

PRESS RELEASE

WINTERSHALL DEA FOUNDATION SPONSORS RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR PEACE

- Lukas Bohlken (Kassel) spends a year voluntarily supporting the Illinois Holocaust Memorial in the U.S.
- Programme is organised by Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP)

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Kassel. He is an unusual young man: Lukas Bohlken from Kassel does not want to start studying at university immediately after graduating from the Albert Schweitzer School in Kassel. Instead he wants to spend a year doing voluntary Reconciliation Service for Peace at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, a suburb of Chicago. Starting in September, he will help the museum staff to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are not forgotten. The Wintershall Dea Foundation for Democracy and Diversity has taken on a sponsorship for this special project of the young Kassel native.

The exchange is organized by the renowned Action Reconciliation Service for Peace/ARSP (*German: Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste/ASF*), which has been organizing volunteer services and exchange programs, especially for young people, since 1958. The ARSP calls for "countering bitterness and hatred with a force," practicing reconciliation and standing up for a more peaceful and just world. A central question here is what impact history has on our relationships and behavior today.



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Lukas Bohlken already participated in an ARSP summer programme at the Buchenwald concentration camp memorial last year, which left a deep impression on him. "As a young German, I bear no guilt for what happened during the Nazi period," he says. "But I think it's our responsibility today to stand up for something as inhumane as the Holocaust to ensure it will not happen again." That's why he applied to ARSP projects in education. At the Illinois Holocaust Museum in the U.S., he will spend a year assisting visitor groups, attend to eyewitnesses and their descendants, offering tours of the museum, and helping with public relations. Lukas Bohlken is especially excited about interacting with Holocaust survivors and their families.

During his year at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Lukas Bohlken will regularly share his experiences with #TeamWintershallDea. Before he started his week of preparation for the Reconciliation Service for Peace on September 1, he paid a visit to the Wintershall Dea Corporate Archive learning from Friederike Steensen (project manager Corporate History) about how the company researches the history of Wintershall and DEA during the Nazi era.

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Caption:

A selfie in the Wintershall Dea Corporate Archive: Lukas Bohlken met project manager Friederike Steensen to learn about the various research projects on the history of Wintershall Dea during the Nazi-period.

Foto: Lukas Bohlken