



## The Situation

In many countries of the whole world a growing number of children and youths have to live in the streets.

Survival.

They have to maintain themselves without shelter, confronted with violence and abuse, they are criminalized and in constant fear for their lives.

This tragic situation has become a reality for a constantly growing number of youngsters. The reasons are regionally different: economic change, growing poverty in families, disintegration of traditional bonds, the destruction of rural and urban environments, etc.

Social work has a special responsibility in supporting these youngsters in their living environment:

In the streets, in their housing projects and in their ghettos.

## Mobile Youth Work

Social Work in the streets is a responsibility of Mobile Youth Workers all over the world. Mobile Youth Work is based on the principles of the UNO Child Rights Convention.



Street Workers all over the world are familiar with the street environment. They offer direct contact, counselling and the appropriate help. They enforce self-help and bring together people and community agencies.

Mobile Youth Work is successful and has many facets. It deals with various problem areas. Meetings during international congresses show that the exchange of experience between regions, countries and continents is of great importance: work strategies can be compared and analysed according to their efficiency and regional suitability.

Still, the concept of Mobile Youth Work is not yet known all over and practiced enough. Scientifically based social area analysis will enforce a critical evaluation and development of practice that makes sense. Prevention and intervention will so be intensified.

For these reasons ISMO was founded.

ISMO was established in 1992 as a result of several international congresses on Mobile Youth Work: Tübingen 1983, 1984, Esslingen 1988, Stuttgart 1991, Santiago/Chile 1994, Solothurn/Switzerland 1995, St. Petersburg/Russia 1998, Limuru/Kenia 2003.

ISMO's aims are:

- to make the inclusive concept of Mobile Youth Work known and start a dialogue. This is especially done in training programmes where Youth and Social Workers are being trained in the concept of Mobile Youth Work;
- international exchange of experience through congresses as well as support of local, regional and national networks for Mobile Youth Work
- ISMO is a member of Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland.