

Lifespark Survey 2008

79 answers out of 300 sent out

Lifespark survey 2008

First section : Who are you?

Q1	<p>You are ?</p> <p>A woman <input type="text" value="72"/> A man <input type="text" value="7"/></p>					<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input type="text"/>
Q2	<p>What age range are you in ?</p> <p>Less than 18 y.o. <input type="text" value="-"/></p> <p>Between n 18 and 25 <input type="text" value="4"/></p> <p>Between n 26 and 35 <input type="text" value="12"/></p> <p>Between n 36 and 45 <input type="text" value="16"/></p> <p>Between n 46 and 55 <input type="text" value="12"/></p> <p>56 y.o. or over <input type="text" value="35"/></p>					<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input type="text"/>
Q3	<p>Which canton/country do you live in ?</p> <input type="text"/>					<p>I do not wish to answer</p>

Canton

Q3	No A	AR	BE	BL	BS	FR	GE	GR	JU	LU	SH	SO	SG	TG	VD	ZH	France	Belgium	79
	5	3	7	2	2	10	9	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	11	12	3	1	

Lifespark survey 2008

First section : Who are you?

Q4a	<p>Would you accept to receive all communication via Internet? **</p> <p><i>** but for the invitation to the General Assembly and the membership fee request of payment</i></p>	Yes 84%	No 16%	I do not wish to answer <input type="checkbox"/>
Q4b	<p>Including the national newsletter?</p> <p>If yes, do you have access to Acrobat reader?</p>	Yes, by e-mail 66%	No, always on paper 34%	
		Yes 49	No 20	Don't know 10

Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56	
Q2		4	12	16	12	6	50

		No A								
		<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56			
Q4a	Yes		3	11	16	10	26	66	79	84%
	No		1	1		2	9	13		16%
Q4b	yes		2	11	15	9	15	52	79	66%
	No	1	2	1	1	3	19	27		34%
Q4c	Yes		2	10	14	8	15	49	79	
	No		1	2	2	3	12	20		
	DK	2	1			1	6	10		

Lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q5	How long have you been a member of <i>lifespark</i> for?				Are you a?		
	Less than one year	From one to two	From two to five	More than five years	Member who writes	Sympathizer	I do not wish to answer
	1	17	21	40	72	7	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q6	How did you hear about <i>lifespark</i>?						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">See below</div> <div style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 50px; height: 15px; margin: 5px auto;"></div>	I do not wish to answer <input type="checkbox"/>
	Press	Radio	TV	Internet	Parents, friends	Other; specify :		
	39	3	6	0	16	15		

	Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56	
Q2		4	12	16	12	35		79

Q6								79
	Press		3	4	12	8	12	39
	Radio						3	3
	TV			1		2	3	6
	Internet							0
	Parents / friends		1	1	2	2	10	16
	Others							
	Amnesty			2	1		1	4
	Int'l							
	ACAT						3	3
	English teacher			1			1	2
	Conference			2	1		2	5
	McGovern's book			1				1
	No answer							0

Lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q7 Within *lifespark*, have you participated in? (you may check several options)

A regional meeting (Stammtish)	A general assembly	At a manifestation	at the Speech Tour	None **	I do not wish to answer <input type="checkbox"/>
46	27	24	16		

** If "none", why ? _____

Q2	Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56	T
			4	12	16	12	35	79

Q7								% of members' Participation
	No answer							
	Regional / Stammtisch	1	4	9	8	24	46	58%
	General Assembly		2	6	5	14	27	34%
	Miscellaneous events	1	1	5	5	12	24	30%
	Speech Tours			3	4	9	16	20%
	None							
	No time	1	7	5	2	3	18	
	Not available on Saturdays					1	1	
	No explanation	1			1	3	5	
	Do not reside in CH					1	1	
	There's nothing around my town			1			1	
	Don't speak English well enough		1				1	

Lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q8	What do you think of the following activities offered by your regional coordination ?				Complement : should they be continued?		I do not wish to answer
	Interesting	Indifferent	No interest	Do not know	Yes	No	
(1) Stammtisch/Regional meetings	47	9	4	13	46		6
(2) Special events	44	3	3	19	44	1	10

Lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

What do you think of the following activities offered by <i>lifespark</i> "national"		Interesting	Insuf- ficient	Indifferent	No interest **	Do not know	I do not wish to answer
Q9	(1) General assembly	30	2	5	8	23	11
	(2) Homepage Internet (www.lifespark.org)	48	5	4	6	10	6
	(3) Newsletters	63	1	2	4	6	3
	(4) Miscellaneous mailings	37	3	7	6	18	8
	(5) Press Review (weekly-news)	45	2	3	8	14	7
	(6) Special events (Speech Tour, prison's visit, etc)	51	1	3	7	11	6
** If "no interest", why ?							

Q9 If no interest, why?

General Assembly	<i>My English is not good enough</i>	1
General Assembly	<i>Can't make it to the GA</i>	2
Miscellaneous mailings	<i>Too much information</i>	1
Press review	<i>Too much information</i>	2
Special events	<i>Too far for me</i>	1
All 6	<i>It is in English</i>	2
All 6	<i>Lack of time & energy</i>	2

Miscellaneous comments

Newsletters	<i>Absolutely essential</i>	3
Press Review	<i>Absolutely essential</i>	1
Miscellaneous Mailings	<i>Very interesting</i>	1

lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q11a	Do you think <i>lifespark</i> should just offer penpalships or get active in the death penalty abolition cause?	Yes	No	Do not know	I do not wish to answer
Q11b	Should offer penpalships only	19	36	3	21
	Should also get active in the fight against d/p **	56	7	6	9
	** why ? <i>(You may use page 5 referring to question 11 for any additional comment)</i> See below				

Q11 continues next page...

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...Q11 continued

Should also get active in the fight against d/p **

56

7

** why ?

Q11b

We should take any opportunity to help / and to fight for the abolition	5	
On a small scale only	1	
Only by being active can we get results	1	
It seems logical and obvious!	1	
First step in reorienting U.S. laws	1	
Possibility (for the members) to fight against D/P in different ways	1	
Writing as such does not fight d/p, but fighting the d/p is our long-term goal	2	
Because both are so linked, involvement in so normal consequence of correspondence		1
The organization is too little, not enough money for marketing		2
Because we are a movement against the death penalty		1
Other organizations do it (A.I.)		2
We have to concentrate on our first goal! But we have to support the organization which fight against the d/p		1

Q11

To punish a crime by killing is brainless. So DR itself is a crime and not justice. If the accused is really guilty of a serious crime, staying in prison alive is hard enough, losing all, but leading him to understand his "guilt" and consequences. And to accept. Crime will not get milder, to kill the crimes! More fight against DP, more countries could stop it one day.

A lot of people still do not know or realize that killing by the state still goes on, despite the fact that we live in the 21th century and one of the most "civilized" state (USA) is ahead of the sad "game". By keeping quiet, we become a silent actor, we have our responsibility.

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Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

Q12	Do you consult <i>lifespark</i> homepage?	All the time	1st time today	Never	Do not know	I do not wish to answer
	Do you consult the homepage? http://www.lifespark.org	4	57	1	7	0

