



FRIEDENS
BILDUNGS
PROGRAMM

w

WORLDWIDE SUCCESSFULLY
PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM
FRIEDENS-BILDUNGS-PROGRAMM

- **The Peace Education Program (PEP)** is a 10-module workshop based on a selection of core themes from the international addresses of Prem Rawat (founder of the Prem Rawat Foundation). Participation is voluntary and free of charge. Each workshop module lasts 60 to 90 minutes made up of several videos, time for reflection and reading material. There are no tests, self discovery being unique for each person. Concluding the program, participants are asked to share observations about what has been learned, what was enjoyable, challenges and what could be improved about the program (via feedback forms or email).
- **As The Prem Rawat Foundation** is funded solely by donations, our local team works purely on a volunteer basis. The members of the team share the idea that they want to contribute something positive to the world, supporting this with manpower and, if necessary, financial contributions, i.e. recording studio and printing costs. Travel expenses have been and are usually covered by participating institutions, from time to time covering printing costs of materials.
- **Due to the manageable size** and the loose organization of the team, volunteers can adapt to requirements and can fill in for one another.
- **Limited support** is provided by the supporting organization KulturAG. The association, which is mainly active in the cultural sector, organizes peace concerts. The music of the managing director, Walter Baco, is offered, among other things, in the App of the Austrian Cancer Aid to accompany the healing process. KulturAG has many years of experience in the fields of organization, cultural management, publishing and intercultural, social and peace activities. KulturAG appears in public as a promoter of theater, concert and film performances or combinations thereof.





FRIEDENS
BILDUNGS
PROGRAMM

COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOCIALMARIE CRITERIA

- **The project** is new in the social sense in that it takes a fundamental approach. Several effects and problems arising from a core problem are being tackled all at once.
- **The question** of peace has not been asked anew, but a thousand times over. What is new, however, is this courage to directly and abruptly address the cause of conflicts in the individual.
- **The target groups** vary, from those who receive little attention, such as prisoners or addicts, and equally towards healthy people from all walks of life.
- **The benefit** for participants is a better self-awareness, increased well-being and personal responsibility. Attaining and experiencing peace and contentment.
- **To promote the potentials** of the target group is the essence of the project. No one will be introduced to things unknown, no one will be manipulated, but rather qualities already existing within will be pointed out – with the intention to unfold these.
- **The target group** is interactively involved in the course. Everyone can observe, document, communicate and help shape their own progress in the reflection phases provided for this purpose. It is also possible to express concerns or leave the course at any time.
- **With the participants** giving a response to the course, the external appreciation increases. Especially in prisons it can be observed that wardens are often very surprised by the reactions of the inmates leading to more respectful encounters.
- **The implementation** of the project is extremely courageous and can only be ensured with a great deal of idealism and continuity. Often statistics or success stories are not enough to inspire those responsible for this still unusual new measure. One has to find a creative approach in order to awaken the creativity and perhaps also the curiosity. It has to be considered, though, that everything new is usually connected with a certain risk. Especially in the penal system a potential danger must not be underestimated.
- **The workshop** can respond flexibly to changing conditions. When people, due to their isolation, have a great need to talk, the “breaks” for reflection and exchange in the course program may have been longer than the actual listening phases. If this seems important and is also perceived as beneficial for the rest of the group, this can be accommodated.
- **The diversity** of the target groups enables an exchange of different disciplines and competences. Social workers, psychologists and regular civil servants are involved in the course, administrative directors exchange experiences with medical directors and ward physicians as well as with public relations work in the rehabilitation area, and ultimately the Ministry of Justice, like many other institutions in the education, health and social sectors, gains insight into the course of the project. This creates and develops a permanent dialogue with and between the various institutions.
- **The regional propagation** is still limited due to the small size of the team. Accordingly, media perception and political support are still comparatively low.