



**Internationale
Gesellschaft für
erzieherische Hilfen**

General Informations about IGfH - FICE-Section Germany

Goals, structure and activities of the IGfH

The IGfH (Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen) is the German national section of FICE (Fédération Internationale des Communautés Éducatives). The IGfH is a lobby for the rights of young people who live outside their families. We are not oriented towards parties, politics, nor religion. Our foundation is the biggest foundation in the area of extrafamilial child and youth care in Germany. We have about 1.900 members. Private persons, administrations, and educational institutions can apply for membership. The organizational approach of IGfH is to bring together various professionals in the field and to discuss issues regardless of status and institutional interests. Its intention is to find solutions and to initiate innovations in the field which are in the interest of children and youth.

The goals of the organization are:

- to bring conditions and needs of young people in public education into consideration,
- to accept the needs of children and their families without questioning them,
- to accept various lifestyles and arrangements of individuals or groups and not to force them to one educational norm,
- to find flexible and various solutions for children's needs,
- to support family education without supporting it as the only accepted setting,
- to develop and support educative communities,
- to support democratic structures in the area of child and youth care,
- to support the network of professional social work and self-help groups.

The IGfH is a platform for professionals in the field. We organize seminars, conferences and educational trips, we publish books and a magazine („Forum Erziehungshilfen“) and do political lobbying. There are different ways to get involved in our organization:

Regional groups: These are groups of interested members who want to discuss regional specific issues with colleagues

Topic oriented groups: These groups meet twice a year and work constantly on issues in specific fields such as girls education, drug use and drug addiction, day care, ambulant services and so on. The groups organize seminars, publish articles and do lobbying for their specific field.

Delegates: Members can be elected by the General Assembly. The meeting of the delegates decides on the activities of IGfH.

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