

Collective building site in Rojava

For years a war has been raging in Syria, claiming countless victims among the population. Millions have fled, houses and infrastructure have been destroyed. In summer 2012 the predominantly Kurdish population of northern Syria, on the rim of the civil war, proclaimed a regional autonomy called: **Rojava**



Since then the societal model of Democratic Confederalism is being tested in Rojava, a model which could prove to be an example for the Middle East as well as providing new hopes and perspectives on a global scale.

The idea for a solidary building project in Rojava emerged from the question how we as (predominantly) craftspeople could provide support for this model (of) society. We are people who believe in and work for the idea of a liberated and equal society, as do our local friends.

At the heart of Rojava is an autonomous society governed by direct democracy. The foundation of this autonomy are the free development and equality of each individual and all demographic groups, ecological sustainability and the development of collective, solidary structures.

The liberation and equality of women is a central aspect of this organisation. A lot of women are fighting in the armed units of YPJ against Daesh, the so called "IS". Self-organisation and raising their voices against discrimination by men and institutions is another daily struggle in their fight against patriarchal structures in society. Political and social controversial debates as well as mutual education are the basis for emancipation and require room.

Therefore we want to support the womens movement by building a womens community centre.

The autonomy in Rojava is actively attacked from many sides. Furthermore the borders towards Iraq and Turkey remain largely closed due to an embargo. There is a lack / shortage of essential such as medicine and food. The reconstruction is severely complicated by the closed borders. As a result we are planning a building which can be built from local materials, is fit for joint use and part of the public infrastructure. Apart from the building itself the aim of our collective building site is to enable mutual exchange. We believe that planning and realizing our building together with local players is a key element towards ensuring that it meets local requirements. We are people who want to contribute our share in spreading the ideas of alternative forms of living, solidary and ecological behaviour and a libertarian society. We want use the building site to make these ideas available to a broader audience.

The donations will be used to ensure an adequate pay for local workers as well as financing our tools and material. We aim to organize our own infrastructure (health care, translation) as not to further put strain on local resources. Our project is financed by donations only.

That is why we need your share!

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