

Voluntary Service Policy of KURVE Wustrow - supplementary to the mission statement -

(Status: 2020)

KURVE Wustrow – Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action e.V. has the vision of a non-violent world in ecological and social balance. This policy document explains how KURVE Wustrow shares and lives this vision with young people through the orientation of its voluntary services. This policy document is to be read and understood in the context of KURVE Wustrow's mission statement.

In addition to its work as a sending organisation and placement organisation, KURVE Wustrow is also a host organisation that supports other placement organisations in Germany in hosting Southern volunteers. KURVE Wustrow cooperates with partner organisations and volunteer agencies in the fields of ecology, rural development, education, permaculture, peace work, criticism of racism, women's rights and human rights. In addition, there are other suitable projects in the social sector.

Programme principles and understanding of voluntary service

KURVE Wustrow understands the social, political, educational or cultural engagement of volunteers as a contribution to a more peaceful and just world and to the strengthening of civil society actors. The following principles form the framework for the volunteer service programmes:

- Voluntary services are designed as learning services and include educational opportunities and pedagogical guidance in addition to support from the placement site.
- During their voluntary service, young people get to know new ways of living and working and, if applicable, another country. Through their participation, their skills and their ideas, they support the work of their placement sites.
- They gain experience that encourages them to get involved in society and which they can use in their future involvement.
- Voluntary services provide a framework for addressing issues such as privilege and discrimination, racism, post-colonialism, political ecology, non-violence and human rights. One's own privileges, attitudes and lifestyles are to be reflected upon.
- Voluntary services gain from diverse encounters, e.g. among and between former, current and future volunteers, between North and South volunteers or between mentors, tutors and volunteers. Equally important are the assumption of responsibility and mutual support.
- We build long-term relationships with partner organisations at home and abroad.
- We cooperate with partner organisations that share basic values with us and work on similar issues as KURVE Wustrow. Placements are linked either geographically (e.g. placements in Gujarat / North East India) or thematically (e.g. permaculture placements in India and Ghana).

Goals of the voluntary service

By motivating young people to non-violent action and political commitment and by promoting differentiated perspectives on global interrelations and power relations, we want to strengthen non-violent social movements at home and abroad with our voluntary service programmes.

Only if voluntary services are understood and designed as politically and socially motivated learning services, we believe that they can be effective in strengthening civil society.

With its orientation of voluntary services, KURVE Wustrow pursues goals for the volunteers and for the various organisations involved:

For the volunteers:

- Through personal experience in the context of a voluntary service, young people are motivated to engage in social and political activities. In our voluntary services, they may gain their first experience of non-violent political action.
- They critically engage with discourses on culture and development, acquire a basic understanding of global contexts (ecological, economic, social) and the consequences of colonialism and develop perspectives for their own commitment and influence.
- Volunteers expand their personal competences. Based on concrete experiences, their ability to communicate and act in conflicts is strengthened.
- Volunteers are directly encouraged to act in solidarity and actively participate through the joint organisation of South-North and North-South voluntary services and experience voluntary service as an exchange of give and take.
- Volunteers can establish contacts with social movements through their work in KURVE Wustrow and its partner organisations. These open up further perspectives for a civil society commitment

For the organisations involved:

- KURVE Wustrow and its partner organisations reach new target groups (especially young people) and can establish long term partnerships
- They can bring young people into contact with the social movements or even issues to which they themselves are connected and thus contribute to their empowerment.
- Voluntary services offer the participating organisations the opportunity for international networking and exchange of experience between movement-related organisations, projects and initiatives.
- KURVE Wustrow in particular hopes to strengthen its relationships within Lüchow-Dannenberg, Uelzen and Altmark by cooperating with voluntary service organisations in the region and sending volunteers from the region.