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RUPRE

Forschungsstelle für Öffentliche Religionspädagogik

Does Religious Education contribute to social cohesion?
Empirical research and conceptual perspectives

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You can download handout and ppt-presentation from www.manfred-pirner.de > Vorträge

1. **Social cohesion as a major problem of pluralistic Western societies**
   - Some major reasons
   - What is "social cohesion"?
   - How much social cohesion is desirable?

2. **Does 'religion' contribute to social cohesion?**
   - A little bit of theory
   - Key findings from empirical studies

3. **Does RE contribute to social cohesion?**
   - Results from the REDCo research project
   - Results from other European research
   - Preliminary conclusion: 5 selected aspects

4. **Overlapping consensus and public theology: a conceptual model**

5. **Conclusion: some suggestions for RE practice**

   Reference to public theology and human rights, especially children's rights, as a key element of RE ("Public Religious Pedagogy")

   - for the promotion of the bridging social capital of religion(s)
   - as a common ground, offering basic criteria for a critical discussion of worldview and ethical issues
   - as a procedural framework guaranteeing a "safe place" for productive conflict and dispute (Learning how to quarrel! Promoting a culture of religious debate!)
   - as pointing to challenging issues around the "common good" and issues of justice to which contributions are needed from all worldview and religious resources
   - as representing and taking seriously the double secularity in pluralistic democratic societies
   - for promoting a school culture based on human rights and especially children's rights that values cultural as well as religious diversity
     and strengthens the rights and responsibilities of the students

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