

Karlsruhe, February 2025

## **How emergency pedagogy can support war-traumatized children and adolescents in coping with their experiences**

Dear friends of emergency pedagogy,

I would like to cordially invite you to the Emergency Pedagogy Annual Conference 2025.

Under the title:

**"Children in War – How Emergency Pedagogy Can Support War-Traumatized Children and Adolescents in Coping with Their Experiences"**

the conference will **take place from 20.06.2025 – 22.06.2025 at the** Parzival-Zentrum Karlsruhe.

Gaza, Ukraine, Lebanon: Wars or armed conflicts are raging in more than 25 countries around the world. Warlike events evoke traumatic reactions in almost all people who have to suffer them. Population groups that are dependent on the help from other people as a result of disability, illness or other reasons suffer particularly from the consequences of the war. Children and adolescents are among the most vulnerable population groups.

Well over 420 million children currently live in war and conflict regions. That is almost twice as many as a hundred years ago. They suffer from fear, malnutrition, lack of drinking water, diseases and medical malnutrition. Thousands and thousands of children are killed in armed conflicts. In Gaza alone, more than 21,000 children are said to have lost their lives or are missing in the bombings and armed conflicts. An even larger number of children are physically and mentally injured in armed conflicts. Many children are abducted, recruited by armed groups, forced to kill as child soldiers, sexually abused or forced into marriage.

Due to the existential threat and the war-related loss of the familiar everyday structure as well as the family relationship structure, children and adolescents are robbed of the security of a developmentally appropriate safe space, which they urgently need for their physical, psychological and mental flourishing. They often lose everything that would be necessary for their development: their toys, their own bed, their beloved pet, their home and often their family. More than 27 million children and young people are currently unable to attend school due to the armed conflicts.

Wars are one of the most common causes of flight. The majority of minors, often unaccompanied refugees, come from war zones or regions where armed conflicts are being fought. These children and adolescents often experience forms of extreme violence even before they flee. Many are traumatised by war and flight.

What are war and flight traumas? What psychological consequences do war experiences bring for children and young people? What age-specific reactions can be expected? How can children and adolescents be supported through emergency and trauma pedagogy in processing their often terrible experiences?

These urgent topics and tasks are to be dealt with in lectures and workshops at the Emergency Pedagogy Annual Conference, to which I would like to cordially invite you.

Registration can be made via our webpage [www.nfp-og.org](http://www.nfp-og.org) (Academy/Annual Conference 2025 and Registration for the Annual Meeting 2025).

I am very much looking forward to our meeting and to our exchange at the Parzival-Zentrum Karlsruhe.

Best regards,  
Emergency pedagogy without borders

Bernd Ruf  
Executive Board

Emergency Pedagogy Annual Conference 2025: "Children in War. How emergency pedagogy can support war-traumatized children and young people in coping with their experiences."

	Thursday, 19.06.	Friday, 20.06.	Saturday, 21.06.	Sunday, 22.06.	Monday, 23.06.
08:00- 9:00	Breakfast				Departure
09:00 - 9:15	Opening circle				
9:15 - 10:45			<b>"Step together"</b> Emergency Pedagogy in Lebanon Dr. Reem Mouward, Beirut/Lebanon  <b>"Island of hope"</b> Emergency Pedagogy in Kurdistan-Iraq Hishyar Obeid, Zakko/Iraq	<b>"If I had a white horse..."</b> Case vignette from pentagram trauma therapy on transgenerational suffering after war, expulsion and genocide Annette Horster Scheppermann, Hamburg	
10:45 - 11:15	Break Break				
11:15 - 12:30			Workshop 1	Closing plenary session	
12:30- 13:00			School tour	Closing circle	
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch				
14:30 – 16:00		<b>"When nothing is the same as it was before"</b> Introduction to Emergency Pedagogy Fiona Bay, Karlsruhe	Workshop 2	<b>Excursion (for international guests):</b> Ansbach, (In the footsteps of Kaspar Hauser) Rothenburg ob der Tauber, (medieval German town) Wolframs Eschenbach (Place of origin of "Parzival")	
16:00 - 16:30		Musical prelude break Greeting			
16:30 - 18:00		<b>"War, flight, trauma: The suffering of the children is immeasurable"</b> How emergency pedagogy can support children traumatized by war and flight in coping with their experiences. Bernd Ruf, Karlsruhe	<b>Reports from international work</b>  <b>Emergency Pedagogy in Gaza</b> Yeahia Hassoun, Norway Achmed Alghariz, Nusairat/Gaza  <b>Emergency Pedagogy in the Disaster Areas of the USA</b> Reports from California and North Carolina  <b>Admission of new members to the Emergency Pedagogy without Borders network</b> Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Egypt		
18:00 - 19:30	dinner				
19:30 - 21:00		<b>"Children at war"</b> Medical assistance for children in war zones Dr. Tankred Stöbe, Berlin	<b>"The Daily War"</b> Violence prevention among young people in the gang milieu Dr. Adolfo Gonzalez Hadad, Cali/Colombia		
21:00 - 21:15	Closing circle				

Arrival