

# International Student Week in Ilmenau

May 8<sup>th</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

„ISWI 2009 – Right now!“



**„Be the change you want to see in the world.“**

Mahatma Gandhi

60 years have gone by since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been approved and announced by the general assembly of the United Nations.

Now, it is the time for looking back on what has been achieved through those years. A great deal of work has been done to raise consciousness of human rights, actively exercise them and defend them even under adverse conditions. For instance, human rights are a subject that has found its way into many school curricula. Also various human rights organisations have been founded and are fighting for the preservation and enforcement of specific rights. At political level, institutions have been established which monitor and ensure adherence to human rights. Examples are the United Nations, the European Court of Justice for Human Rights in Strasbourg and the International Court of Justice in Den Haag.

One can summarize that some goals have been reached. But there is still much left to be done to translate human rights into reality. At this very moment, human rights issues are covered by the media worldwide but as soon as they lose interest in this topic, human rights will again vanish from the newspapers, TV-screens and public discussion. But the abuse of human rights will still remain. To attain a long-lasting effect there has to be a continuous dialogue about and constant action for human rights. For this reason, we have decided to make the “Human Rights” the main topic of ISWI 2009.

We invite you to discuss with many other young people from all over the world how we can realize those basic rights for every human. Share your opinions and ideas, tell about your experiences and try to find possible solutions.

See you at the ISWI 2009!

Your ISWI Organisation Committee

# Short information about ISWI

## *Who are we?*

The "Initiative Solidarische Welt Ilmenau e.V.", established in 1993, is an incorporated society led by students. We set ourselves the goal to fight against social inequality and racism as well as intolerance and to promote mutual understanding. That is why the "International Student Week in Ilmenau" takes place every two years since 1993.

Approximately 350 participants from over 70 different countries took part in the last ISWI.

## *What is ISWI?*

The "International Student Week in Ilmenau" (ISWI) is a conference for students organized by students. It is, compared to other similar events, known for its large share in work concerning its topic. Each ISWI is held under a main topic, which is deeply analyzed by working groups, discussions, as well as speeches and debates during the student week.

## *ISWI 2009*

The ISWI 2009 has the motto "Right now!" and is dedicated to the topic Human Rights. It is taking place during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2009.

We invite students from all over the world to discuss the different aspects of human rights. Problems shall be shown and possible solutions will be worked out.

## *The groups*

We have divided the main topic into subgroups, dealing with a special part of the topic. Here is an outline of the planned groups:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Philosophy group (wg 1)                                  | 5.3 Human rights and science (wg 5.3)  |
| 2. The Human Rights Charter: past – present – future (wg 2) | 5.4 Human rights and environment (wg 5.4)  |
| 3. Basic needs of humans                                    | 5.5 Geopolitical aspects of human rights: culture – borders – globalization (wg 5.5) |
| 3.1 Food and nutrition (wg 3.1)                             | 5.6 Human rights and justice (wg 5.6)  |
| 3.2 Education (wg 3.2)                                      | 5.7 Freedom and security (wg 5.7)  |
| 3.3 Medical care (wg 3.3)                                   | 5.8 Human rights and media (wg 5.8)  |
| 4. Same rights for everyone                                 | 6. Human rights and religion (wg 6)  |
| 4.1 Human rights and children (wg 4.1)                      | 7. Human rights and art  |
| 4.2 Poverty and social justice (wg 4.2)                     | 7.1 Literature (wg 7.1)  |
| 4.3 Equal rights (wg 4.3)                                   | 7.2 Music (wg 7.2)   |
| 4.4 Generation contracts and conflicts (wg 4.4)             | 7.3 Theatre (wg 7.3)   |
| 5. Human rights - regions of tension                        | 7.4 Design (wg 7.4)  |
| 5.1 Human rights and politics (wg 5.1)                      | 7.5 Photography (wg 7.5)   |
| 5.2 Human rights and the economy (wg 5.2)                   | 7.6 Movie (wg 7.6)   |
|   | 8. Documentation group (wg 8)  |

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