Q2	Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56	
			4	12	16	12	35	79

Q12								
No answer								
All the time			1	1		2	4	
Time to time		2	8	13	12	22	57	79
1st time today		1					1	
Never			4	2		1	7	
Do not know							0	
Do not have Internet						10	10	
Never: It is in English	1							
Have no time						1		

lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

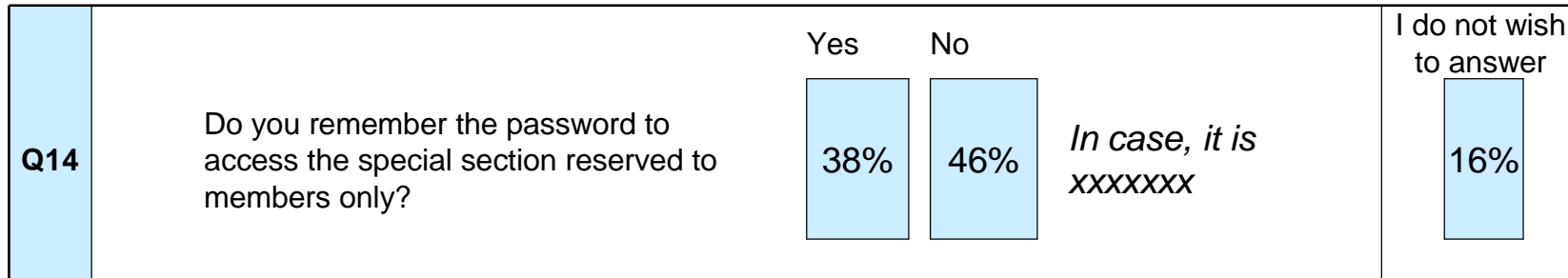
What do you think of <i>lifespark</i> homepage?		All the time	Time to time	1st time today	Never	Do not know	I do not wish to answer
Q13	(a) Echo From Within	9	33	3	6	10	9
	(b) Letters and Reports	11	32	3	5	8	9
	(c) Sections dedicated to "members only"	10	22	3	13	9	13
	(d) Press Review	6	25	4	13	10	14
	(e) Events	14	33	3	7	10	7
	(f) Links	6	23	4	15	10	14
	(g) Other(s): <i>(If you have a "long list" of wishes, please use page 5 referring to question 13)</i>						

See below

Q13g Would it not be possible to "modernize" a little bit the homepage? 1
 Could be more "ipdated" / first page could be renewed! 1
 Never: It is in English 1

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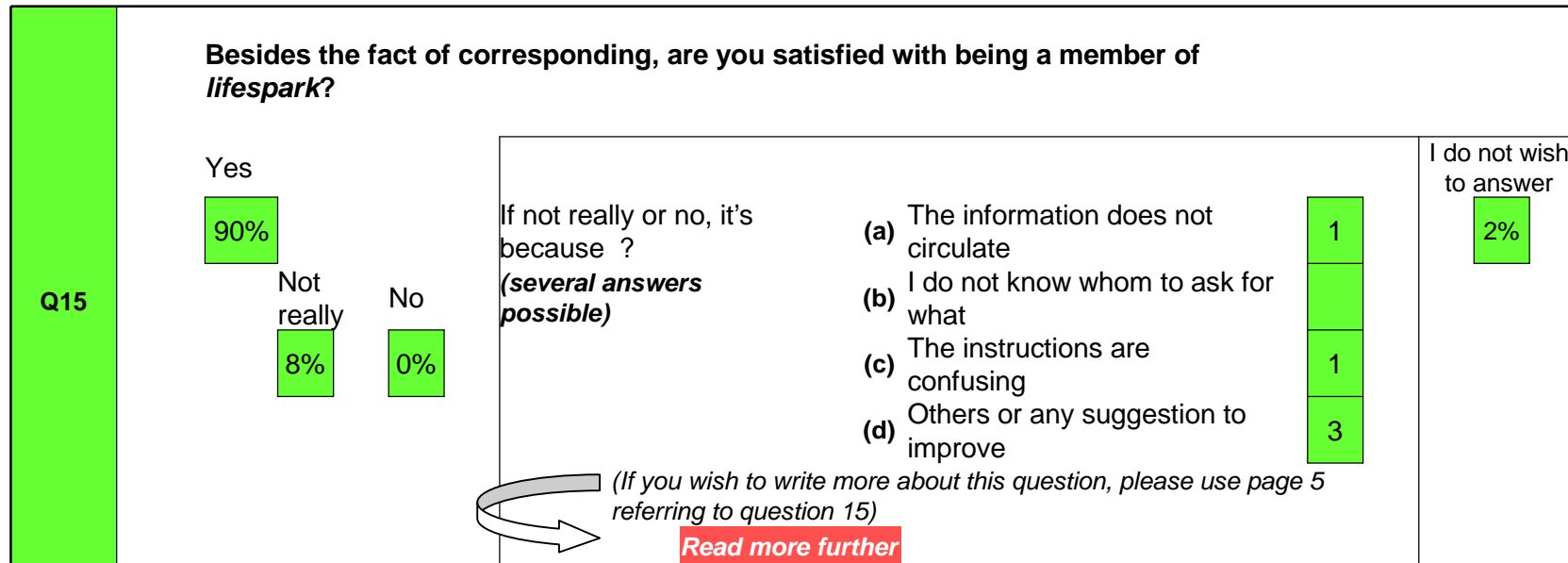
Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*



