

#### Schools for Human Rights-Schools with Courage



# The school exchange with Erich Kastner School Rybnik 22-25.10.2012









## The first day

A walk around **Rybnik**:

presentation of the famous landmarks by the Polish students







## ... and in the evening



a game ofbowling











## The second day

A trip to the concentration camp

Auschwitz Birkenau







## Here are the German students' impressions of their visit in the concentration camp in Auschwitz Birkenau:

'Auschwitz was quite difficult to bear. It showed us how bad the life was at that time. We are ashamed of our ancestors because they violated all human rights. They treated people like animals, for example, the prisoners slept on straw: 8 people slept on 3 square metres. A lot died in a few days of exhaustion or were killed. Some survived because they were useful for the economy of Germany. The ones who were unable to work were immediately taken to the extermination camp where they lost all their possessions, including their lives. Finally, we want to point out that it was hard to see how organised they were to kill the people, they wanted to kill.'





## The third day...

## A visit in Wieliczka Salt Mine







### ...and a trip to Cracow

While sightseeing the Jagiellonian University, the guide mentioned **Paweł Włodkowic** (1370 -1435) – a priest, a lawyer, the rector of the university in Cracow (1414-1415), the first Polish diplomat and the defender of the citizens' rights; since 2006 the awards under his name have been given annually by the Office of the Polish Ombudsman to people who stand up for human rights and freedoms.





## The fourth day...

Participation in classes with the Polish students and the workshop on 'Schools for Human Rights - Schools with Courage'. Four Polish -German groups of four students each were given different tasks to do:



School Rules in both schools and traced the main differences. The results were presented on the poster:



#### Differences between **School Rules** in **Erich Kastner School in**

#### Bochum and in Ursulines School in Rybnik



#### Bochum

- 1. The school does not have 'a lucky number'
- 2. Students must not use their mobile phones at school it is strictly forbidden.
- 3. Students are allowed to have tattoos, piercings, paint their nails and dye their hair.
- 4. Students do not have to wear school uniforms.
- 5. Students do not pray before lessons.
- 6. In PE lessons students can wear kits of various colours.
- 7. Students have a long one-hour break if they stay at school long.

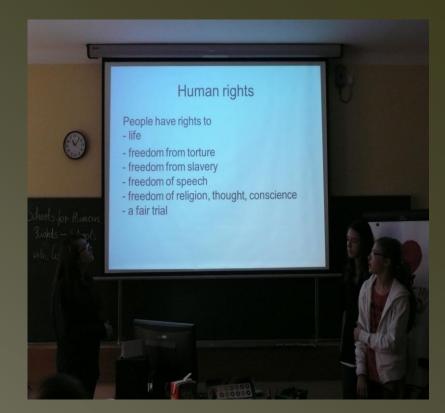
#### <u>Rybnik</u>



- 1. The school has 'a lucky number'
- 2. Students are allowed to use their mobile phones during breaks.
- 3. Students cannot have tattoos, piercings, paint their nails or dye their hair.
- 4. Students have to wear school uniforms.
- 5. Students pray before lessons every day.
- 6. In PE lessons students have to wear white T-shirts and socks.
- 7. Students do not have a long onehour break even if they stay at school long.

named the substantive
Human Rights and
Human Rights Acts.

The results were shown in a short presentation:





found out the proper institutions and the names of Children's Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Citizen's Rights in Poland and Germany and made a logoa symbol of Children's Rights.



## Here is how the students explained the three elements of the logo:

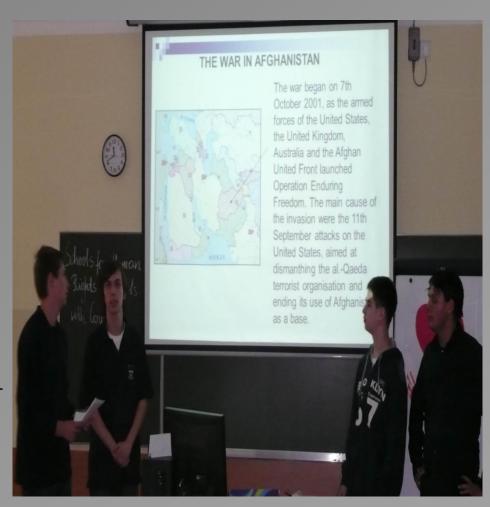
- 1. a teddy bear most children's favourite toy symbolises the children's right to have happy childhood
- 2. a red heart symbolises the children's right to be loved
- 3. open hands symbolise the children's right to be protected and safe



Gave the examples of Human Rights violations

in the modern world:

wars of aggression in modern times



#### ...as well as...

► the concentration camp

Auschwitz Birkenau
as an example of crime
against humanity - the
German students shared
their impressions of the
visit in the concentration
camp with the Polish
students





## After the workshop

the German friends
lit a candle and put
red roses in our
school Chapel as a
tribute to all the
victims of the
concentration camps





## A farewell photo





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