

YPFDJ Conference in UK, Uppsala Sweden reports

We are proud to be a part of the YPFDJ and here are some of our thoughts, emotions and reports on the conference held in United Kingdom (abaj britanja).

“On the 4th of April I went on my first YoungPFDJ conference in the UK, Weymouth. Since this was my first time I did not know what to expect, however I had this feeling that it would be a great experience.

When we arrived at the airport, a day early, we got a warm welcoming from Hurri and Hermon. They picked us up in a minibus, decorated with the Eritrean flag on both sides of the bus (from the inside), and since we did not have a place to stay Jonathan



let us spend the night at his house. I was overwhelmed by the way they greeted us and of their hospitality, I mean here we are a day early probably messing up their schedule but still they give us this kind of greeting.

When we got to the place, Osmington Bay, where the conference was going to

take place we waited a while for the other busses to arrive then we were given a key to a room and the names of the people who would be sharing them. Each room was shared by four persons and given one key. Even though most of the people came during night time it was so well organised that it was easy to find your roommates.

The following days were days of lectures, seminars, presentations, and of course there was guayla. These days were very interesting and instructive, highly respected people held lectures and shared their knowledge with us. However there should have been more breaks during the lectures. Furthermore Eritrean youths from all over the world told us about what their different youth organisations do, and about their projects.

To go on this conference was the best thing I could have done, because even though we haven't started anything concrete, in Uppsala, this conference gave a lot of ideas and different ways of organising Eritrean youths. Furthermore I thought that you (choosing this word so I don't forget to mention anyone) were very organised and once again I can't explain the greatness of your hospitality. When I saw how many we were at this conference I realised that there is no end but only possibilities to what we the Eritrean youth can accomplish.

I would like to thank you for this conference and I wish you all the best"

Philemon-Isai Debas (Uppsala Sweden)

"I thought it was an interesting conference. It's very good to have these kinds of occasions so eritrean youngsters can gather and share some of their experiences and knowledges. By meeting other people from other countries we can listen to what others are doing in the different countries and take what we've learned and share it with the youngsters in our hometowns. In that way we can change and improve. The conference turned out to have a lot to offer.

The representatives from the different countries did some good presentations and some of them were very entertaining.

It was good that people from the audience could take place and perform their own thoughts and opinions about

things too. It was very inspirational and I look forward to get things started here in Uppsala."

Thomas Ghidey (Uppsala, Sweden)

"Last year when this conference was held in Sweden I was there, so this was my second time.

I have learned a lot of things last year, but still I learned even more this year.

This conference has given me the inspiration to do something like everybody else.

We are planning to begin from the scratch and try to gather all Eritrean youth in Uppsala and share with us the knowledge from these conferences and then see how



many are interested in starting a youth association, hopefully together we can make some improvement, as we said in UK “sky is the limit”. I want to thank all those who arranged this conference for doing a great job and made it possible for us to gather and learn from each other, not least from Mr. Zemheret Yohannes and Mr. Yemane Gebreab.

Samson Afewerki (Uppsala, Sweden)

At the beginning of the conference there was a really good drama performed by the cultural group Snit. It symbolised how our heroes took one step backward and two steps forward. With a strong movement like YPFDJ there is nothing that could make us unable to take two steps forward each step we take. The spirit we experienced at the conference is a sign, a great sign in what we are able to achieve. We learned a lot at Osmington Bay but there is still much more to learn, so see you all next year in Holland

Musie Mogos (Uppsala, Sweden)



The most memorable and inspirational moment for us was when Mr. Zemheret Yohannes held one of his speeches quoted: ***“Action is not something that will knock on your door, action is something that you have to take and that is why we are gathered here today Eritrean youths from all over the world to take action “.***

An Eternal Glory To our Martyrs
Awet N´Hafash