

Think Globally - Act Locally

Example of a 'Good Practice' campaign event in Austria.

Remembrance of the 'Righteous among the Nations'
in the frame of 9 November Campaign 2007 'Act Against Intolerance'
– International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism –

In the last years, local youth groups of the Austrian Service Abroad¹ organised street actions in Austria within a global context and carried them out as part of the UNITED November 9 Campaigns. This stands as an example of how the idea of international networking and awareness raising is successfully put into a national frame.

The Austrian Service Abroad decided to start a national campaign to inform about the 'Righteous among the Nations'², after having registered a lack of knowledge about this topic in the general public. Historical locations all over Austria, such as the birth-house of Adolf Hitler in Braunau am Inn, were selected to organise several street actions all at the same time. This concept of getting a bigger publicity by coordinating several actions on the same day was possible by using the structure of the Austrian Service Abroad and its regional groups.

In order to enable a direct personal contact with the people on the streets, individual histories of 'Righteous amongst the Nations' were shown and discussed. The young activists of the Austrian Service Abroad, as well as the public, got educated in a non-formal way, once again proving that this practice does not take heavy financial recourses to set up such actions – it is all about networking and using the already existing resources in an efficient way. The individual histories of the 'Righteous' were also documented on Wikipedia – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Righteous_Among_the_Nations. Also this year the Austrian Service Abroad will organize similar actions using the frame of UNITED's November 9 Campaign to put the spot on civil courage and Resistance against Fascism.

¹ The **Austrian Service Abroad** is a non-profit initiative, founded by Dr. Andreas Maislinger as a grass-root organisation in 1998, and provides voluntary positions for an alternative Austrian national civil service all over the world. Young Austrians work for partner organizations in fields such as holocaust memorial as alternative to the obligatory military service. Also the UNITED secretariat is continuously supported by two volunteers provided through Austrian Service Abroad. This grass-root organisation is organised through several regional youth groups enabling direct approach to local young people, but is active on international level in partnership projects all over the world.

² **'Righteous among the Nations'** is a title given by the State of Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis. This honoree title

was already given 21.750 times to raise awareness about the enormous civil courage these persons showed under constant danger.

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