

Karlsruhe, February 16th, 2017

Nepal: Mission for Traumatized Children

The Friends of Waldorf Education already carried out three missions in Nepal in 2015 and 2016. On February 18th, nine volunteer aid workers from emergency pedagogy will once again set out for Nepal. For the first time, a professional photographer will accompany the team and document the mission.

Although one can now barely see the physical damages of the devastating earthquake, which struck Nepal in 2015, many children are just as before heavily traumatized. Helping them is a priority of the upcoming mission. In addition orphaned or neglected children, who have found a new home at the orphanage Bal Mandir, are a focus. Emergency pedagogy methods should serve to stabilize and strengthen them. In the offerings, they can find joy and relaxation; their traumatic experiences are replaced with new and beautiful experiences. At the last mission in August 2016, the aid workers noticed that after just a few days, the children became calmer and won back trust in themselves and their surroundings.

In order to support local pedagogues and aid workers in their daily work with the children, the emergency pedagogues will offer trainings and coachings at the Bal Mandir orphanage and at the Tashi-Waldorf School. Also a visit to the Shanti-Leper- Aid is once again on the itinerary. The professionals, who come from among others the fields of eurhythmics, Waldorf pedagogy, and art therapy, will inform the participants about traumata and introduce them to pedagogical-therapeutic methods. In workshops this theoretical knowledge will be deepened with practical exercises.

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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 and has to date made it possible for over 7,000 people to complete a social service in over 350 projects in more than 60 countries. Now around 600 young people annually take part in the programme. Since the summer of 2011 it has also been possible to complete a 12-month civil service in anthroposophic institutions in Germany through the association.*

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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); Indonesia (2009), Haiti (2010), Kyrgyzstan (2010), Japan (2011), and Kenya (2012-2013), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), Greece (2015), Slovenia (2015), Nepal (2015-2016), Ecuador (2016), Gaza (2009-2016) the Philippines (2013-2016), Germany (2014-2016), Paris (2016), Brussels (2016,) Haiti (2016), and Kurdistan-Iraq (since 2013).



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.