

TOLERANCE AGAINST INTOLERANCE

THE PLAY - ATHENS, APRIL 2015

On the way to Comenius the plane has to make an emergency landing in a German town before their destination town . On the plane there are children from various countries who participate in the Comenius program so they accidentally meet at the airport where they landed. As they wait there they discuss and refer to their problems. The Greek Comenius team is made up of: Stephanie, Thomas, Emily and Isabel.

Stephanie's story

Stephanie is a high school student and has grown up in a matriarchal family (due to father's absence). She does not have any good relations with her classmate, Thomas. Stephanie is an anarchist – feminist, considers patriarchy as a demonstration of hierarchy, as she was brought up that way, and further more as a fundamental social problem. She systematically avoids men teachers' classes and often argues with them. She forms an all girls' fraternity with similar views to hers and hands out anti-boys racial leaflets. (at this point there are two or three persons who hand out leaflets to the audience). The emergency landing infuriates Stephanie who blames it on the pilot and his “incapability”. While at the airport she grasps the opportunity to make a speech to the female population arguing against men.

At that moment a young fellow –passenger, who was sitting among the audience, stands up and explains to her that he himself is a feminist but he believes that Stephanie goes beyond the borders of feminism and moves towards racism. He mentions that feminism fights for equal rights between men and women and anarchists who do not abide by anarchism for its real aim (which is based on voluntary cooperation and mutual help among people on the basis of individual self-definition and individual participation) but for the fanaticism which is offered by the team, violence and hooliganism which it is connected with.

Thomas’s story

Thomas is a homosexual and receiver of homophobic racism from his classmates and his neighbors. At school he is the only one who does not suppress his homosexual behavior and is not ashamed of showing that he is related to another homosexual.

During a charity bazaar the students had to provide objects they had created themselves. Thomas brought clothes he himself had designed. The rest of the students made fun of the fact that he designs clothes and they destroyed them with food and beverages. (all this is chat narration in a social media where he accidentally chats with a guy who takes part in Comenius from another country).

At the airport he realizes that his interlocutor is a guy from another Comenius team with which they happen to be at the same airport. That guy is surprised by the coincidence and asks how his story ended. He answers that the school got sensitized and formed a compulsory program for all students against homophobia which included sessions with psychologists, sociologists, showing antiracial movies etc. He added with enthusiasm that the consequence of those actions was that more students, although they were few, got encouraged and admitted that they themselves were also homosexual.

Emily’s story

Emily suffers from her thyroid and this is the reason why she is overweight and as a result she often is receiver of racist attitudes regarding her appearance. At the airport, where she also waits due to her flight delay, she talks with the guys of the other Comenius team with whom they have got closer because of the incident with Stephanie that had taken place earlier. In the meantime a quite presentable young lady from the other team shows some kind of remorse towards Emily because of her appearance, as she gossips with a guy sitting next who blames her saying that she cannot know what is up with her.

Emily is having a conversation with Stefany in which she complains about the racist behavior that she faces from both boys and girls after she hears some girls talking about her.

Nearby two boys are talking about a fact that happened recently to Emily. Emily was invited to a party on purpose by some guys so as they could laugh at her. They drugged her through her drink and after that she fainted out. Then they drew her face and they took photos which they posted on facebook.

At the same time Thomas and Emily have a discussion. Thomas asks Emily how she gets on with her thyroid and she answers back saying she is sad because she sees no improvement. The girl who made fun of Emily's appearance earlier is ashamed and apologizes.

Isabel's story

Isabel faced foreigners in a racist way which verged on nationalism. She was not aware of what nationalism is and did not actually care about the history-civilization- culture of other ethnicities. She got informed through television of an incident where nationalists of a political party in her country beat immigrants. That fact urged the young lady to search and find out what that organization supports, learn things about nationalism and become aware of nowadays situation in other people's countries. She narrates her story after an argument of two strangers at the airport where one demanded on taking the other's turn in the queue for tickets because one was a native and the other was a foreigner.

CONCLUSION

Through Stephanie's story we raise the fact of racism towards the opposite sex and the role family plays in the upbringing and the formation of the personality of children as well as conversation as a solution to the problem of racism.

Thomas's story presents homophobia and suggests the immediate intervention of school as a solution to racism.

**“Different Cultures on European Stage”
COMENIUS multilateral school partnership**

Through Emily’s story racism towards outward appearance comes up and being in other people’s place and considering their problems proves to be important.

Finally , Isabelle with the assistance of education and culture, she stopped seeing foreigners in a racist way and realized that fanaticism (i.e Golden Dawn) is not a solution.