	No Answer	Y	N	
Q14	13	30	36	79

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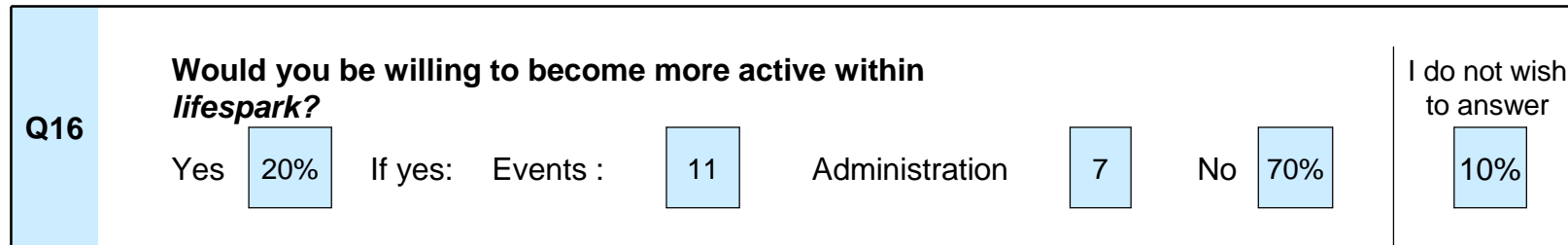
Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*



	No Answer	Y	N	NR	X	
Q15	2	71		6		79
Q15a					1	
Q15b						
Q15c					1	
Q15d					3	

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Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*

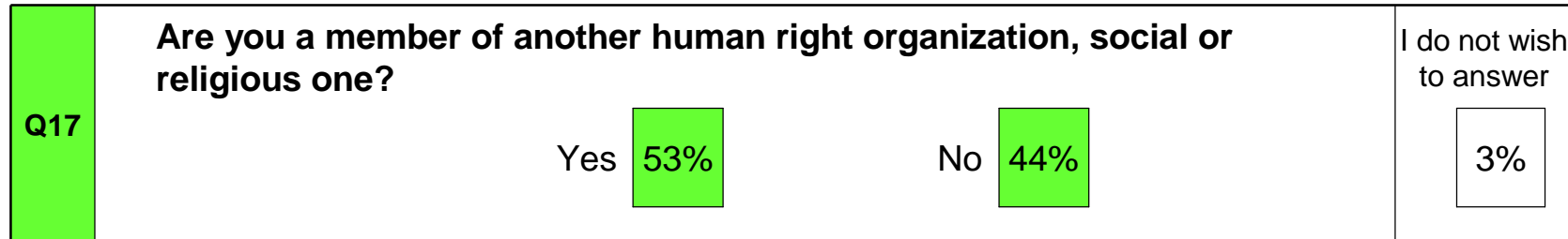


Q2	Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56	
		4	12	16	12	35		79

	Age range	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56
Q16a	No Answer			3		5	8
	Y		2	1	2	3	8
	N		2	8	14	9	22
Q16b	Events		2	1		1	7
	Administration				2	2	3

lifespark survey 2008

Second section : Your opinion on *lifespark*



Age range						
	<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56
Q2	4	12	16	12	35	79

