

Dr. h.c. Ute-Henriette Ohoven
UNESCO Special Ambassador for Children in Need
Honorary President of the ZNS- Hannelore Kohl Foundation

Personal information

Dr. h.c. Ute-Henriette Ohoven is UNESCO Special Ambassador, the President of the ZNS - Hannelore Kohl foundation (since 2011 even Honorary President) and the Counsel General of the Republic of Senegal. She is married to Mario Ohoven, the President of the German Federation of Business Enterprises and of the European medium-sized enterprises. Ute Ohoven has four children.

Humanitarian engagement

For more than 20 years Ute Ohoven supports humanitarian concerns. In the first years she supported the cancer research and treatment for children in Germany. She and Mrs Rita Süßmuth were involved in the creation process of the first bone marrow donor file in Germany. In 1992, she was announced as the first Goodwill Ambassador of the UNESCO and her engagement becomes an international focus. In 1994, the General Director of UNESCO Prof. Federico Mayor announced her as the first Special Ambassador of the organization and for the program for the **Education of Children in Need**. Her full support is concentrate on collecting money and getting attention for this program.

In 2002 the former German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl asked Ute Ohoven to succeed and take office as the president of the ZNS - Hannelore Kohl Foundation. The Foundation is committed to the interests of victims and their families, whose central nervous system was damaged in an accident. More than 270,000 people in Germany are victims of tragic accidents and have to live with serious damage to their central nervous system. In this position, her engagement is focusing on younger victims, particularly with regard to prevention and provision for accidents.

UNESCO Charity Gala

The international UNESCO Charity Gala is organized by the general director of UNESCO and Ute Ohoven in Germany. Over the last years the event has become to one of the most important charity events worldwide. Guests from all fields of business like e.g. politics, economy and art show their support for the UNESCO program for the **Education of Children in Need**.

The patrons of this event have been: His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Empress Farah Diba Pahlavi, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, President Lech Walesa, Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Prince Talal Bin Soud, Queen Noor of Jordan, Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Sir Peter Ustinov, Sir Bob Geldof, Dame Helen Mirren, Oliver Stone, Donatella Versace, Dr. Michael Otto, Montserrat Caballé, Shirley Bassey, Jane Fonda, Tommy Hilfiger, Forest Whitaker, Placido Domingo, Goldie Hawn, Eva und Roberto Cavalli, Prof. Federico Mayor, Don Johnson, Shakira, Jessica Simpson, Lionel Ritchie and many selected personalities.

Project work for the benefit of Children in Need

Over the last years Ute Ohoven has mobilized many donors and supporters for the UNESCO program. These donations come from broad levels of the population like e.g. economy, media and famous personalities. Through these donations the UNESCO program for **the Education of Children in Need** has the opportunity to support over 410 projects in 98 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Arab States, and Latin America. All projects provide children a future by educating them in an individual way. The focus of the foundation's work are children with different backgrounds like handicapped children, children whom are affected by war, child soldiers, street kids and drudges whom have to live without family commitment. The UNESCO program for the **Education of Children in Need** provided over one million children a future by taking them off the streets and giving them a future.

Ute Ohoven has made it as her principle to visit the projects of the UNESCO program Education for the **Education of children in Need** by herself to get impressions of the different situations. She has established close personal contacts with governments and humanitarian organizations in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and other developing regions.

Honours

Pope Johannes Paul II, Mother Teresa, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama granted Ute Ohoven an audience to appreciate her humanitarian and social engagement.

Ute Ohoven has been honoured with the Federal Cross of Merit from Germany, the order of merit from the federal state North Rhine Westphalia, the highest civil order of the Republic of Senegal which she represents as Consul in Germany, and the Picasso Medal of UNESCO in gold, the "Women World Award", "The Golden Heart Award" and the religious order of "Saint Eufrosinia from Polotsk" (Belarus). She has been voted amongst the 100 most influential women in Europe. She is also Honorary Citizen of Belo Horizonte and San Salvador, and has been awarded the degree of Doctor honoris causa of the Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais, one of the oldest and most reputed universities in Latin America. She was selected for the UNESCO publication "60 Women contributing to the 60 years of UNESCO" and the book "Universos de Paz" as one of the greatest personalities worldwide for peace.