

## **Advanced Training in Conflict Resolution**

During the Imagine Armenian and Azerbaijani Retreat and Dialogue 2007 the participants expressed interest in receiving more training in conflict resolution field so they could more effectively engage in dialogue programs and implement follow up projects to Imagine. With financial support from the US State Department and the International Center for Conciliation (ICfC) as well as volunteer efforts of the Armenian facilitator, several participants attended a conflict resolution workshop organized by ICfC.

Mediating History, Making Peace: Henry Everett workshop for Professionals Working with Issues of Conflict, Peace and Justice program brought Asmar Eyvazova, Ulviyya Nasibova from Azerbaijan and Narine Sarkisyants as participants and Phil Gamaghelyan as a trainer at the workshop on October 19-21, 2007 in Boston, MA.

The training program's primary focus was using history and collective memory as tools in conciliation processes. Facilitated by trainers from Netherlands, India, Cambodia, Israel, Europe and the USA, with work experience on the issues of history, memory, and ethnic conflicts from around the world, the training program presented these points by answering six questions and focusing on an alternative technique of mediation, addressing conflict and post-conflict reconciliation, especially in identity-based conflicts.

The workshop brought many of these issues live through presentations, discussions, sharing of personal experiences and role-plays of conflicts from around the world. Having the opportunity to present the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a group project during a 'clinic' session, Asmar Eyvazova and Ulviyya Nasibova from Azerbaijan and Phil Gamaghelyan and Narine Sarkisyants from Armenia, along with other group members from the UK, Palestine and Cambodia worked together and presented the nature and the background of the conflict and how the taught tools at the workshop could be beneficial for the peaceful resolution of this conflict. Indeed the joint work evoked interest and understanding among participants and facilitators and proved that representatives of both countries can come together and discuss the issue with mutual tolerance and collaboration.

We have learned more about identity and interest-based conflicts and methods using history and memory as main tools in the resolution process. Moreover, the training increased awareness about the conflict with participation of both sides. The Imagine participants also got the chance to come together during and after the workshop to discuss the future activities of the Imagine program. We hope many others will have the opportunity to participate in Imagine Dialogues and follow-up trainings!

For more information about the training visit [www.centerforconciliation.org/everettworkshop2007.html](http://www.centerforconciliation.org/everettworkshop2007.html)