

# SCORA – yes, we care!

## Schools opposing Racism and Antisemitism

### Project introduction

In February 2019, in a conversation between Giora Salz, District Administrator of the Upper Galilee and Claudia Rugart, Head of Department of *School and Education* at the Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart, the idea arose to establish ten new school partnerships between Israeli schools and schools in the administrative district of Stuttgart. The aim was not only to enable direct encounters between the young people, the teachers and also the principals, but also to jointly develop an educational concept to which all partner schools would commit to. The core of this concept is the further development of the school culture in which all those involved in school life do not tolerate anti-Semitism and racism or any other group-related hostility towards people and shape a culture in which diversity and difference are welcomed and understood as enrichment.

### Guiding principles of SCORA

SCORA schools are committed to ensuring that:

- the principals themselves lead the project
- there is an agreement of all teachers that the school community shares the values and goals of SCORA and actively brings them to life in everyday school life
- there is a team of teachers responsible for the project

- the school community works actively to develop a diversity-friendly school culture and does not tolerate any form of anti-Semitism, racism or other forms of discrimination
- the teachers use multi-method and multi-media approaches to this topic (cognitive, reflective, biographical, creative, digital, etc.)
- they influence the civil society of their area with the aims and values of the project through actions or the like
- the school is engaged with Jewish life in the community
- there is a willingness to travel to Israel and receive Israeli guests (teams of teachers, students).

## Our activities

In autumn 2019, we started a tendering procedure for our high schools and vocational schools. 43 schools applied and, due to this overwhelming interest, we accepted 15 into the project instead of the originally planned 10.

Ms. Muhterem Aras, President of the State Parliament, did not hesitate to take on the patronage for the project, which is a very special honor for us.

We set up an advisory board to network with partners and draw on their expertise. Members include the Jewish Religious Community of Württemberg, the *Landeszentrale für politische Bildung* (State Agency for Civic Education), the City of Stuttgart, the *Zentrum für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung* (Center for School Quality and Teacher Education), and the PKC Freudental. Principals who have maintained partnerships with Israeli schools for decades are also part of the advisory board.

In February 2020, there was a first workshop for the principals in order to prepare our trip to Israel in March 2020 to visit our partners. Due to the pandemic, the trip had to end two days earlier than planned. Nevertheless, this trip had a great impact on us: the diverse impressions, conversations and experiences encouraged us to reflect on our

attitudes and opinions. We felt even more motivated by this trip to shape the project in our schools.

Since 2020, a total of four workshops have taken place for our principals, during which we exchanged information about the project status at each school, obtained academic input (Prof. Julia Bernstein, Ms. Marina Chernivsky) and networked with partners in the region (e.g. *Landeszentrale für politische Bildung*, the State Commissioner against Anti-semitism). The fifth workshop is scheduled for March 2022.

For the teachers responsible for the project at the schools, we organized two workshops for several days, during which they were able to network and receive a wide range of information about Israel, German-Israeli relations and the school partnerships. There will be another networking workshop in spring 2022.

All workshops always focus on the question of how we deal preventively and reactively with anti-Semitism and racism in our schools and create a diversity-friendly climate.

## Our reference papers are

[Die Gemeinsame Empfehlung der Kultusministerkonferenz vom Juni 2021](#)

[Die Handreichung des Kultusministeriums Baden-Württemberg und der Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung zum Umgang mit Antisemitismus an Schulen](#)

[Der Leitfaden zur Demokratiebildung des Kultusministeriums Baden-Württemberg](#)

[Overview of lectures](#)

## Our SCORA Community

In order to bring the whole **SCORA community** together, at least virtually, once a quarter we organize a **lecture** together with our Israeli partners. So far, the

Ghettofighters from Israel, Dr. Michael Blume and Marina Chernivsky have each organized a lecture evening. In addition to the lecture, we come together for an intensive cross-national discussion about the topics.

## **Virtual school partnerships: SCORA twin**

Despite the impossibility to travel to Israel or to receive Israeli groups due to the pandemic, the schools have made great achievements since then. Out of the **15 project schools**, **14 have already established a virtual partnership** with an Israeli school. Pedagogical days and seminar courses have been held, and working groups on the subject have been set up.

For 2022, we hope that the planned exchanges can take place and that the **SCORA** network will continue to grow. **SCORA** is not just an exchange program: **SCORA is the idea** that we do not tolerate anti-Semitism and racism in our schools. **SCORA is the idea** that we take pleasure in difference, and that we are curious about it. **SCORA** wants to connect people and let them meet each other in respect and joy. All people who are committed to these ideas in the schools of our district are part of our **SCORA network** in the broadest sense. All those who are actively working on further activities on these topics at their schools and who would like to use the **roof of SCORA** for this purpose are welcome to contact us at any time.

## **Exhibition about Jewish Life**

Students designed one or two posters each on Jewish life in their respective region or in Baden-Württemberg. This was organized quite fractally in distance learning. We brought the posters together to create an **exhibition**. It will be on display in the Stuttgart City Hall starting in April 2022 and will then be on view as a traveling exhibition in various places in Baden-Württemberg. Since the posters are also available in English, we will also be able to exhibit them in Israel.

## Current events

At an Infobration Dinner in November 2021, the **SCORA community** was able to exchange ideas with many cooperation partners, e.g. our patron, **Ms. Muhterem Aras, President of the State Parliament**, our **State Commissioner against Anti-semitism Dr. Michael Blume**, the **representative of the Israeli Consulate General Ms. Maren Steege**, our advisory board members and our Israeli guests.

## SCORA net

In June 2022, we will bring together all stakeholders who would like to participate in SCORA and plan together how we can design a platform or network that supports schools in their work against anti-Semitism and racism. **Representatives from universities, municipalities and districts, the state parliament, the administration, foundations, companies, art, culture and sports, churches, etc. will be present.**

## Sponsorship

Without **funding**, we would not be able to fill the project with life. We would like to thank Baden-Württemberg's **State Commissioner against Anti-Semitism**, the **Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation (GCJZ)**, the **Robert Breuning Foundation**, the **Robert Bosch Foundation** and the **Mahle Foundation** for their support. We would also like to thank the **Ministry of Education and Culture** as well as the **ZSL (Zentrum für Schulqualität und Lehrerbildung)** for a variety of resources we receive from them. **The Israeli Consulate General and its representative in Baden-Württemberg** also stand by our side with advice and support.



## Information and contact

If you are interested in or have questions about the project, please feel free to contact Ms. Claudia Rugart ([claudia.rugart@rps.bwl.de](mailto:claudia.rugart@rps.bwl.de)) at any time.