

WFWP Norway: Understanding the Syrian refugee problem

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WFWP Norway held an international evening with the intention of both building an empathetic understanding to the refugee situation as well as encouraging everyone to support the effort to help the current refugees from Syria.

It took place on 17 Oct 2015 in Grorud, Norway.

We had three speakers who shared their stories on what it is like to be a refugee. The first speaker, Johanna Toresen, a young woman from Germany spoke of her grandmother's experiences fleeing Eastern Germany during World War II. Her grandmother left behind a detailed written account for future generations from which Johanna based her sharing.

Afterwards, Rana Abusamra, a young woman from Gaza, shared her experiences escaping from the war torn area and trying to settle in a new country. She stressed the importance of making refugees feel welcome because many of them want to work and give back to the country that has given them a second chance at life. Unfortunately, many feel rejected by both the authorities and the locals and as a result withdraw from society.

The last speaker, Fidan, a recent refugee from Afghanistan, shared his story of escaping the Taliban and his journey across Europe searching for a safe home for his wife and son.

Afterwards, Johanna sang a beautiful song called Paraiso and lifted up the spirit in the room. As an international evening, the culinary theme of the evening was Asia and several cooks donated native dishes. There was food from Thailand, the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam. We received 1400 NOK (about 152 euro) in donations towards WFWP's efforts in helping the refugees. Overall, it was a fascinating and enlightening evening with lots of great discussion afterwards over a delicious meal.

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