		<18	<25	<36	<46	<56	=>56
Q17	No A			1		1	2
	Yes	2	6	8	6	20	42
	No	2	5	8	6	14	35

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Third section : Your correspondence

Q18	<p>How many correspondence(s) do you presently have?</p> <p>Indicate the number <input type="text"/></p>	<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
Q19	<p>As of today, how many correspondences have you had?</p> <p>Indicate the number <input type="text"/></p>	<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input type="checkbox"/>

	No Answer	No. of correspondence										
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	24
Q18	2	5	54	11	4	1	1	1				
Q19	1		44	14	7	4	4	1	1	1	1	1

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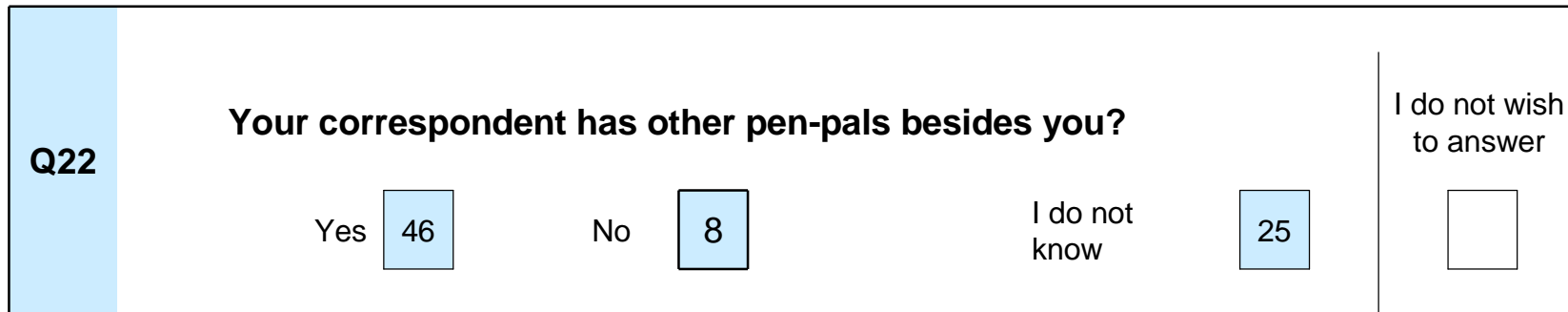
Third section : Your correspondence

Q21	<p>How long have you been writing to death row inmates? <i>(all correspondences combined)</i></p>	<p>Indicate the number of years</p> <input style="width: 60px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
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	No Answer	How many years:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Q21	1		8	12	9	8	4	7	2	6	7	8	1				3	2			1

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Third section : Your correspondence



	No Answer	Y	N	DnK
Q22		46	8	25

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Third section : Your correspondence

Q23	<p>How frequently do you write?</p> <p>Indicate the number of letters a month</p>	<p>I do not wish to answer</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
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	No Answer	Frequency												
		10 times a month	8 times a month	6 times a month	5 times a month	Once a week	Once each 2 weeks	Once each 3 weeks	Once a month	Once every other month	4 times a year	2 times a year		
Q23	4	2	1	2	4	8	26	7	22	1	1	1	79	

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Third section : Your correspondence

Q24a	Do you send some money to your correspondent(s)? *						I do not wish to answer
	62	Yes	If yes, indicate how much \$ you send per month			\$ 30	2
	15	No	<i>Average an amount per month</i>				
	* This information is useful to new members						
Q24b	If yes, what mean(s) of payment do you usually use? (Several answers possible)						I do not wish to answer
	29	Money Order	15	Postal account	15	Jpay	2
			2	Bank check			

