

17.9.2020

Hannelore Brenner

### **Room 28 Projects**

#### **Call for brainstorming regarding the refugee crisis**

Since 2015, I ask myself: *Why does the European and the World Community, the good part of it, not take care of all refugees by building a new town or new towns to offer those in need shelter and a home in the spirit of peace, freedom, non-violence and human rights?*

For good reasons, I connect this question and call for brainstorming with the story of "The Girls of Room 28". Because it is a story of solidarity, friendship, mutual help and respect. It is a tragic history about the darkest side of human nature. But it is also a story of hope.

It is not the creation of a ghetto (or ghettos) which is behind this idea and initiative. The idea is to turn away from the bad habit of building one miserable provisional camp after the other and force those who seek help to live under most terrible conditions, without perspectives and without hope that their fate will change for the better.

The rigid and unimaginative measures of setting up one primitive camp after the other is evidence of incapacity, of callousness and heartlessness. In a world with countries that boast themselves of technical progress, economical wealth, human inventiveness, it is hard to believe that it should not be possible to offer human and future oriented solutions for the world-wide refugee crisis. How many years more do we stick to strategies that have stagnated into deadly routine and prevented the search for innovative ways to solve the refugee crisis and help?

On this endangered planet, with increasing threatening (partly) natural catastrophes and (totally) unnatural wars and terrorism, we all who live on this earth are in danger. Our safe lives can change from one second to the other. And then we are the one who need help; or perish.

The town(s) I have in mind are not places, where refugees should be forced to live forever. They are meant as an alternative for the camps which are not acceptable on the long run. The towns I have in mind are places, where not only refugees live - after all, the creation of a new town needs all kinds of people with different talents. The towns I have in mind could develop into kind of model-towns. It is worth giving a try.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding about the idea behind, I have linked this call with the story of the girls of Room 28, with their ideals and hopes and with their flag, a symbol of a very special community – a "germ of humanity" in the midst of the inhumane world they lived in during the Nazi-era and the Holocaust, in the ghetto Theresienstadt. What happened then was a shame for mankind and humanity – as today the refugee-camps and how we deal with the refugees are a shame for mankind and humanity. And for Europe.

Hannelore Brenner

17 September 2020

Hannelore Brenner is the author of the book and the exhibition  
"The Girls of Room 28, L 410, Theresienstadt and author of Room 28 Projects