



The Worldwide IFS Community Mourns and Mobilizes

January 12, 2015

The following is a statement that was sent from Executive Director, Melissa Aase, to all IFS members in the wake of terrorist attacks in France.

The IFS Board of Directors has been in close communication with one another over the last few days, to share solidarity with our many French colleagues in the social center movement there, following the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris.

Many IFS members around the world can, unfortunately, also share their experiences in coming through these kinds of tragedies, and bear witness to the important role that neighborhood centers can and should play in preventing and reacting to such events.

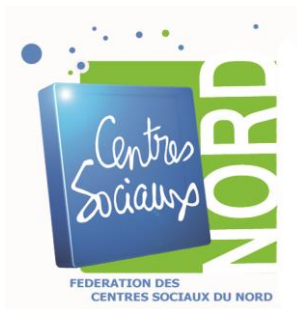
Our hearts break with this senseless violence; our hearts – now broken --- remain open to one another.

IFS President Michael Zisser said, *"Once more, we are asked to understand how this world can tolerate and react to the destructive actions of terrorists, and what actions we may take individually and collectively to make the world a better, safer place. Last week in Paris, and weeks before in Nigeria, Pakistan, Israel and other nations that have experienced such violence, demonstrated the great need for our work in every corner of the world. Once more, I am reminded that our IFS community serves as a beacon of hope in communities around the world, dedicated to the work of encouraging and supporting people from all backgrounds to live, work, and prosper together. Evil has been with us since the beginning and apparently will always be an opposing force to a civil society ... but so has goodness, as reflected in our work, our values and our common purpose.*

I am frightened to turn on my television and see another tragedy, but I am also looking forward to hearing from the worldwide network of IFS members, to be reminded of what people can do when they choose to believe in each other."

The national Federation des Centres Sociaux et Socioculturels de France (FCSF) --- representing over 1,200 neighborhood centers throughout France --- is represented on the IFS Board by Dominique Garet. Please see the statement on the following pages by the regional leadership of FCSF which includes Paris, written prior to the additional attacks at a kosher market on Friday.

We will continue to share documents and conversation with the IFS membership and friends of IFS as we receive them. To send your messages of solidarity and see additional updates, please "friend" IFS on Facebook or email Executive Director Melissa Aase (maase@universitysettlement.org) or Communications Assistant Kristin Rubisch (krubisch@door.org).



Lille le 08 janvier 2015

COMMUNIQUE

"Nous sommes tous CHARLIE"

Face à l'attentat ignoble dont ont été victimes Charlie Hebdo et son équipe, le réseau des Centres Sociaux du Nord-Pas de Calais, son Union Régionale, les Fédérations du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais manifestent leur colère, leur indignation et leur solidarité vis à vis des salariés de Charlie Hebdo et des policiers qui ont été lâchement assassinés ce mercredi 7 janvier.

Le réseau des Centres Sociaux en appelle à la réaction des habitants et des citoyens et à leur capacité à agir et à se mobiliser pour que cet attentat terroriste ne mette pas en péril la liberté d'expression, la liberté de la presse, notre liberté.

Dans le contexte actuel, notre travail d'éducation populaire et à la citoyenneté prend tout son sens et est plus que jamais nécessaire.

Il faut stopper net et durablement cette folie meurtrière et insensée. Il faut également empêcher que les manipulations et les obscurantismes ne continuent à entraîner dans des dérives fatales certains esprits en perdition.

Nous sommes tous concernés. Ce sont nos libertés fondamentales qui sont atteintes et menacées.

Nous appelons à rejoindre toutes les mobilisations actuelles et à venir de défense de nos libertés.

Nous consacrerons un temps lors de toutes nos prochaines réunions et initiatives à un travail de sensibilisation et de mobilisation sur ces questions essentielles.

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Lille, January 8, 2015

We are all Charlie

Faced with the vile killings which targeted Charlie Hebdo and its team, the network of the Centres Sociaux du Nord-Pas de- Calais, its Regional Union, the Federations du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais demonstrate their anger, their indignation and their solidarity with the employees of Charlie Hebdo and the police who were assassinated in such a cowardly manner Wednesday, January 7th.

The network of Centres Sociaux appeals to the reaction of inhabitants and citizens and to their capacity to act and to mobilize themselves so that this terrorist attack does not put into danger the freedom of expression, the freedom of the press, our freedom.

In the actual context, our work on popular education and on citizenship takes on all its meaning and is more necessary than ever.

This deadly, senseless madness must stop right away and for all time. It is equally necessary to prevent the manipulations and opposition to the spread of knowledge from continuing to move certain lost souls in a fatal direction.

We are all concerned. These are our fundamental freedoms which are being attacked and menaced.

We are calling out to rejoin all the mobilizations and to come to the defense of our freedoms.

We will dedicate a time during our next meetings and initiatives to a work of sensitization and of mobilization on these key questions.

Mostafa GHEZAL

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Alain BOISSON