocide Alert works completely on a voluntary basis and has about 70 members. Most of them are young people passionate about politics, international law and history. The current board consists of one chairman and five deputy chairmen and –women. Mira is a chairwomen and treasurer of Genocide Alert since 2015. She is 27 years old and lives in Frankfurt a.M. Besides her work for the organization, she is studying International Studies/Peace and Conflict Studies at the Goethe University. She has chosen two main topics of interests, which she follows in private and in her work life: dealing with the past / memory work and foreign aid. Next to Genocide Alert, she is also voluntary working in the NGO inner vision e.V., which focusses on foreign aid with a Tanzanian partner organization.

### 1.3 Partnership between the two Organizations

As both organizations are working in the greater field of remembering mass atrocity crimes, we decided to think of a common project. Genocide Alert tries to remind of all mass atrocity crimes that happened in the past or are ongoing. As our founding and all our work is influenced by the Holocaust and German responsibility, we are happy to conduct a project with the focus on Holocaust remembrance. In addition, both organizations want to foster the connection of Israeli and German associations and with our work the exchange between young people from both countries. We believe a close exchange about our shared past is important to create a common remembrance and deconstruct narratives.

## 2. THE PROJECT “PARTS OF TEREZIN”

In a few years’ time, the last Holocaust survivors will not be with us anymore. As the dunning voices of our recent history, their experiences have shaped our remembrance and knowledge of the Holocaust in a unique way. Those passing away will affect the contemporary memory culture in a way we cannot predict at the moment. Therefore, we believe now is not only the time to preserve their historical heritage but to connect the young generation to their past. We want the Holocaust survivors to educate them, so the students ultimately become their voices and multiply what they have heard. From simple audience they transfer to multipliers themselves.

To achieve this aim, we propose the project “pARTs of Terezin”, which consists of two phases. Firstly, students from Germany travel to Givat Haim (Israel). They meet with the student group from Israel. Both groups are having a kick-off workshop together, where they get familiar with

the topic, methods and each other. After that, the group from Germany is having their individual workshop time. They work in small groups together with one Holocaust survivor. During this week of intensive working, each small group proposes an idea of how to deal with the survivor's story in an artistic way. They present it at the end of their week and get feedback from the group. Both groups travel together from Israel to Theresienstadt. After the visit and another workshop together in Theresienstadt, the German group leaves for home. The Israeli group now begins their individual workshop time. They are following the same structure and work in small groups with one survivor. Both, the Israeli and the German group, will benefit very much from getting to know a survivor from a different country. They will also raise issues about the meaning of home and questions of identity. It will open a new perspective additional to any information they gathered before.

When all students return home, they finish their pieces of art. It is their task to plan and organize an individual public event to present it in their local community. With this event, they act as multipliers and present the work in a way more people can benefit from it and the story will be spread.

Our target group are art students. There is no age restriction but we are looking for mature and creative people, who are able to organize an event suitable to attract the public. With the call we try to reach students, which have not worked to much in the field of Holocaust/survivors before.

### 3. WORK SHADOWING IN ISRAEL

The first work shadowing between Beit Terezin and Genocide Alert took place in July in Israel. Since the IFAIR meeting in Armenia we had managed to write a detailed project description and gather a future team from both organizations. We have named several targets for our meeting in Israel, which were mainly connected to fundraising and budget planning.

The work shadowing took place as follows:

**Thursday (20.07.): Meeting with Guy Band in Jerusalem**

Executive Director of the Israel Program of Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (German: Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, ASF)

ASF also works in the field of reconciliation between Germany and Israel, especially via youth exchanges and voluntary services. They are active in the three countries that are involved in our project (Czech, Israel and Germany) and a huge part of their work is linked to the work with

Holocaust survivors. Deriving from that, Mira drove to Jerusalem to meet the team of ASF in their head office in Beit Ben Yehuda.

The project was discussed in detail. Guy Band rose many useful questions and shared his thoughts about possible difficulties regarding the application process. It was a fruitful kick-off for the work in Israel and we gathered a lot of questions from this, which we had to answer in the following days. He also offered the help of ASF when it comes to the conduction of the project and we will update them about the progress.

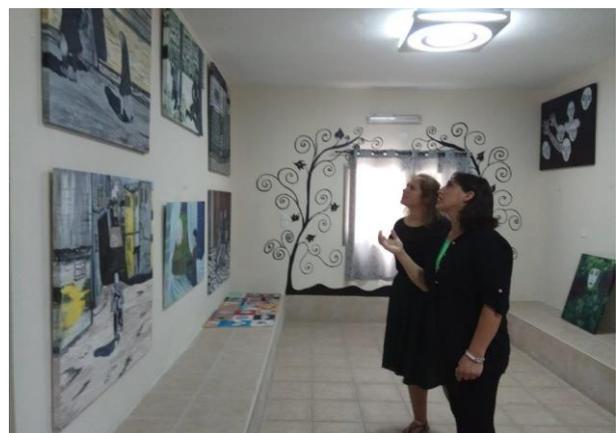
**Sunday (23.07.)**

**Meeting with Bothaina Halabi (Artist) and working at home**

In the morning, we went to XX to meet Bothaina Halabi. She is a Druze artist, who draws painting about the Holocaust. She personally does not have any relation to the Holocaust but touched by the things she read, she started a whole gallery with paintings about different aspects of the Holocaust. Her work is acknowledged on the national and international level and attracts a great number of visitors.

Tami and me will keep informing her about our project and, if possible, organize a workshop with her and all the students.

