

Karlsruhe, May 12th, 2015

Nepal: Aftershock Earthquake in Nepal!

We have just received word from our team, that another strong earthquake has struck Nepal. All the members of the team are shocked and impacted, but according to mission leader Bernd Ruf, with whom we had contact with a few minutes ago, physically unharmed and well.

The recent earthquake had a magnitude of 7.2 and hit the country and region just as relief efforts, provided by the whole world, had started to show their effects. The epicentre lay only a few kilometres east of Kathmandu. According to Bernd Ruf people plunged in a panic unto streets and public squares. Telephone lines in the country were totally destroyed. Concrete official reports about victims and damages are not yet available.

In cooperation with „Aktion Deutschland Hilft“ and long time regional partner „Shanti,“ a Leprosy hospital with an affiliated Waldorf school in the capital of Kathmandu, the Friends of Waldorf Education have been in action with an emergency pedagogy mission since last Saturday. The building of the hospital was affected again by today's earthquake, but it is still usable with restrictions. The approximately 100 children and teenagers included in the trauma work of the Friends of Waldorf Education were newly frightened by the earthquake. Their difficulties resulting from the trauma were obviously worsened by the new catastrophe during a highly complex phase of the coping process, to which the team must now especially respond.

Pedagogical First Aid after the Catastrophe

The emergency pedagogy of the Friends of Waldorf Education is based on Waldorf pedagogical methods and applied forms of therapy. A daily schedule based on children's natural rhythms, regulated eating and sleep times, and periods of rest and activation, serve to give children and youths a new orientation, a sense of security, and stability. Through the activation of the affected persons' self-healing power the coping process is supported. Trust in one's self and humanity are strengthened through experiential pedagogical exercises. In art and experiential pedagogical courses affected children have the opportunity to counter traumatic ordeals with new aesthetic experiences. Movement and clapping games bring joy, dissolve inner torpor, and support physical coordination. In the scope of countless operations worldwide many children have already been helped to process their traumatic experiences and post traumatic stress disorders have been lessened.

To finance their operations, the Friends of Waldorf Education is reliant on support from donations.

*The **Friends of Waldorf Education** is worldwide sponsors of a free education system. Since 1971 they advocate for 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 complete 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), the Philippines (2013-2015), Kurdistan-Iraq (2013-2015), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014).



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.