

Karlsruhe, November 6th, 2015

Emergency Pedagogy: Continuing Assistance in Northern Iraq

From the 6th to the 20th of November, the seventh emergency pedagogy mission of the Friends of Waldorf Education in northern Iraq will be taking place. During this mission the German experts will support the local team in their work with traumatised children.

Together with UNICEF, the Friends of Waldorf Education were able to establish a local emergency pedagogy team in two refugee camps in northern Iraq. This cooperation allowed for a continuous presence in the refugee camps and daily psychosocial offerings for traumatised children and adolescents. In order to support their colleagues on location in their work and to further train them, a volunteer German team will once again travel to the region on November 6th.

The 9 person team is made up of experienced pedagogues and therapists. For the first time a professional story teller will also travel to northern Iraq. Story telling as a healing and integrating art form has already been successfully utilised by the Friends of Waldorf Education, in among others the Gaza Strip. In the course of the mission emergency pedagogy workshops for children and adolescents will be offered daily: Experiential and circus pedagogy, music pedagogy, sculpting, and form drawing should stabilise the children and give them a bit of joy back. At the same time, the local team should be further trained in the methods of emergency pedagogy.

There are also continuing education courses planned for teachers of the UNICEF-schools in the refugee camps. Lectures and workshops should educate them in the foundations of psychotraumatology and emergency pedagogy. In this way, local structures and competences, which are of central meaning for the care of children in the camp, will be purposefully strengthened.

The entire project with UNICEF is for right now ensured financing until the end of the year. At this time talks about a continuation of the cooperation into next year are taking place.

Emergency Pedagogy for Refugees

The emergency pedagogy of the Friends of Waldorf Education also supports traumatised refugee children in Germany and in the transit lands. In Karlsruhe, unaccompanied underage refugees have been trauma-pedagogically supported since autumn 2014 in cooperation with the Parzival School Centre. Until October 30th, an emergency pedagogical acute mission for arriving refugees took place on the Greek island Lesbos, right now an emergency pedagogy team is supporting refugees in Slovenia. In the autonomous region of Kurdistan in Iraq, the emergency pedagogy department of the Friends of Waldorf Education has been active in cooperation with "Aktion Deutschland hilft" since 2013. In the course of numerous other missions, already many children worldwide could be assisted in processing their traumatic experiences and trauma related disorders have been mitigated.

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*The **Friends of Waldorf Education** are worldwide sponsors of a free education system. Since 1971 they have advocated for Waldorf education and the freedom of education systems. Since 1993 the office in Karlsruhe has organized and supervised international volunteer services worldwide. Since the summer of 2011 it has been possible to complete a 12-month civil service in anthroposophic institutions through the association. Since 2006 the Friends of Waldorf Education have been active in the area of emergency pedagogy. Following the outbreak of a war or a natural disaster, they worked with psychologically traumatized children and adolescents in Lebanon (2006), China (2008 and 2013); Gaza (2009-2013), Indonesia (2009), Haiti (2010), Kyrgyzstan (2010), Japan (2011), and Kenya (2012-2013), the Philippines (2013-2015), Kurdistan-Iraq (2013-2015), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), and Nepal (2015).*



Freunde der Erziehungskunst is a member of **Germany's Relief Coalition**, a union of German relief organisations that can provide rapid and effective aid in the case of large catastrophes and emergency situations abroad.