

Press Kit

Wings of Hope Foundation

Healing Trauma, Building Peace, Living Reconciliation. This triad describes the vision we strive for. We support people who are suffering from the consequences of war and violence through:

- Trauma trainings in Germany and abroad for people in helping professions
- Peace building and dialogue activities with youth and young adults
- Trauma therapy and counseling
- Raising public awareness of the issue of violence and its social impact

Wings of Hope Germany is a non-profit foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria based in Munich, Nuremberg and Ruppolding.

We work in Germany and together with partner organizations in Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kurdistan-Iraq, Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Central America.

History

The idea for our work was born in 1994 during the Bosnian War. In view of the first war in Europe since the World War II, the board of the Reconciliation Church of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial wanted to set an example of peace. Under the name Wings of Hope they organized help for the children of Sarajevo.

In 2003, the project became a foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria. Our statutes specify that the foundation is “especially committed to the legacy of the former prisoners of Dachau, in order to give new impetus to reconciliation between peoples and generations”.

Our name goes back to a child’s painting from Sarajevo: A little girl who had been driven from her home had painted butterflies. She called the picture “Butterflies Live Shortly”. The picture touched people so much that they organized help. They called themselves Wings of Hope.

Trauma and Peacebuilding

When people experience war and violence, it leaves behind not only physical wounds, but above all impairments to the mental health. Trauma is associated with the experience of loneliness, powerlessness and helplessness. Trust in oneself, in others and in the world is shaken.

This affects not only individuals, but also social relationships and community life.

Unprocessed trauma can thus once again contribute to the emergence and escalation of conflict and violence.

To counteract these experiences, people need places of safety, the connection with a community, and the experience of being able to make a difference. This creates hope that things can get better.

Healing trauma: People find their way back to a life that they can actively shape in connection with others.

Building peace and living reconciliation: Only when people have overcome and come to terms with their experiences of violence are they free to live together peacefully again. Trauma care is therefore always also peace building.

Funding

Our work is financed by donations and collections, by the Evangelical Church of Bavaria and by grants from foundations as well as public and other donors.

Donations Account

Evangelische Bank eG

IBAN: DE27 5206 0410 0003 4036 37

BIC: GENODEF1EK1

As a non-profit and charitable foundation, we can provide you with a donation receipt for the tax office. Please send us your address for this purpose.

Contact

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Pictures

On request

Stay Informed

Newsletter: <https://wings-of-hope.de/aktuelles/newsletter/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wingsofhope_de/

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/wingsofhope.bsky.social>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/stiftung-wings-of-hope/>

Interview Partners

Martina Bock, CEO and International Projects

Martina Bock is a trained social worker (FH), practitioner for psychotherapy (HeilprG), pedagogical trauma counselor (DeGPT), lecturer in psychotraumatology, supervisor for trauma education (zptn), mediator and TRE® provider.

She has been in charge of the foundation's international work since 2011 and took over as CEO in June 2017.

Topics: Trauma and peace work, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central America

Julia Borchardt, Project Coordination Ukraine

Julia Borchardt is a psychologist (M.A.), psychotherapist in training and has completed professional training in psychotraumatology and trauma therapy (zptn).

She has been a member of the Summer Academy leading team since 2016. Since November 2023, Julia Borchardt coordinates our trauma training program in Ukraine.

Topics: Trauma, therapy, Ukraine

Lucija Lukić Holjan, Projects in Germany, Seminars and Trainings

Lucija Lukić Holjan is a trained psychologist (Dipl. psiholog, University of Sarajevo), practitioner for psychotherapy (HeilprG), holds a degree in psychotraumatology and trauma therapy (zptn), is a psychotherapist in training KVT (Psiho-Integrum Sarajevo) and is a SAFE® mentor.

Since 2017, she manages our projects in Germany, focusing on seminars, professional training and therapeutic services for refugees.

Topics: Trauma, therapy services for refugees in Germany

Atran Youkhana, Project Coordination Middle East

Atran Youkhana is a political scientist (M.A.) and trauma counselor (zptn).

Since 2014, he has coordinated the foundation's peace and trauma care work in Kurdistan-Iraq, Palestine and Israel. He co-developed the Summer Academy for Intercultural Dialogue and has been a member of its leading team since 2007.

Topics: Peace building, Middle East, Kurdistan-Iraq, Palestine, Israel