

# The Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue, FDCD

## ***Our Vision – Life in Abundance***

We envision 'life in abundance' based on justice, equality, human dignity, social responsibility and dialogue at all levels of society, with particular focus on marginalized and downtrodden communities.

## ***Our Mission – Restoration of Human Dignity***

FDCD represents an integrated initiative rising from the community and aiming to restore human dignity to marginalized and oppressed individuals and communities. We strive to work with and support initiatives at multiple levels of the community in partnership with like-minded civil society organizations. This is done through a process of dialogue, inter-faith solidarity and cooperation among communities in the Middle East.

Through this sense of solidarity, and focused local and regional activities, we work to:

- Foster and promote deep, respectful inter-communal dialogue as a tool for overcoming challenges and seeking peaceful co-existence
- Developing community-based initiatives that translate dialogue into action, for the purpose of building inter-communal solidarity and cooperation, and grounding in universal human rights
- advocate for and encourage the peaceful transformation of conflict at multiple levels in society as a means of building peace through justice and reconciliation

### **Profile of participants:**

- Interested in interacting with persons of other cultures and religions
- Willing to engage in dialogue
- 23-33 years old
- Good English language

*Participants are encouraged to bring material (such as pictures, music etc.) related to their country, culture or organization, to share with the group.*

### **How to apply**

The deadline for applications is Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

If you would like to request an application form, kindly send an email to [fdcd@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:fdcd@cyberia.net.lb)

Applicants will be notified of their selection by Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Organizations can nominate up to two participants.

Persons that have participated in the same camp in previous years may apply, but priority will be given to new participants.

***If you wish to support this or similar events, kindly contact Rev. Riad Jarjour, President of FDCD, at [riadjarjour@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:riadjarjour@cyberia.net.lb)***



## **International Work & Study Camp**

July 3rd to 13th, 2009

Syria and Lebanon



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# International Work and Study Camp

The Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue FDCD and the Arab Group for Muslim Christian Dialogue are pleased to inform you that the annual 'International Work and Study Camp IWSC' for 2009, in collaboration with the Mennonite Central Committee MCC and Danmission, will take place from July 3rd to July 13th, with five days spent in Syria and five in Lebanon.

This annual event is motivated by the conviction that interaction transforms relationships. Youth from different countries, religions, and backgrounds, live together for a week, and take part in workshops, lectures, and encounters with dialogue practitioners, civil society/community leaders, and youth groups.



## Lectures and workshops

The group works on the process of dialogue and its role in peace building, prevention and transformation of conflict, and better understanding, through lectures, exercises, games, discussions, experimenting with listening skills, and more.

## Field visits

The group will have the chance to meet with prominent religious figures, community leaders and dialogue practitioners in both Lebanon and Syria, in their own homes or workplaces.

## Living together

Living together for several days in an isolated location and sharing three meals a day plays a large part in the transformation that occurs in these camps, and is a model for One living. Participants experiment with positive and peaceful alternatives and ways of dealing with their problems and with others, celebrating differences, thus becoming a starting point of transformed and transforming relations.



## Intercultural and Social Nights

Social evenings will allow participants to share cultural, gastronomic and musical heritage from their respective countries (slideshows, sketches, dances and more).

## Work

When possible, the camp has the added component of 'work': Working together on a project, such as rehabilitating a playground, painting a school, or such. This allows the group to break from the lecture format, act as a team, experience dialogue in practice, and help the local community. This method has been used in previous FDCD events with great success.