	No	A	Y	N	HM	MO	Post	JP	BC	other		
Q24a	2	62	15								79	
Q24b						29	15	15	2	4		
Per month \$		10	15	20	25	30	35	40	50	70	100	125
		14	4	7	3	5	2	4	4	2	3	1
		140	60	140	75	150	70	80	200	140	300	125
												1480
											Average	30.2

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Third section : Your correspondence

Q25	Have you contacted his/her?	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text" value="31"/> Family	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text" value="13"/> Lawyer	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text" value="18"/> Other pen-pal(s)	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text" value="40"/> None	I do not wish to answer <input style="width: 30px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
	<i>(several selections possible)</i>	Others (please, specify) (3) friends / Investigators				

No Answer	F	L	Opp	None	Others
Q25	31	13	18	40	Friends / Investigators 3

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Q27	<p>What are the questions that you would have liked to see on that survey ?</p> <p>.....</p>
Q28	<p>What are the questions which seem to you useless and/or indiscreet?</p> <p>Indicate the number of the question(s)</p> <input style="width: 300px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Q27	If your pen pal has been executed, have you accepted to start a new correspondence?	Q28	q2	1
	What did you receive with your correspondence or your visits? (luck, love, disappointment, etc)		q8	1
	Do you and your pen pal write about the crime ?		q9	1
	Do you and your penpal share spiritual experience?		q17	1
	What kind of difficulty(ies) do you encounter, if any?		q24	6
	In reference to Q16, in what way would you like to contribute?		q25	1
	How easy (or difficult) is it for you to fill in this survey in English?			
	How easy (or difficult) is it for you to read and understand the Newsletter in English?			
	Would you like to receive more regular information about <i>lifespark</i> ?			
	Do you know what have your pen pal done?			
	Do you speak easily about <i>lifespark</i> to people?			

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

- 1 I need help to accompany a person to be executed & help his/her family. I need more advice on psychology/pathology?
Minds of those on death row.
- 2 Thanks to the whole board for all the work!
- 3 I'm very happy about the way things are going on between my penfriend and I. I also feel that *lifespark* is very well organized and I know that if there's any problem, I may find someone to help me.
So for this, I say thank you!
- 4 Congratulations for all the work!
- 5 I would like to find out the results about this survey
- 6 For me, as a "beginner", it is a great help to get mail, or phone, information from Ines Aubert any time I need it.
- 7 I simply wish to comment on how moved I am by all those who donate their love, time, energy, money, ideas, creativity and inspiration to this cause.
You are all just beautiful and such a source of inspiration in any life.
- 8 Only THANKS: for your commitment, your ideas, the very professional way you involve yourselves in *lifespark's* main purpose.
Thank you for the regular information, your "proximity" and advice the members can always find, especially during the regional meetings.

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

I did not answer all the questions because I didn't understand some of them.

I find it disappointing that the information is provided no more or quite rarely in French. At the beginning, we would receive a lot of information in French (minutes of bi-annual regional meetings, letters of information, etc.). All this has progressively disappeared and has been replaced by documentation in English which, personally, I have a hard time to understand; too complicated for my basic English and also too much information via Internet which once again I don't read, because too difficult to understand when one does not master the language. It is a shame as I'm not sure all *lifespark* members understand English well enough to understand all the *lifespark* correspondence. Surely, they're students, aged persons, housewives, etc, which English studies go way back or stopped at the end of the College years; so, once again, too bad that some of *lifespark* are simply forgotten...

10

I also find the membership fee increase tough to take, going from 30.- to 50.-. If my calculation is right, it is a 66% increase!

Once again, all *lifespark* members do not benefit from a high salary and the sending of pocket money to their correspondent(s) represent an important part of their budget. An increase of 5.- to 10.- would have been more correct. I'm most likely going to pay it this year since the year has started, but I'll be putting some thoughts whether to remain a member or not, taking into account the fee's increase and the lack of information in French.