In the afternoon, we continued the work we had started in Armenia and discussed details of our project (especially the questions Guy Band rose). We added some features and proceeded with the planning.



**Monday (24.07.)**

**Working day at Beit Terezin**

In the morning, we had an extended tour through the different exhibitions of the museum. Beit Terezin is an extraordinary archive of art pieces from

the museum. Art has always played a large role in the different camps and ghettos so people could cope with the inhuman conditions and the unbelievable things around them. That why we cannot think of a more suitable place to start our workshop phase.

The museum is located in a Kibbutz. We also made a tour through the Kibbutz to learn about the way they used to live, their visions and to compare it to the current situation.

We spent the afternoon with fundraising, which is really taking a lot of time.



**Tuesday (25.07.)**

**Working day at Beit Terezin**

Tuesday was another day for fundraising. We started a document with all relevant informations and deadlines and focusses on information we need to gather before the application process.

The team also had an intense brainstorming activity to come up with a name for the project. In the end we decided to go with “pARTs of Terezin”. It refers to the arts we are going to use as a way of preserving the story. It also refers to parts in the sense that we are saving individual stories from the ghetto but there are of course more stories to tell.

### **Wednesday (26.07.) Working day at Beit Terezin**

Budget planning was on the agenda of Wednesday. The treasurer of Beit Terezin had already prepared a draft version to work with. Anyway, we needed to make a lot adjustments and calculations but we managed to finish the budget. After that, we discussed the next steps with special regards to what we want to achieve until we meet again in Berlin.

Our second work shadowing will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September in Berlin. We will continue to work on the project and meet with other members of Genocide Alert.

To sum it up, the days in Jerusalem and Beit Terezin were very fruitful for us and the project. We managed to finish the project description, the budget plan, made some contacts and got into details of the project. We made a detailed outline of the workshop weeks and a concrete plan about when to implement it. We started to look for funds and have some possibilities in mind. Each organization will now use their own contacts and start the application process.

We totally met our aims and targets for the week. Even though, we had to find other solutions as some of the original plans did not work out, we finished everything in time.

We also had the time, to present each other's organization in detail. We learned about ongoing and past projects, range and contacts of the organization. We will try to use all the contacts we have to make the project a success.



Personally, it was an honor for Mira to spend that many days in Beit Terezin. She learned a lot about the uniqueness of the ghetto and the importance of arts, music and sports there. She felt integrated in the team from the first day and could feel their strong dedication to the topic and the great team spirit.

The teamwork between Tami and Mira was excellent. We managed to achieve a lot during the days and are totally on the same page when it comes to content, aims and details of the project. Decision-making was very easy and we benefitted from each other's knowledge and ideas. We will remain in close contact until we meet in Berlin.

#### 4. PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

We have identified fundraising and contact to art schools as our main tasks for the near future. This will be the task until Berlin and for the rest of the year. Once we receive the funds, we will continue with the call for participants. We have established loose contacts and once we the funds are granted we will continue to plan the workshops.



Tami & Mira  
Beit Terezin, 26.07.2017



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05.09.17 – 07.09.17, Berlin



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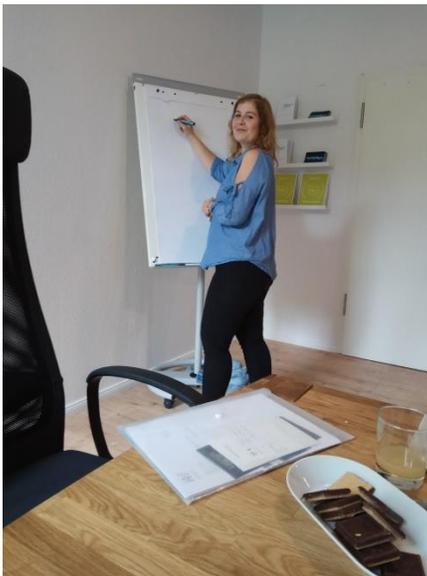


## 1. WORK SHADOWING IN BERLIN

The first work shadowing between Beit Terezin and Genocide Alert took place in July in Israel. The second work shadowing took place in Berlin, a day and a half before the IFAIR evaluation meeting in September. In between the first and the second work shadowing we continued to make progress. The initial budget was revised and the first application for funding was launched.

The work shadowing in Berlin was planned to include meetings with Genocide Alert board and staff members, continuing the work on the project and visiting sites of remembrance as "Topography of Terror", e.g.

The goals for the work shadowing were to state a time table for the project and to plan the fundraising in order to start the project going.



Work shadowing program:

- Visit to the "Topography of Terror" open museum and walking along former Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse to learn about ways of remembrance of the past.

- Work sessions in GA offices in Berlin
- Visit to the Reichstag dome
- Meeting with the founder and chairman of GA, Mr. Robert Schütte and deputy chairwoman Ms. Emilia von Mettenheim

During the meetings we had a very efficient work process. We manage to define the project's needs and framework, to plan the work stages of the project, prepare a list of funds we would like to address for funding, etc.

The meetings with Mr. Schütte and Ms. Von Mettenheim were very fruitful. We discuss practical aspects of the project such as legal and financial questions.

We achieved our goals for the work shadowing.

## 2. PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Work stages:

- a. Applying for funds - beginning of October 2017 (one application was already sent in August)
- b. Contacting universities and students associations in order to look for cooperation in locating potential participants in the project- beginning November 2017
- c. When we will get the first approval for the budget we shall start with preparing the call and the graphic paper work for the project.