

## IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM

By Jacob Pace, IFPB Communications and Grants Coordinator

Participants of IFPB's first *Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day* were reminded of the power that we collectively hold. I want to share the energy and experience of this event and invite your help as we move forward.

The nearly 200 people, who came together from 26 states and the District of Columbia, brought an energy and a focus that has the strength to propel our movement to new heights. Yet we know that our success depends on our continued action and ability to attract many others to our work.

The *Grassroots Advocacy Training* was the kind of event that Interfaith Peace-Builders has always hoped to lead.

We provide our delegation participants with sustained support for their efforts, but we welcomed the opportunity to expand our outreach to others who have not yet joined an IFPB trip.



Nearly 200 people from around the country attend the keynote panel at IFPB's *Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day* (photo: Amy Joseph).

Workshops featured experienced activists sharing skills and knowledge to strengthen all our work. Individuals from around the country seized the opportunity of a new US administration while also understanding the imperative for further action highlighted by the recent Gaza war.

**Yet, the importance of the weekend transcends the event itself. Our power will only be realized by inviting others to join us. The importance of the *Grassroots Advocacy Training* was in its focus on movement building.**

Interfaith Peace-Builders recognizes that success is not possible if we do not continue to build a movement at the grassroots level. That is why the ultimate achievements of the *Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day* depend on all of us. We must remain engaged. We must continue to teach, work and build.

A single visit to Capitol Hill is never enough. Our work did not begin on that weekend and it did not end when we left Washington. It continues today in our own communities and that is why the training included subjects as varied as coalition building in diverse communities, online activism, media advocacy, and more.

The *Grassroots Advocacy Training* brought us together to share invaluable skills. But we are all responsible for employing those skills and for building a movement that will continue to grow and succeed. **Interfaith Peace-Builders plays an important role in that movement and we need your support to continue our work.**

participants on Interfaith  
peace-builders delegations  
root their activism in the  
life stories of those who  
live in palestine / israel

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*This trip exceeded my expectations in every way. I have studied and worked on Middle East peace issues for several years but this trip challenged me to reach deeper. It pushed me to engage in a more meaningful and well-informed way.*

— Malka Fenyvesi, IFPB Delegate (2004)

# Participants Respond . . . From Good to Great!

I found this training to be exceptional. This is the third time I've attended an advocacy/lobby day on the Hill. This was the best. Thanks to all of you!"



Participants discuss their meetings with political representatives during a break in the workshop schedule (photo: Amy Joseph).

"Being with a knowledgeable group of people who are passionate and committed to establishing peace and justice was the most valuable part of the experience. I feel pumped and motivated to be active within my community!"

"Fabulous experience, information and resources. Thank you!"



Darryl Jordan of the American Friends Service Committee's Third World Coalition, leads the workshop on Coalition Building in Diverse Communities (photo: Amy Joseph).

"This was the first type of training program I've been to for lobbying or political purposes. Overall, it was a very positive, encouraging experience."



Interfaith Peace-Builders' Communications and Grants Coordinator Jacob Pace discusses strategy with participants from Ohio during Sunday's session on congressional engagement (photo: Amy Joseph).



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