Sorry for all those remarks as even if they do not bring any change; however, it was necessary for me to express my frustration.

I'm happy to assist in translations whenever necessary (German to English). I've been doing this (through Ines Aubert) for the newsletter, and enjoy helping out in this regard. Should there be any other/further translation needs, I would like to help out.

11

Ines Aubert gave a very interesting and informative presentation to members of my "Advanced English" class. This was a good way to increase public awareness of *lifespark* (the organization itself) and its work, and I would encourage more of such programs on the "local level". I'd be willing to assist in this capacity as well. (comment no. 1)

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

- 12 I think that *lifespark* directs too much focus to love relationships between pen pals and inmates. I love happens, it happens, of course. But sometimes, I have the feeling that women begin to write to inmate because they want a relationship. And I don't really think that such a relationship helps the inmate. We, living our lives freely, have so many activities, a job, a family, sports, we can read, watch TV, etc. We can decide. We can insinuate and persuade an inmate to begin a relationship, because we has nothing else. He is completely alone and prone to our words, letters and feelings. Therefore, we should be very sensitive and delicate and should not burden the inmate with our wishes and deficiencies. An inmate just has our letters, he cannot move and cannot decide about his life. What can he do with our love? It even can be that some women who write to an inmate want to escape their "boring" lives and find it exciting to be an inmate's girlfriend! That, of course, means to misuse the inmate's helplessness. I think our prime goal should be interest in their fate, solidarity and compassion - and also to state to the world that death penalty is a crime and should be abolished. (comment no. 2)
- 13 Mein Brieffreund Brian Terrell, Jackson, GA, sagt jeht, er sei unscluldig (?)
Wo kann ich etwas über ??? ??? (comment no. 3)
- 14 Regarding **CHINA** and its obvious non-respect of human rights, particularly in what death penalty is concerned, what has *lifespark* done since the (2005) Speech Tour when we heard the shocking and moving testimony of an ex-prisoner detained for many years in a camp?
Couldn't *lifespark* join other abolition movements and draw attention to this appalling situation in China? Especially now as everyone focuses on China's Olympic Games and its promising economical development (for investors)?
Couldn't we also "make an educated choice" as Evelyne proposes, when we plan to purchase something? And fill in a form in the major shopping centers telling why we don't buy Chinese products? (comment no. 4)

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

15 As I mentioned before, I wish *lifespark* would have some very general information available on the legal system in the US. Maybe some US organization might have this information at the disposal of its members? (comment no.5)

16 As to activities, I volunteered for translations and still am ready to go on. As to other activities, I also work for Amnesty International and am away too oftenn in order to take part in meetings, etc. As an Israeli citizen, I am very often in Israel where I participate in as many peace and protest activities as possible, and when in Switzerland. I do translation, etc, for various groups. One of my two penpals in a lifer. I send her about the same amount of money and books to both penpals. (comment no. 6)

17 I'd like to know what *lifespark* is doing and once it's done. As a member, I'm quite happy. Thank you for all the work. (comment no. 8)

18 It might be useful to have a membership list (addresses and phone no.) annually (pardon, more paper/copy expenses & post). We might be able to exchange more easily when in need (it could be regional German separate from French). Some members such as me lack conduct and exchange. Sorry to say, not many people are concerned with the death row problem and many want to ignore it. When I speak out in my Pastoral Project (for a "Radiant" Church" about considering all prisoners (even here) and their families, I get the "yes, but..." and thereafter talk of other subjects. I can ???? that and (or my pen pal) here (or in the USA) do not received visits, support. This is impatiently by passed. In order to help my pen pal, I too need advice and support. I get some at *lifespark* meetings, but in the intervals... it sometimes seems like a long, dry desert. (comment no. 9)

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

I've been a member of *lifespark* since 2004 and I have written to a death row prisoner until he got executed in 2006. He had become a friend and I didn't have the heart to start another penpalship (maybe later). I appreciate very much all the work done at *lifespark*. The friendships created between the prisoners and their pen friends are beautiful and most important because they bring so much to the prisoners; they bring a lot the correspondents as well.

