

**Name of the initiative:** Let us stare at the sun

**Originators:** Razan Silawi (college student) and Hadeel Ighbaryah (social activist)

**Guidance:** Amal Abu Tayeh (Projects manager- Masar Institute for Education

**Direct Target Audience:** Students at the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>nd</sup> levels

**Number of participants:** 11

**Number of meetings:** 8

**Date:** 15.4.2015- 29.5.2015

**Goals of the initiative:**

- Developing a person's capacities and skills in dialogue as a way of life
- Deepening the social and intellectual perception of an individual, through discussing different cases.
- Developing leadership among people in the group.

**The idea of the initiative:**

Even though there are some pioneering youth groups working in the field, they work under the influence of the educational system, a system that lacks discussion as a way of work that could improve critical thinking.

Schools transfer knowledge and do not criticize it, so the student lacks the opportunity to look into the information available to him and critique it, and doesn't have the chance to research topics that are socially or politically sensitive. So the student doesn't get to deal with social issues as a way to learn and deals usually with a curriculum that couldn't be further away from him or his social reality. (Palestinian researcher and intellect Mounir Fasheh , wrote about this, saying there is a difference between + institutionalized+ knowledge that has no connection to life reality and seeks to control the social structure and +civil+ knowledge that organically pile up into a practical knowledge that helps in social unity).

The initiative wanted to develop a shared learning space for a group of active young pioneers. They discussed several social issues, especially those that are marginalized, so they could look into them in a critical way.

The initiative served as a base to create a group of leaders in the organization. This space sees a partner in each individual in the meeting and works on analyzing the expressions and questioning them, and tries to get out of “the box” while looking into it. The role of the counselors is to facilitate this process and take part in the educational process.

**Working mechanisms:** open dialogue. Working in groups and workshops.

