

# BLUE BERET



## UNFICYP goes 'Inside the Blue'

**N**ICOSIA, 22 October 2015 – UNFICYP personnel were on 22 October introduced to the UN's Inside the Blue initiative, which is intended to ensure that the organization's core values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity are upheld in the work environment. Specifically, Inside the Blue aims to prevent prohibited conduct, including harassment, discrimination and abuse of authority.

At a Town Hall at UNFICYP HQ, a team of 14 members of staff previously trained on Inside the Blue introduced the concept through a variety of presentations, including a dance performance, narratives and interactive tasks with the audience. The initiative aims to foster a positive work environment, improving the culture of the workplace and helping leaders and employees alike to discover what it is possible to achieve within their organization. By bringing empathy, compassion and energy into the workplace, leaders are able to enhance engagement and performance and inspire their employees to innovate, find opportunity, and strive for excellence.

Inside the Blue involves promoting open discussion of challenges faced in the workplace, availing staff with a 'quiet room' to relieve stress and using social media platforms to improve staff knowledge of rules and regulations related to conduct and discipline.

Guest speakers at the event noted that the UN had been an important support in their own lives, and urged staff to continue to perform their duties with the same diligence.

"You did not only support us by bringing money, medicine and food supplies, but also in a moral sense. You have helped us negotiate with the other community, solve our daily and practical problems and most of all you have stood by us in difficult moments," said Mr. Savvas Liasi, the representative of Greek Cypriots living in Ayia Trias, who has been supported by the UN since 1964.

"Please keep doing your duty with the same energy and dedication. We appreciate it very much," he added. The Inside the Blue trainers stressed that in order for UN staff to perform their duties to the highest standards, a positive working environment was key.

"As we spend a major part of our lives at work, it is best said that our working friends and colleagues are our second family," said Emirali Tunay, who works with UNFICYP's Telecommunication Unit. "I feel that when working together and sharing success experiences with colleagues, makes my life and our working environment more enjoyable and motivated."



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