

Emergency Pedagogues from Karlsruhe aid Syrian refugees in Lebanon

Starting on August 23rd, a team of emergency pedagogic specialists from the "Friends of Waldorf Education" will begin its work in Lebanon. The assignment will be carried out in Shatila, a district of Beirut, and one of the largest refugee camps in Lebanon. Here countless Syrian families took refuge from the civil war, which rages in their home-country.

Traumapedagogic work with child refugees will mainly take place in Shatila. Furthermore, counseling for parents on how to treat traumatized children will be an important part of the work. An Additional training for people working in pedagogic fields will grant the sustainability of the assignment. Those trainings will focus on educators in Syria who work for relief organizations. The long-term aim of the emergency pedagogues is to work immediately in Syria. By and by the contacts made here should enable the access to immediately affected cities, such as Damascus, Homs and Hama. "With this assignment we would like to prepare the ground for further engagements in the region", says Holger Jung the coordinator of the assignment.

On site, the Lebanese NGO „National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training (Beit Atfal Assumoud)" will assist the "Friends" team. It would be welcome if, during this assignment, further bonds with local organizations could be established and thus the outreach to more afflicted children could be granted.

*The **Friends of Waldorf Education** are worldwide sponsors of a free education system. Since 1971 they advocate Waldorf education and the freedom of education systems. Since 1993 the office in Karlsruhe organizes and supervises international volunteer services, worldwide. Since summer 2011 it is possible to fulfill a 12-month civil service in anthroposophic institutions through the association.*

Since 2006 the Friends of Waldorf Education are 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).



Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners ist Mitglied im Bündnis Aktion Deutschland Hilft, dem Zusammenschluss renommierter deutscher Hilfsorganisationen, die im Katastrophenfall ihre Kräfte bündeln, um gemeinsam schnelle und effektive Hilfe zu leisten.

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