



## POST EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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LEGO SERIOUS PLAY Workshop at the DIIS

On Wednesday, May 27 at the Danish Institute for International Studies, a LEGO SERIOUS PLAY workshop was held inviting people of all backgrounds to reflect on the theme "How to talk about difficult issues". This introspective workshop was co-designed by Anna K. Gargarian, Curator and Art Consultant for the Armenian Embassy to Denmark and Norway, and Leif Kjaer, LSP Certified Workshop Facilitator and Pedagogue, as part of a series of innovative projects organized for the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Workshop participants were invited to explore through a metaphoric, systematic, and hands-on process complex questions on identity, memory, and history. The workshop's aim was to engage an inclusive group of individuals in a constructive dialogue on how our past influences our present, and how to find solutions for individual and collective healing in the aftermath of traumatic events.

The workshop sign-up was open and free to the public. A total of fifteen Armenians and Danes came together for two hours to reflect and probe into difficult questions by building their own 3D LEGO® model in response to the facilitator's questions. These 3D models served as a basis for group discussion, knowledge sharing, problem solving and decision making. LSP Facilitator Leif Kjaer says about the workshop results:

*"I'm happy about how much the groups accomplished in this short 2 hour LSP session. The groups came up with some excellent shared stories that at the same time signaled new questions searching for concrete ways to move forward. Specifically: how to be recognized as a new-old nation, and what can Armenians in the short and long run, inside and outside of Armenia, do to contribute to the positive and sustainable political, cultural, social, educational and economic growth of Armenia...lots of parameters to be considered!"*

Kjaer also explained that by using LEGO bricks, participants can talk about emotional topics in a neutral and even playful way. Gargarian says,

*"It was so interesting to see how from the same tools and questions, each person built such different story-models. It gives real insight into various perspectives. It would be wonderful to have Turkish participants as well in our next workshop."*

The event was made possible by the generous hosting of the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), and with the collaboration of Octagon education group and HAYP Pop Up Gallery. LEGO CHARITY generously donated the LEGO blocks to the Armenian Embassy, and Gargarian hopes to bring the workshop to Armenia and possibly other locations in order to broaden the shared-story and begin building bridges where trauma, emotions, and painful memories have set-up barriers.

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### Workshop Photos



