

Document D: Reconciliation in workcamp projects today

e.g SCI projects in former Yugoslavia

KIDS- Volunteer project in Vushtrri - A Bridge of Solidarity (2001 -)

The town of Vushtrri (Serbian: Vucitrn) lies between the capital Prishtina and the divided city of Mitrovica. Vushtrri is considered, according to international investigations, to be among the towns with the most damage from the war. Not only houses were destroyed however; the most important damage is that to the social fabric, families, and people.

The goal of the project that began in the middle of April 2001 is to help the people of this community overcome the trauma of the war and to help people disabled by the war win back a bit of social normality. The work of the project includes the creation of a center for children and young people, which, above all, is designed to lessen the burden of single mothers. As of now, there are no community places for children or young people in Vushtrri. Young people have the opportunity, through civilian and voluntary engagement, to make tangible contributions to social reconstruction and peace.

strengthen the potential of the local community. Tolerance and peace must come from below and grow from the people. This process can support and strengthen young peoples' commitment to civil society.

The volunteer project Vushtrri directly helps children and young people. Through different activities and workshops, which are initiated by the volunteers (painting, games, making music), children and young people will, despite difficult conditions, have the chance to "just be kids."



<http://www.4u2.ch/>

Volunteers Project Pakrac (1993 - 1997)

The Volunteers Project Pakrac has been working in the area since July 1993. It is a project composing of international volunteers and locals, and was initiated by Croatian peace activists from the Anti War Campaign in Croatia. The aims of the project were initially to work in a town that was divided by a cease-fire line, and to begin the peace process through activities that would start to bring normalization to the area.

This has meant many hours of work on reconstruction, both physical and social. Our present work spans from the reconstruction of buildings to social reconciliation through activities, seminars, workshops, the establishment of a youth club, community visits to the elderly and disadvantaged, and ongoing training for volunteers and community members in trauma healing and conflict resolution.



Volunteer Project Pakrac was a project of Antiwar Campaign Croatia in cooperation with SCI.

Since 1993, about 500 international volunteers from about 30 countries was engaged in this unique peace project. It started as part of one of the first UN's peace-building programmes ever.

<http://www.ddh.nl/org/pakrac/>