

BIMBI DI KOBANE – CHILDREN OF KOBANE SUPPORT THE ORPHANS OF WHO FOUGHT AGAINST ISIS



A PROJECT FOR ACTIVE SOLIDARITY

Kobane is more than a city. Kobane is a symbol of freedom and determination. Kobane represents tangible hope that even in a Middle East caught between Daesh and warfare it is possible to build a future of peace, coexistence and equality.

In July 2014, ISIS militias attacked Kobane in an effort to conquer and subject the city. Death and destruction invaded the homes, fields and buildings of Rojava, the autonomous region in northern Syria where for three years an experiment in radical democracy had been ongoing. But after a siege lasting months, the People's Defence Units (the men of the YPG and the women of the YPJ) managed to fence off the jihadist assault, forcing Daesh to flee. On January 26th, 2015, Kobane was finally liberated! The siege of Kobane left more than 2,000 dead behind and forced more than 400.000 to seek refuge (internally displaced persons and international refugees). Over 250,000 of them have been able to return home already. But Kobané is still a ruined city.

Today we face the new and great challenge of reconstructing the city. It is not only the buildings that need to be rebuilt, but also the social relationships which made them thrive, the living conditions needed to survive and the future itself.

In Kobane, 174 children have lost their parents who died in the frontline of the fight against Daesh. The local community is already building a multifunctional centre to collectively host and educate these orphans and to give them the opportunity to study and receive the necessary medical care. However, this is an expensive project which will take time to execute fully. In the meantime these children need help from all of us. 'Sponsoring' the children by becoming their godmother/-father is a way to offer concrete help to those who have lost their parents and suffered in the war. It is also a way to show tangible solidarity to the resistance of Kobane and to the project of democratic autonomy which its citizens are setting up.

The aim of this 'sponsorship' is to grant a dignified life to the Kobane children and to give them hope and confidence in a future in which they will return home as friends and peace builders who can remove the hurdles of indifference and lay the foundations for a new and solidary community.

We ask people to commit 360 euros per year (30 per month) for every child. The sponsoring organisations (promoters) – for Italy UIKI (Ufficio di Informazione del Kurdistan in Italia); in Rojava SARA, the

Association against violence on women; in Kobane the Organisation of the Families of the Martyrs — are responsible for the project and facilitate direct contacts between the sides (those who help out and those who are helped out). “Children of Kobane” is one of the projects for the reconstruction of the city defined and carried by the Kobane Reconstruct Board (more info: www.helpkobane.com).

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF KOBANE

During the siege of Kobane, 174 children have lost their parents. They are the children of the “martyrs”, of those who died fighting the Daesh militias as members of the People’s Self-Defence Units (the men of the YPG and the women of the YPJ).

The children are in various age groups and accordingly have different needs. Most of them, 52 girls and 52 boys, are in primary school. Four of them also have special needs.

All are orphans in need of your solidarity and your support!

Donations:

Ufficio di Informazione del Kurdistan In Italia

Unicredit Bank

IBAN: IT 89 Z 02008 05005 000102651599

BIC (SWIFT) Code: UNICRITM1002.

Casual: **Bimbi di Kobane**



**For more information: bimbidikobane@uikionlus.com
www.bimbidikobane.com**