

# International Student Week in Ilmenau

May 8<sup>th</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

„ISWI 2009 – Right now!“



**EXTENSION**  
of the application  
new deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January

„Be the change you want to see in the world.“

Mahatma Gandhi

60 years have gone by since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been approved and announced by the general assembly of the United Nations.

Now, it is the time for looking back on what has been achieved through those years. A great deal of work has been done to raise consciousness of human rights, actively exercise them and defend them even under adverse conditions. For instance, human rights are a subject that has found its way into many school curricula. Also various human rights organisations have been founded and are fighting for the preservation and enforcement of specific rights. At political level, institutions have been established which monitor and ensure adherence to human rights. Examples are the United Nations, the European Court of Justice for Human Rights in Strasbourg and the International Court of Justice in Den Haag.

One can summarize that some goals have been reached. But there is still much left to be done to translate human rights into reality. At this very moment, human rights issues are covered by the media worldwide but as soon as they lose interest in this topic, human rights will again vanish from the newspapers, TV-screens and public discussion. But the abuse of human rights will still remain. To attain a long-lasting effect there has to be a continuous dialogue about and constant action for human rights. For this reason, we have decided to make the “Human Rights” the main topic of ISWI 2009.

We invite you to discuss with many other young people from all over the world how we can realize those basic rights for every human. Share your opinions and ideas, tell about your experiences and try to find possible solutions.

See you at the ISWI 2009!

Your ISWI Organisation Committee

# Short information about ISWI

## *Who are we?*

The "Initiative Solidarische Welt Ilmenau e.V.", established in 1993, is an incorporated society led by students. We set ourselves the goal to fight against social inequality and racism as well as intolerance and to promote mutual understanding. That is why the "International Student Week in Ilmenau" takes place every two years since 1993.

Approximately 350 participants from over 70 different countries took part in the last ISWI.

## *What is ISWI?*

The "International Student Week in Ilmenau" (ISWI) is a conference for students organized by students. It is, compared to other similar events, known for its large share in work concerning its topic. Each ISWI is held under a main topic, which is deeply analyzed by working groups, discussions, as well as speeches and debates during the student week. The ISWI has a tradition from more than 15 years; it has been held biennial since 1993.

## *ISWI 2009*

The ISWI 2009 has the motto "Right now!" and is dedicated to the topic Human Rights. It is taking place during the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2009.

We invite students from all over the world to discuss the different aspects of human rights. Problems shall be shown and possible solutions will be worked out.

## *The groups*

We have divided the main topic into subgroups, dealing with a special part of the topic. Here is an outline of the planned groups:

1. Philosophy group (wg 1)
2. The Human Rights Charter: past – present – future (wg 2)
3. Basic needs of humans
  - 3.1 Food and nutrition (wg 3.1)
  - 3.2 Education (wg 3.2)
  - 3.3 Medical care (wg 3.3)
4. Same rights for everyone
  - 4.1 Human rights and children (wg 4.1)
  - 4.2 Poverty and social justice (wg 4.2)
  - 4.3 Equal rights (wg 4.3)
  - 4.4 Generation contracts and conflicts (wg 4.4)
5. Human rights - regions of tension
  - 5.1 Human rights and politics (wg 5.1)
  - 5.2 Human rights and the economy (wg 5.2)
  - 5.3 Human rights and science (wg 5.3)
  - 5.4 Human rights and environment (wg 5.4)
  - 5.5 Geopolitical aspects of human rights: culture – borders – globalization (wg 5.5)
  - 5.6 Human rights and justice (wg 5.6)
  - 5.7 Freedom and security (wg 5.7)
  - 5.8 Human rights and media (wg 5.8)
6. Human rights and religion (wg 6)
7. Human rights and art
  - 7.1 Literature (wg 7.1)
  - 7.2 Music (wg 7.2)
  - 7.3 Theatre (wg 7.3)
  - 7.4 Design (wg 7.4)
  - 7.5 Photography (wg 7.5)
  - 7.6 Movie (wg 7.6)
8. Documentation group (wg 8)

**Apply now! For more information visit [www.iswi2009.org](http://www.iswi2009.org)**

**Who can apply and how to apply:**

The ISWI 2009 is open to all students at universities and colleges, no matter where you are from. For insurance and liability reasons you have to be at least 18 years old by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

If you would like to participate, apply via Internet using [www.iswi2009.org](http://www.iswi2009.org) (preferable, as it means less work for us). If you have no or only little access to the Internet please fill in the application form accurately and send it to the Organisation Committee of ISWI 2009 by mail, fax or e-mail. Of course, both ways of applying are treated equally when we select participants for the ISWI 2009. Remember to apply as soon as possible, but not later than 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.

Please write down in English your motivation for wanting to join ISWI 2009 and a short statement why you have chosen the specific main topic you want to participate in and tell us what comes to your mind when you hear our motto "Right now!" (about 200 words each). Use your own words and ideas and do not copy any texts from the Internet, newspapers etc. (Of course, this will lead to immediate disqualification!). The texts will serve as basis for the selection process to choose the participants we will invite.

You will know if you are accepted as one of 370 participants as soon as you receive the Official Invitation which will be mailed in February or March 2009 – Please be patient and refrain from asking constantly – we will appreciate it.

**Language:**

The conference language is English. Therefore the participants should have a good level of written and spoken English.

**Travel and Accommodation:**

You will have to pay your own travel expenses and your visa costs. You do not have to pay a fee for participating in ISWI 2009. Accommodation, meals as well as festival events will be free of charge for participants. You will be accommodated in student houses with students from Ilmenau, who will be your personal hosts. Please bring along a sleeping bag and an insulating underlay (Do not worry, nobody will have to sleep outside, that is for sure!). You will also be covered by free health insurance for the time of ISWI 2009. We will do our best to enable handicapped students to take part in our festival (please note in your application if you need special care).

**Visa:**

Every participant has to make sure to fulfill the necessary passport and visa requirements for Germany and transit countries. You can ask at the nearest German embassy or consulate for details of the regulations.

If you will need a visa, please apply as soon as possible at the appropriate institution after you will have received your Official Invitation from us. The Official Invitations, signed by our university, will generally help to acquire your visa. Proofs about your student status from the rector/officials of your university might be supportive, too. You may find the nearest German embassy in the internet at [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de).