The support brought by *lifespark* to various organizations which fight the death penalty is to be noted, as well as the various events organized in Europe such as the one on November 30.

19 It is therefore with much sadness that I find myself in the position to resign as the membership fee increased from CHF 30.- to CHF 60.- (*there's a misunderstanding, notes evelyne*). I'm now a pensioner and my monthly wages have diminished substantially. The increase is too important.

However, I've a suggestion to make; why not set up a lower membership fee for low income persons, such a pensioner or student? In regards to the constant increase of the cost of living, this could be interesting and it would be a shame to lose some members because of the increase. I think the idea of keeping as many members as possible even if some of them cannot pay the full fee.

I congratulate you one more time for all you do for the prisoners and with the hope that you'll be thinking of my suggestion, I send you my warmest greetings. (comment no. 11)

20 To read in English asks of me time and efforts. I would read more (the information) if it was in French. I have also experimented problems getting stamps for my correspondent. (comment no. 12)

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Miscellaneous comments

- 21 My penpal Brian T. Jackson GA, now says he's innocent (?). Where can I find information about him/his case?

Our death row inmate was transferred from death in Livingston to Dallas. I write him together with Cornelia Demirkan.

- 22 Lately, the amount of our correspondence has been reduced. K. has now his family who is close by and he misses his earlier "privacy" he had when being on death row. The friendship and mutual sympathy, however, has remained the same and should also stay this way. K. has lots of understanding for my current personal burden for which I'm very thankful.

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

lifespark survey 2008

Comment to specific questions

- Q5 3 years ago, my pen friend got out of death row (because of his young age when his committed a murder); so I have become rather a sympathizer of *lifespark* (of course, I go on with writing!) comment no. 10
- Q10-a Annual membership fees should be used to pay a nice and relaxing trip to the board members for all their work!
- Q10-b Fees could be divided between option 1 and 3
- Q10-c Activities in those countries which still have capital punishment
- Q10-d I think the membership fee should be used for expenses lifespark has. For events in order to get more people to write to an inmate and to inform about the D/P in the USA and how the inmates are treated! If money is left, it can be used for donation.
- Q11-a To punish a crime by killing is brainless. So DR itself is a crime and not justice. If the accused is really guilty of a serious crime, staying in prison alive is hard enough, losing all, but leading him to understand his "guilt" and consequences. And to accept. Crime will not get milder, to kill the crimes! More fight against DP, more countries could stop it one day.
- Q11-b A lot of people still do not know or realize that killing by the state still goes on, despite the fact that we live in the 21st century and one of the most "civilized" state (USA) is ahead of the sad "game". By keeping quiet, we become a silent actor, we have our responsibility.

Miscellaneous comments continues next page...

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Comment to specific questions

- I would like to see more information/interest in the situation of "lifers".
- Q15-a Although they're not sentenced to death, they're often imprisoned over decades (comment no. 7)
- Q15-b Although I do not share any activities, I find *lifespark* a most important organization and am very grateful for your precious engagement.
- Q15-c Nothing against *lifespark*, just occupied with other issues in my life and not feeling as committed to possible actions and the issue anymore as I used to. Might be due to the fact I am not writing anymore to a prisoner as I feel a need to being committed to my own stuff. This, of course, is getting a bigger distance to everything. My last pen pal put the pen friendship to a very disappointing and annoying end after about 6 years that I still don't feel ready to commit myself to a new prisoner. I might never will. So I am thinking of leaving this story and decline my membership. My plans don't have unfolded completely by now though.

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Most sincere thanks to all those who participated in this survey.

Your input is most valuable information to the Board.

Let 's go to work now!