

Karlsruhe, October 16th, 2015

Emergency Pedagogy on Europe's Borders

In cooperation with the German relief collation, *Aktion Deutschland hilft*, and local partners in Greece, an emergency pedagogy team from the Friends of Waldorf Education will be supporting refugee children in Athens and on the island of Lesbos. The mission of volunteer pedagogues and therapists is taking place from October 16th to 30th.

For many months now increasingly more refugees are coming to Greece over the dangerous sea route. The horrors and hardships of the flight can be seen on many of their faces. In order to psycho-socially support these people directly after their arrival, an emergency pedagogy team is travelling to Greece on October 16th. Eleven international pedagogues and therapists, including from Sweden, Great Britain, and the Netherlands, will offer emergency pedagogical aid on location to children of various age groups.

On the first weekend of the mission, a seminar for interested teachers, pre-school teachers, and aid workers has been planned in cooperation with the local Waldorf initiative. An introduction to psychotraumatology and to the methods of emergency pedagogy and experiential education as well as art therapy, should train the local pedagogues in working with traumatised children.

Starting on October 18th, the emergency pedagogy team will be working on the island of Lesbos. Psycho-social workshops in areas such as art therapy, eurythmy, movement games, and early childhood education will be offered to the arriving refugee children. A doctor will treat acute injuries and illnesses. Although Lesbos is only a transit point on the flight to Europe, refugees stay an average of four to six days—longer than at most places. Despite this the turnover rate is high; the Friends of Waldorf Education are expecting to see new children daily in the emergency pedagogy workshops, especially from Syria and Afghanistan. In addition to high levels of turnover, the lack of fixed groups or classes will also be a challenge for the German team.

Besides the trauma pedagogy offerings for the children, the Friends of Waldorf Education will also offer parents education and advising.

The emergency pedagogy of the Friends of Waldorf Education is also active in Germany. In Karlsruhe, unaccompanied underage refugees have been trauma pedagogically supported in cooperation with the Parzival School Centre. In order to give aid workers, teachers, and preschool teachers from all over Germany tools for working with traumatised children, a two day professional development course will take place at the end of October with the theme of "Emergency Pedagogy for Traumatised Refugees".

In northern Iraq, a local team of the Friends continues to be active in two refugee camps. In cooperation with UNICEF, there are daily emergency pedagogy offerings for school children.

Please also support the emergency pedagogical aid for traumatised refugees:

Account for Donations

BLZ 430 609 67 Account 800 800 700
IBAN DE06 4306 0967 0800 8007 00
BIC GENODEM1GLS Keyword "Emergency Pedagogy"

Press Contact:

Clara Krug
Press and Public Relations for Emergency Pedagogy
Tel.: 0721-354806 183
Fax: 0721-354806 180
E-Mail: c.krug@freunde-waldorf.de
Website: www.freunde-waldorf.de

*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 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.