

C2 - Focal theme child refugees (Motion)

Motion by the German project partners to the 2006 Delegates Conference:

Supported by the supraregional working group on child refugees, the German project partners move to make "The Situation of Child Refugees" a focal theme.

Reasons:

(1) There are 9.2 million refugees and 800,000 asylum-seekers worldwide (source: UNHCR, as of 1 January 2005). They are also a large number of internally displaced persons; their fate is even less known to the general public than that of refugees covered by the Geneva Refugee Convention. There is a strong need for information. Having to flee and being displaced are two of the most pressing global problems and they are closely linked to all the other topics tdh is dealing with.

(2) The topic of child refugees is closely related to tdh's history as an organisation.

(3) This topic is related to both the projects in the north and many projects in the south. As an aid organization focusing on children, tdh should be devoting more effort to this problem, especially as it is something to be found right at our doorstep.

(4) Many refugees in Germany come from countries in which tdh is supporting projects. Closer cooperation with the partners in the north and the south (for example, concerning the situation of child refugees who return to their countries of origin or promoting better understanding of the reasons to flee among the German public by disseminating first-hand information on the situation in the countries of origin) would make a major contribution to improving the situation of child refugees.

(5) The introduction of mandatory schooling for child refugees in almost all German federal states, as a consequence in particular of tdh's survey on mandatory schooling and ensuing lobbying activities, has shown that tdh's commitment is able to produce a tangible improvement in the lives of these children.

(6) In Germany – according to the German project partner – this topic should focus on "education and training for child refugees", while other regions could choose a different focus.

ERGO: If tdh were to make the topic of fleeing and of refugees a focal theme, this would reflect the global importance of this issue and underline its central significance for tdh.

January 2006