

Dear Baritiu Students,

I had the great pleasure to come to the event you organized in Piata Mihai Viteazu last Thursday and I wanted to write to let you know how deeply impressed I was by what you did. The theater, dancing, sports, art work and presentation stands were wonderful.

As someone who's worked in peacebuilding and nonviolence internationally for the past 14 years – in many different countries including Somalia, Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan, Colombia, Burma, Moldova-Transnistria, Sri Lanka and elsewhere – I know how important the issues you were raising are. Also here in Romania, violence against women, domestic violence, and violence in schools and communities, are issues which have to be addressed and overcome.

Public events like the one you organized are great ways of reaching out to people and raising these issues in the community – raising public awareness and encouraging people to take steps to address them. Just as importantly: by organizing and carrying out the activities you did on Thursday you yourselves took up the responsibility of *acting* and engaging to address issues affecting all of us as a community. As Gandhi suggested, you decided to *be the change you want to see*.

At PATRIR we are committed to the promotion of nonviolence within Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár, Romania and internationally, and work to strengthen and develop our skills to address conflicts – in the community and globally – by peaceful and effective means. We would like to work with you in these efforts, and if there is any way we can be of support, or if you would like to visit the Institute and learn more about our work in Romania and internationally, please let us know.

Again: congratulations on your great event!

With best wishes,

In peace,



Kai Brand-Jacobsen

Director – Department of Peace Operations

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