

also has a general reading room, a youth hostel, a soup kitchen, and a dormitory for homeless students.

Regular union meeting halls are available to union youth groups, and in Nuremberg and Augsburg the union hall has special youth rooms.

CO-EDUCATION

Trade union groups are in principle co-educational. This opportunity to be with young people of the opposite sex is certainly attractive to many boys and girls, though it does not meet with wholehearted approval of all parents, nor of large elements of the community. In those unions where the young members are predominantly of one sex - girls in the Textile Union, boys in the Building Trades Union - the youth groups join forces for their club meetings in order to bring boys and girls together.

Union youth leaders believe that co-education is an important educational principle based on a realistic view of life and that the separation of boys and girls is educationally false. Out of their experience they maintain freer, more natural relationships are thus developed. Although they know that they are conducting an experiment in this regard and have sometimes made some mistakes they believe that the positive values so greatly outweigh the occasional problems that they no longer question this part of the program.