

live To love

Overcoming borders - acting from the heart

The nonprofit foundation “Live To Love - Germany” located in Hamburg does also, besides climate- and environment protection, care for people who are on the fringes of society. Besides supporting homeless people, the refugee relief has become a central humanitarian project of the initiative by now.



The activities take place in cooperation with the municipal agency “Fördern und Wohnen” (“Supporting and Living”) in initial reception facilities in Hamburg, as for example in Harburg and Langenhorn. Syrians, Iraqis, Albanians, Afghans and people of other nationalities are living in a very limited space here – always uncertain about their further whereabouts. For a meaningful help it is important to clear in advance what is currently needed in the facilities. Thanks to the many donations of clothes from the population the refugees are mostly well provided with clothes. Especially needed are hygiene products or underwear. For this we approach diverse stores and companies in Hamburg and ask for donations in kind. So far many companies reacted generous to the inquiries. With all the donations received and the team of volunteers the offers then get coordinated. Many things are meant to just give the people recently arrived something into their hands, so that they can do something. Something that distracts, that brings change and happiness into their motionlessness, enforced by the circumstances. The teams with up to 40 volunteers are setting up different “topic tables” at the afternoon of the action and invite to join. Inhibitions are easily dissolved this way. Many can take up something familiar, others are happy to learn something new, to make own clothing like scarfs, stockings and caps. The children draw houses and hearts with their crayons – symbols for safety and love, which express their longings. Boys of different nationalities get together outside on the area to play soccer. Running and a playful activity – after a short time relaxed and laughing faces can be seen – often for the first time after a long time. The teams of Live To Love get assistance before the first contact regarding communication. Suggestions not to let conversations to get too personal give security, in order to avoid disappointed hopes for closer contacts. Often do gestures, a non-verbal understanding by eye contact and the joy to do something together, connect more than any word.

The help for self-help is in the foreground, so that everyone can set up his or her own life as fast as possible. The integration process per se has just started – for the German population and the refugees likewise. In the face of the fears and resistances the search for methods of solution exceed the political spectrum. Until they are found and have proven themselves it will take some time - until

then volunteering remains a mainstay. It can motivate to take part and can connect in joint action.

“By the means of the actions we try to build human and intercultural bridges”, says the president of the foundation Live To Love – Germany, Gianna Wabner. “From this through growing experiences methods of solution and models of integration result for the future.” Overcoming borders is a task for everyone. Compassion is a bridge.



The 12th Gyalwang Drukpa about the refugee situation:

“I would like a marriage of the different attitudes toward life, so that the different cultures merge together like the two sides of a heart.”

“All countries who can afford it, in my opinion have the obligation to take in refugees. Top priority thereby has the mutual responsibility.”

For him both parties are asked in equal measures: “If I could, I would address every single one and ask him to be open for the other culture, because I think that an open attitude makes life better – no matter what religion you belong to or if you are religious at all. And I also especially address the refugees with this request, to accept the laws and customs of their host country, if they want to stay in the country.”

The refugee topic was also the main reason of his current visit to Hamburg. The spiritual leader of the 1.000 years old Drukpa lineage used the two days to enter into a dialog with leading personalities of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg discussing approaches to solutions. The program on November 16th and 17th 2015 amongst other things included a lecture in the building of the Übersee-Club Hamburg as well as a meeting with the directors of the World Future Council. In focus were joint initiatives as well as concrete humanitarian and ecological projects: “Nothing is impossible in this world, provided we keep together. Only together we make the world a better place”, so the Gyalwang Drukpa.

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