

Education for everyone!

A statement from the KSJ (YCS) - Germany about education and educational justice.

Over 300 young people gathered to listen to the announcing of this statement at the World Youth Day,

When we speak of educational justice, we assume, that every human being, no matter what religion, colour, gender or social background, should have the same chances, rights and duties in our society. This is interconnected to our belief as Christians that every human being has been created equally in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect and understanding.

Education is more than going to school

Education should lead children and young people to critical self-determination and to liberty of action. At the same time education should lead to reflection about the society and responsibilities for our fellow human beings and our world. Autonomy, freedom, and development of each individual, especially in relation to solidarity, devotion for justice and peace need to be a central focus of education. Therefore complete or integral education is essential, it should enable students to become responsible for themselves and the society they live in.

Education needs to be righteous

No child should 'get lost' in the educational system because of their background. Every single child and young person have the right to obtain education and only complete education improves the chances for democratic, social, cultural and economical participation. The idea of righteous education is based on the principles of equality, humanity and democracy. The individual needs to be in the centre of learning, their self-determination and their needs. The individual development of every single child is necessary.

Therefore we regret, that

- 115 million children worldwide cannot visit a school (most of them girls)
- The social origin of children dictates their educational chances
- Education is becoming more of a product that is a privilege only for the wealthy
- Our school-systems are dominated by selection and competition
- More money spent on weapons than education



Students at the YCS centre in Cologne , 19 August 2005

Therefore we demand, that

- Every girl and boy be given equal rights to attend a school
- Every child be given free access to school
- Education becomes a basic principle
- The child and their needs stand at the centre of learning.
- Our school curriculum allows for the development of children's personality.



Cover picture of the Postcard with the statement addressed to UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan from KSJ & IYCS