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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

My Experiences With Hadamar

by Christoph Munzert, Board Member of "Netzwerk People First Deutschland e.V." ["Network People First Germany"]

I have known the Hadamar Memorial since 2000, when I was 50 years old. I became interested in the Memorial and asked for information material. I soon became a supporting member. I had always wanted to know exactly how it was in the Second World War and what happened to the disabled people at that time. I heard that there were questionnaires to be filled by the homes for disabled people. Pastor Hellmich, who was at Hephata at that time, refused to fill them in. I heard that there were cars (grey buses) for the transport of disabled people departing from Berlin. They drove in all directions. When they came to Hephata, the people here were brought on board. First, the people came to an interim institution at Andernach, from there they were brought to Hadamar by a roundabout route. They came to a house. They entered the house by the back door. There was a dormitory there, and they had to undress. There were other possibilities, e.g. an examination, x-ray and then to the cellar. There they stood in front of a gate, the door was closed. Then the gate opened and the killing began. From the waiting room to the gas chamber, from the gas chamber to the operation room, where the brains were removed. And then they were burned. The ashes were brought to the cemetery and thrown into mass graves. All this was secret and not publicly known.

I would like to mention that several of my co-inhabitants told me about what happened here at that time. That was how I became more closely interested in the topic. I think that all people who still live should know the truth. That is why I am a member of the Hadamar Memorial. I also think there should be an umbrella organisation so that people in other countries and all over Germany can learn the whole truth about the Third Reich. Therefore I find it very important that a catalogue in easy-to-understand language is now available to help persons with learning difficulties to understand history. That is very important for us. I will continue to be a supporting member of Hadamar and participate in more conferences to come. I hope that one day I will be allowed to conduct a guided tour through Hadamar. I would like to show my appreciation for the things I learned there. I have documents concerning the show boards at the Memorial and pictures and information about the Third Reich. I also have information about some of the people who perished at Hadamar.

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