

Karlsruhe, 16. November 2015

Emergency Pedagogy Aid for Volunteers in Paris

After the horrific attacks, an emergency pedagogy team set off for Paris on Monday November 16th. At the centre of this emergency pedagogy intervention is the first aid care of volunteers who are completing a volunteer service through the Friends of Waldorf Education in the region of Paris and who were forced to experience the attacks.

Since September 2015 seven young people from Germany have been serving as volunteers through the Friends of Waldorf Education in anthroposophical institutions in Paris and the surrounding area. At the time of the attack, all seven volunteers were in Stade de France and were forced to experience the attacks and the following panic up close. In order to support them in coping with this experience, a pedagogical-therapeutic team travelled on Monday to Paris. Methods from emergency pedagogy will stabilize and support the volunteers.

In addition, the German expert team will advise the Free Waldorf School Ecole Perceval Chatou in dealing with traumatised pupils. For this a seminar for teachers will be offered, in which the foundations of psychotraumatology and appropriate pedagogical answers will be taught. Advising for parents whose children show traumatic reactions following the attacks will round out the mission.

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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.*

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), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), Nepal (2015), Greece (2015), Slovenia (2015), Kurdistan-Iraq (2013-2015), and Germany (2014-2015).



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.