

Karlsruhe, November 26th, 2015

Autumn in the Refugee Camp in Northern

Just a few weeks after the last mission, an emergency pedagogy international team travelled once again to northern Iraq. From November 6th to 20th, the seventh emergency pedagogy mission of the Friends of Waldorf Education in the region supported people in the refugee camp.

In addition to the emergency pedagogy work with the children, the focus of this mission was above all the further training of the local team. The goal is to strengthen competences on the ground and to establish sustainable emergency pedagogy structures, which also function when no international experts are on site.

Trauma pedagogical offerings, like experiential, movement, and music pedagogy, sculpting or form drawing, should help the children to process their traumatic experiences. In the afternoon, continuing education courses for teachers and local aid workers took place. In workshops and daily discussions former work was reflected on, further work was determined and future perspectives were compiled.

In intensive coaching and psychological advising of the team, question like “who am I?” and “where do I want to go?” were also dealt with. Despite the still difficult conditions, the motivation of most of the team members to continue the work has remained high.

This can also be explained certainly by the visible, positive changes, which one can perceive in the children. In the workshops, they really blossomed, they are quieter and show again trust in other human beings.

Like Said (11): During the last mission in September, he retracted from every touch, as if he were afraid of being hit. He stuck out due to his aggressive and problematic behaviour and it was difficult to get him to participate in a way which was acceptable for everyone. Now colleague Robert Murata reports: “This time Said came to us. He sought us out to be close to us, wanted to be hugged. He was visibly less cramped and tense. And he laughed a lot.”

Experiences like this show, how important it is that the work in the refugee camps in northern Iraq is continued. At this time, discussions about the continuation of this joint project with UNICEF are taking place.

Emergency Pedagogy for Refugees

Already since 2013 is the emergency pedagogy department of the Friends of Waldorf Education in cooperation with the German relief collation, *Aktion Deutschland hilft*, has been active in the autonomous region of Kurdistan in Iraq.

Also in Germany and in the transit countries, the emergency pedagogy department of the Friends of Waldorf Education supports traumatised persons. In cooperation with the Parzival—School Centre, unaccompanied underage refugees have been supported in Karlsruhe since autumn 2014. In October and November emergency pedagogy acute missions for refugees took place on Lesbos and in Slovenia. In the context of many other missions, already many children around the world could be helped in processing their traumatic experiences and trauma related disorders could be lessened.

Please also support the emergency pedagogical aid for traumatised refugees:

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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), Nepal (2015), Greece (2015) and Slovenia (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.