



## The Story of an Escape

Gießen, Germany, May 18, 2019

By Dieter Schmidt

English: Catriona Valenta

On 18 May, UPF Gießen held another of its 'International Cafe' events, this time with the focus on Syria. To start off with, two videos were presented giving an impression of the country - its people, interesting history and cultural wealth. For many years Syria has been devastated by war and terror, defining the fate of countless of its inhabitants.

Zana escaped from Syria and was ready to tell us his story. It was riveting and exciting to hear how he made this risky move and was able to make a new start in Germany, always looking forwards.

With this positive and proactive attitude, he learnt the language and is currently continuing his education. But it is not only a story about him alone: he is involved in UPF and YSP (Youth and Students for Peace) and in this way wishes to make a contribution towards world peace. He recently participated

with many others in an interfaith workshop, organized by YSP.

His story is hopeful and encouraging and demonstrates one thing: suffering and want can either lead to bitterness and hatred or can be catalysts, releasing positive forces contributing to a desire to help build a better world.

Zana then patiently addressed the many interesting questions posed by the audience.

A fun game and Syrian dance, enjoyed by all, rounded off this event.