



Netherlands

DUTCH - BULGARIAN SUMMER YOUTH CAMP IN THE NETHERLANDS 2018

27-07-2018 - Day 1

The Bulgarian youths, including Angelina Vladikova and Svetlana, were welcomed at Schiphol, Amsterdam by Mala Wallage and Semiha Kaya. With the bus from Van Heugten Tours they set off to The Hague. On the way to The Hague, the driver told the young Bulgarians about the origin of the city of The Hague and they were treated to drinks and tasty snacks; the Bulgarians were impressed by his fascinating story. Once they arrived at the Stayokay hotel, they were welcomed by Duncan Wielzen, Hanna Mitra Rambaran, Lejla Hasandedic and Vera Leal from Arigatou. A little later Stephen Shashoua also joined the group; he was one of the trainers along with Lejla and Vera. Aisa also joined the group with her son and daughter from the Netherlands. The son departed quite quickly but the daughter was there completely from start to finish and Aisa was active as a volunteer, which was also very nice.

Subsequently, the 'meet & greet' took place and afterwards there was lunch in Huygens Park. After this, they first went back to their guest address, before the session took place with the theme 'Young people as peace builders'. After this session, we went to the Hindu temple in Gaslaan, The Hague. They were received by Rita Poetoe (IBS confidant). After the tour in the temple a vegetarian meal was offered, which was the same as dinner. After dinner in the temple, the tram was taken towards Stayokay hostel, from where the centre of The Hague was briefly visited.



(Mala and one of the youngsters)

The transport from one location to another in The Hague, unless it was close enough to just walk, always took place by tram. For this, sufficient day tickets had been purchased, so that all participants could arrive at the different locations without any problem. Hanna Mitra was in charge and accompanied the whole company when traveling by public transport during the whole exchange visit

28-07-2018 - Day 2

Breakfast took place at 8 o'clock in the Stayokay hostel. After this the session started, with the theme "Acknowledge myself in relation to others" or 'how to deal with other people in the right way'. After the session there was a short break, where healthy food was central (lots of fruit and water). After the break there was a new session, called "Can we just get along?". Then there was lunch at restaurant Mado, near Hollands Spoor, the Hague. After this the group left by tram to Kamperfoelieplein, near to the Holy Family Church. Here again a session took place, about *reflection*. After this the group walked to the Anwar Mustafa Mosque on the Herschelstraat. Here a guided tour and a session on Islam took place; this was led by Imam Nizam Mohamed. Sharif Imanbuds from IBS was also present at this session. In the Mosque they also dined. After the Mosque visit, the group went back to Stayokay hostel by tram.



29-07-2018 - Day 3

First there was good breakfast again, followed by another session with the theme "What happens when we fail to respect one another" After another healthy break with fruit and water the group went by tram to Humanity House, where a tour took place. This was where Mala provided the group with a hot meal (Nasi Goreng with Satay). After this meal the group continued the program; this time they left for the Peace Palace and from there onwards they travelled to the synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Congregation, the Hague, where again a tour took place and a lot of interesting information was provided. After that, they took the tram to Scheveningen, where it was possible to relax and enjoy snacks, such as fish and chips.



(Group photo at Scheveningen)

30-07-2018 - Day 4

The day started again with breakfast in Stayokay, whereupon tram was caught at Kamperfoelieplein, where they met Duncan. Mala was also present, as well as Abdul Rehman Malik from London who is also a trainer but also a designer at Cerita (meaning: storyteller, this is also the same in Indonesian). Abdul Rehman subsequently led the ‘Story telling training’ session. Then there was a break, after which the rest of the session took place. After the session there was a lunch, at which Bart ten Broek from IBS was also present.

After lunch, a guided tour took place in the Holy Family Church. Afterwards The Story telling session continued, after which the formal end came to the Youth camp and thus the official part of the exchange program with the Bulgarian youths to the Netherlands.

After this, IBS representatives Yadin Sevda, Erik Dries, Rita Poetoe and Maduri Doerga also joined the closing. There was an interview between the Confidential Counsellors CC group and Angelina Vladikova and Lejla Hasandedic. After this it was time for the official closing, and this took place as follows: Mr. Bart ten Broek gave all participants of the Youth Camp a certificate and in addition everyone was provided with a magnet of the Hague. URI Netherlands Chair, Hanna Mitra named each individual participant. This magnet decorated with a stork, is the symbol of The Hague, city for peace and justice.



All the participants from the Youth Camp, including the trainers, received a puzzle from Mala as a souvenir from the Henri Dunant ship, on which she worked as a nurse. Then a barbeque took place and after the barbeque the group left for Stayokay hostel for the last night.

Also worth mentioning: Bart ten Broek, Chairman of the Interreligious Council Segbroek, which also counts as part of URI, is also a member of the URI Global Council. IBS was also delighted by the fact that a subsidy application made to the municipality of The Hague for the Youth Camp has been honoured.

31-07-2018 - Day 5

At 7.00 am, Mala waved the group off, and the bus from Van Heugten Tours departed from Stayokay hostel in the direction of Schiphol, from where flights were taken back to Bulgaria. This marked a definitive end to a memorable youth exchange between the Netherlands and Bulgaria.



Netherlands