

***Day of Prayer and Action for Children by the World's Religions  
GNRC youth in the town of Ramle, Israel on November 20 2008***

On the afternoon of Thursday, November 20, fifteen Jewish, Christian and Muslim young people gathered in the Open House, Ramle to commemorate the [Convention of the Rights of the Child](#) and the First International Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

The young participants came from various villages in the area and from the town of Ramle itself. All had met before in one of the two Journeys of Discovery (*Massa~Massar*) conducted in the summers of 2007 and 2008. The place where we met - The Open House, Ramle - was a perfect ground to meet in. The Open House, with its special story, is a symbol of peace and reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians in our region. During the 1948 war, the house's Palestinian owners fled to the West Bank, and the house was given to a Jewish family. Years later, when their daughter learned the story of her home and met the original owners, she decided with them to dedicate it to the the Muslim and Christian community who had remained in Ramle, as well as to peace activities between Jews and Palestinians.

The first item in the program was a prayer reading. Dorit explained that the activity would mark the first international day of prayer and action for children and that the day was being celebrated all around the world.



***The prayers were read by (right to left) Bissan salman (Christian), Gal Berkowich (Jewish), and Manar Aburiash (Muslim).***

After the prayer reading, we continued with our program, which was conducted by a representative of the Israeli Association for civil rights. First he explained the meaning of civil and human rights. Then the participants were invited to share an experience in which they felt that their rights were violated.

They learned that everyone knew from their own experience what a violation of human rights means. They also learned from the various examples that they gave that we can divide rights into different

kinds. Some rights have to do with the individual and some are group rights.

One of the participants described how a teacher was making fun of him - his right to be respected as a student was violated. Another described how she witnessed violation of rights towards Arabs in Israel - with regard to job opportunities, housing security checks and treatment by the police.

In the second activity, the participants broke up into small groups and used photographs as a basis for discussion. The photos were specially selected for their human rights theme. Each participant spoke about what they saw in the photos. The photos helped them to better grasp the principles of freedom, such as freedom of speech, and equality.

At the end, most of the participants said that they became aware of the possibility **to stand up for their rights. They realized that every human being, and every child, has rights, and that in order to stand up for these rights it is necessary to learn about and understand them.**

Some pictures from the day of prayer and action for children follow:













