



Civil Society Report of the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

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PRIORITIES: What are your organization's domains of culture of peace activity? (Click on all that are relevant).

X Education for a Culture of Peace

Sustainable economic and social development

Human rights

Equality between women and man

Democratic participation

X Understanding, tolerance, solidarity

Participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge

International peace and security

TOP PRIORITY: What is your organization's most important culture of peace activity? (Click on only one)

X Education for a Culture of Peace

Sustainable economic and social development

Human rights

Equality between women and man

Democratic participation

Understanding, tolerance, solidarity

Participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge

International peace and security

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS (required): What partnerships and networks does your organization participate in, thus strengthening the global movement for a culture of peace?

- The Virtues Project Germany is part of the Virtues Project TM worldwide (more than 90 countries) Homebase: Canada. www.virtuesproject.com

ACTIONS (required): What activities have been undertaken by your organization to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence during the second half of the Decade? (You may write up to 2500 words and the space here will expand if necessary to accept your report.)

- formation of TugendProjekt e.V. in 2009, a registered society
- translated a card-set of 52 virtues-cards for use in families, schools etc.
- translated a Leaders Manual for facilitators training and work
- set up infrastructure: website www.tugendprojekt.de & a central office
- 4 facilitators are active in spreading the virtues way of life and education in two days (or three or four evenings) awakenings, lectures and workshops in families and companies,
- 1x in two years a deepening course, in future every year
- master facilitator from Holland supports the facilitators by coaching and by offering every year a two day train-the-trainer course in Germany
- two local virtues connection circles started in 2009 (monthly, open to public and for free). People get an easy access to the 5 strategies and the virtues.
- presentations to several interested parties
- interviews in several media like newspapers, broadcast
- Newsletters for members and interested people

PROGRESS (required): Has your organization seen progress toward a culture of peace and nonviolence in your domain of action and in your constituency during the second half of the Decade? (Please do not exceed the space provided here for your response.)

Yes, we have, even in the short time we have been working now with the Virtues Project. People report every time in words like: *There is much more **harmony and peace** in my family, in my class, in my team. **Fewer conflicts**. A natural development of the **moral compass** by learning to make deliberate choices in different contexts. It is a completely **different way of communicating**. I now understand behaviour and see the traits of character. Inner strength and inner peace. Everybody feels heard by using a simple way of coaching and feels supported by finding their own solution for the problem they are in. It is a peaceful way of handling in sorting out conflicts and diverging interests. No punishment needed where behaviour is consistent and **Restorative Justice** prevails. Revenge is not an issue anymore. Return to old non-adequate behaviour is an exception. Self-confidence and self-esteem lead to taking on more responsibility and lead to active participation in democratic citizenship.*

OBSTACLES (required): Has your organization faced any obstacles to implementing the culture of peace and nonviolence? If so, what were they? (Please do not exceed the space provided here for your response.)

In Germany similar obstacles as in Holland:

- The word ‘virtue’ appears old-fashioned and may have a negative connotation after some misuse especially in the 20th century. Law and order did not bring the virtues closer to people. No, it caused 50 million dead in Europe in WW II and many more thereafter. It has not increased justice over the past few decades. The word ‘virtue’ now has the potential to describe a sense of responsibility, based on the right and the capability to judge on own intellect in moral questions.
- Another difficulty is the connection frequently seen with religion. And for sure: all religions work with virtues, just like non-religious communities. Virtues are universal values for moral behaviour. So they need revival. In Germany it is emerging: e.g. in a TV show philosophers discussed about virtues. And quite often virtues are referred in TV productions.

PLANS (optional): What new engagements are planned by your organization in the short, medium and long term to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence? (Please do not exceed the space provided here for your response.)

In order to create a culture of peace we have planned

- to translate books and more card-sets for subsequent publishing
- to translate a set of proven brochures for families, schools and leaders
- to publish our own brochures, books and audio books
- formation of more local virtues connection groups
- to train & support more facilitators & develop some further to master facilitators
- to get in touch with sociologists, psychologists & experts in educational sciences at German Universities, to contribute to discussion in the scientific community
- to work together with nurseries, pre-schools and schools to support teachers, pupils and parents in a holistic and integrative approach
- to do professional PR in newspapers, magazines, flyers, lectures and workshops, participation in congresses, to organize open houses (next in March 2010)

GLOBAL MOVEMENT (optional): How do you think the culture of peace and nonviolence could be strengthened and supported at the world level? (Please do not exceed the space provided here for your response.)

Strengthen and supported by more and more people who feel responsible for living the culture of peace by using the 5 strategies of the Virtues Project. When more and more people live by virtues and their highest values when they feel confident and have brought out the best in everyone, the climate of communication and decision-making will change immediately all over the world.

In submitting this information I agree that the information that I have entered will be freely accessible to anyone connected to the Internet and that it may be cited or quoted as long as the source is accurately mentioned and the words are not taken out of context.

Thank you

If you have any problems or further questions, please do not hesitate to let us know.
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