**Report 4a : Sprogcafe/ Learning Danish Language**

**World Interfaith Harmony Week 2023**

**Arranged by Cross-cultural Ministry of Kolding Deanery in cooperation with the Office of Migrant Cooperation and Encounter with Other Religions**

**of the Haderslev Diocese**

Sprogcafe sessions on February 7 and February 28 (Report 4a and Report 4b)

(This report is on Sprogcafe, held on February 7 at 3-6 pm)

**Description:**

Sprogcafé or Learning the Danish Language is an offer to foreigners: students, refugees, guests, new Danes, immigrants, guest workers as help for their integration in Denmark, taking place every Tuesday at Simon Peters Hus. To have learned the Danish language is a key to integration and to getting a job in Denmark. Two (2) Tuesdays of Sprogcafe sessions in the month of February were set aside to learn about the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week to mark the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. There was a gap of the chosen dates because of the winter holiday on the second week of February. Sprogcafe takes place in Simon Peters Hus at Islandsvej 4, 6000 Kolding, every Tuesday in the afternoon. The time span also includes the preparations for coffee and tea and the cleaning up after the session. Students, after the session, often stay for a while to talk with teachers, share other **concerns of importance to them.**

**A. Sprogcafe or Language Café on February 7:**

**The usual start as students and volunteers enter**

Coffee, tea, cakes and fruits, the regular thing as students and volunteer teachers enter. Two volunteers come earlier to cut fruits, make coffee and tea, and put them in two wagons, free for students, volunteer teachers who arrive to help themselves, finds a seat where one feels at home.

**Who avail of Sprogcafe or Danish language study?**

They are foreign students coming from education centers in Kolding. A foreign national, who speaks and understands the Danish language, has much the closer chance to get a job and a longer residence permit. Some are refugees who have been granted asylum; some are foreigners in Denmark by family reunification or by marriage, others as migrant workers employed by some companies; others have stayed in Denmark for quite a while and just simply need to practice speaking the Danish language with a Danish volunteer. Or others come to get help for their forthcoming Danish exams or to get help to understand a letter or document they receive in Danish or help to correct their job applications or formulation of their CVs (Curriculum Vitae)

We have a group of 12- 15 persons who regularly serve as volunteers in Sprogcafe. to help teach the students according to their level of acquisition of the Danish language and according to their needs. *Sprogcafe* is known in our town as a center to help the foreigners’ integration in their new country, Denmark.

(Note: When in March this year, there came the influx of Ukrainian refugees to Denmark, many of them joined in our *Sprogcafe* or Learning Danish Language. We also witnessed the rise of Danish volunteers to 25 persons, added to our group of teachers offering their help. We could be 60 persons - volunteer teachers and students from 12 to 15 countries. As more Ukrainian refugees get their official residence permit, which give them the chance to enroll in Language schools and find work, we find lesser number of them in the Sprogcafe. At present there are 6 to 10 of them who regularly join in Sprogcafe together with those from other countries, making a present regular total of attendance: 20-25 students from 12 to 15 countries, and 10-15 volunteers, weekly reporting to help us with great joy. Among our volunteers there is one from Argentina, the Philippines and Lithuania. They have been in DK in many years and have Danish citizenship.)

**Program on Sprogcafe on February 7 within the global week of World Interfaith Harmony Week**

**Words of Welcome** by Járliny Spence Swanlake. She also gave announcements via Power point presentation on the screen about other coming events related to UN World Interfaith Harmony Week like Art exhibition, Women’s event with focus on women’s human rights, Faith meets Faith in different schools with a Christian priest and a Muslim Imam.

**Information on the United Nations and WIFHW,** its history and purpose and introduction of lesson materials by Elizabeth Padillo Olesen. She also introduced the song, “Dream for a Wonderful World” sung in English with provided translation into Danish language.

Introductory speaking Danish session in tables where students sipped their coffee and tea. The introductory session gives each one the chance to try to speak simple sentences in Danish. Some guide questions to help the personal conversation that enables each one to speak simple Danish sentences. A teacher or teachers are assigned in each table.

Group session with assigned teacher according to students’ level of acquisition in the Danish language.

And assigning each group a teacher. The teacher chooses and picks up materials from the table.

The one-hour session sees to it that students go through an exercise in reading a text, speaking and writing.

**Lesson materials: On the United Nations and FN World Interfaith Harmony Week**

On Mother Therese

On Mahatma Gandhi

And the lesson on the Good Samaritan (to be read in dialogue)

With an activity for dialogue and writing.

**Impact of the Lesson and Sprogcafe:**

1. Mother Therese’s love and compassion for the poor, and Mahama Gandhi’s movement of protest with non-violence are also ways or models for peace and harmony in our one world. Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists see the value of these expressions of commitment as concrete actions of love.

2.Most of our new students know about the United Nations but not of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. Some of them took time in attending other events, related to WIFHW.

3.Sprogcafe is an offer to help foreigners’ integration in their new country Denmark. The presence and participation of the Danish volunteers mean a lot, that they find Danish nationals who voluntarily give their time to help them and be their friends. Our volunteers often share their great joy to be in this work.

4.The text of the Good Samaritan was given as an assignment to read and understand and to look forward to dramatize it in the next session. It is a biblical story of compassion to a stranger in need, performed by a Good Samaritan. The use of drama in language lesson, performed by students, is also our creative way of learning in Sprogcafe. It makes our students more actively involved and happy. Not all are brave enough to do so, but there are always those who love to volunteer to do it. Singing songs, acting in short role plays, and engaging in lessons in Danish grammar and stories also provide a happy learning experience for our students.

**Enclosures:**

Photos

Some materials