



Frauenhaus-
koordinierung e.V.

Empowerment is...

Realities and Perspectives in Social Work with Refugees

Expert Meeting Documentary



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The English and German versions of the results are also available online:
<http://www.frauenhauskoordination.de/gewalt-an-frauen/gewaltschutz-und-flucht/dateien-zum-download.html>

Introduction

„Women should take actions, act by themselves. Not get something imposed that they don't need or want.“
(Fatuma Musa Afrah, Speaker)

„The experts at the conference have demonstrated on how many different levels the empowerment approach can become practical. The focus is always on the human being with its needs in the light of societal and partly violent power relations.“ (Pasquale Virginie Rotter, Facilitation)

„Although it often seems as if social work reaches an impasse due to legal regulations and practical constraints, the conference has yet shown in how many ways the empowerment approach can be put into practice.“ (Pasquale Virginie Rotter, Facilitation)

Under the title **„Empowerment is... Realities and Perspectives in Social Work with Refugees“** the second expert meeting in the context of the project „Empowering Female Refugees and Other Particularly Vulnerable Groups“ took place in Berlin on September 19-20, 2017.

As an expert centre for the protection of women against violence, the Association of Women's Shelters (FHK e.V.) had taken on the task, in 2016 and 2017, of connecting and professionally supporting the individual projects within the project „Exchange and Networking between Projects Aiming to Support Women with Experiences of Displacement – Approaches to a Successful Transition Management“. Within this framework, the expert meeting has been organised by the Association of Women's Shelters, together with the Federal Association of Non-Statutory Welfare, which serves as the umbrella organization for those institutions that run more than 100 projects across Germany.

Following the great success of the first meeting in 2016, this year's conference was supposed to build on the former's results and to scrutinise, besides protection against violence, the concept of „empowerment“. To this end, the event provided its target audience from the field of social work with refugees with information, a space for reflection, examples of best practice, and opportunities for exchange and networking.



Within the project, questions such as the following ones came up: What can empowerment mean in the context of social work with female and LGBTI refugees? The projects offer services to women and LGBTI whose asylum applications are being processed and whose residential status is unclear, to people who have fled to Germany only recently. Legal regulations for foreigners and the resulting uncertainties concerning their residential perspective create power differentials within our society and also affect the relationship between professional social workers and those people that the services cater to. What can social workers contribute under such circumstances to empowering people? Which requirements do exist so that services can be empowering? And how can empowerment take shape in light of legal conditions that disempower asylum seekers when it comes to crucial aspects of their lives?

Bringing together speakers with many years of experience in the fields of empowerment, displacement and refugee support, the contributions at the meeting have made numerous suggestions and formulated responses, just as they raised further questions.

On both conference days, two talks were given in the morning. They focused on the situation of female refugees in Germany, on critical reflections regarding the role of social work and feminist arguments and approaches to supporting female refugees, on empowerment efforts and female refugees in precarious living conditions and their support needs.

On the first day, a workshop phase provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on their role as social workers, in ways that are critical of power and attentive to discrimination.

Besides two talks and a concluding panel, the second day of the meeting saw two workgroup phases. During the first one, five of the empowerment projects supported by the Association of Women's Shelters presented their work. Subsequently, the participants and projects member exchanged views on the particular topics.

Since there had already been a great demand for exchange during the first conference, this time the participants were given the chance to bring up their own topics during the second workgroup phase. The issues that were raised also indicated further important aspects that complemented the variety of topics determined by the conference program.

The fact that the conference was fully booked with 150 participants, along with the waiting list and the very positive feedback that expressed a wish for more events of this sort, testifies to the topicality of the subject, the need for information and the demand for spaces of reflection. We hope that the participants will disseminate the topics and issues discussed at the meeting, that they can instigate developments and changes in practical work and that further conferences and training courses will take up important debates. This documentation is meant to capture the key insights of the meeting and to make them available to all interested parties for further work. I wish you an interesting read and good luck with your future work!

I would like to express my very special thanks to the conference moderator, Pasquale Virginie Rotter, who, with her great expertise and moderating skills, guided the participants through the meeting. Also, warm thanks to all the competent speakers whose knowledge and dedication made this meeting possible, and thanks to everyone who was involved in the organisation on site and ensured that the meeting runs smoothly!

Tatjana Leinweber

Project Consultant Protection Against Violence and Displacement
Association of Women's Shelters

Programm

Conference Facilitation: Pasquale Virginie Rotter

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 12 pm | Welcome Speech |
| 12.20 pm | Protection against Violence – Survey Results |
| 12.30 pm | „Study on Female Refugees“ |
| 1.15 pm | Supporting Refugees: Between Civilising Mission and Support on Equal Terms? |
| 2 pm | Lunch break |
| 3 pm | Workshops |
| 6 pm | End of the first day |
| 7.30 pm – 10 pm | Evening program |

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9 am | Empowering Newly Arrived Women |
| 9.45 am | Safe Danger – Dangerous Safety? On the Situation of Female Refugees Living Under Precarious Conditions |
| 10.30 am | Coffee break |
| 11 am | Workgroups and Project Presentations |
| 12.30 pm | Lunch break |
| 1.15 pm | Workgroups on Topics Raised by Participants |
| 2.45 | In the Spotlight: Interviews |
| 3.15 pm | Closing |

Empowerment and Protection Against Violence – Survey Results

Aiko Takahashi and Tatjana Leinweber



Frauenhaus-
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Empowerment and the Protection of Female and LGBTI Refugees Against Violence

Presentation of survey results
Berlin, September 20, 2017

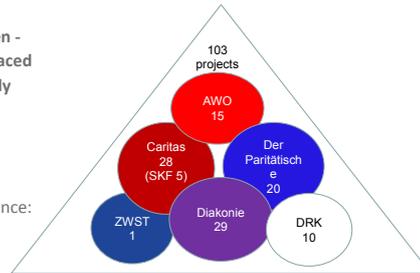


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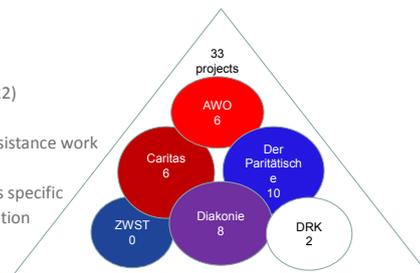
Project “Exchange and Networking between Projects Aiming to Support Displaced Women”

- ❖ Project “Empowering Refugee Women - Projects for Supporting Displaced Women and Other Particularly Vulnerable Groups”
- ❖ 68 locations nationwide
- ❖ Focus Protection against Violence: 27 projects



Project “Exchange and Networking between Projects Aiming to Support Displaced Women”

- ❖ 12 federal states
- ❖ Empowerment (31) / Protection against Violence (22)
- ❖ In the field of counselling / assistance work
- ❖ 76% training courses on issues specific to women, violence and migration



Evaluation: Networking / Cooperation

- ❖ 62% cooperation with refugees
- ❖ ca. 70% of them translation work

→ Difficulties to integrate refugees into teams?
→ Networking with migrant self-organisations?

Blue: cooperation (62%)
Red: no cooperation (14%)
Green: “Why cooperate? We’re working with them after all!” (24%)





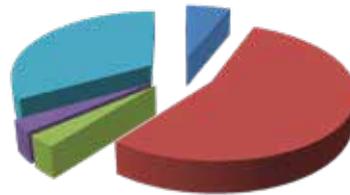
Language and Interpretation

- ❖ 2 – 20 languages
- ❖ Romanes?
- ❖ Funding?

→ 19 out of 33 projects organise translation work with the help of volunteers

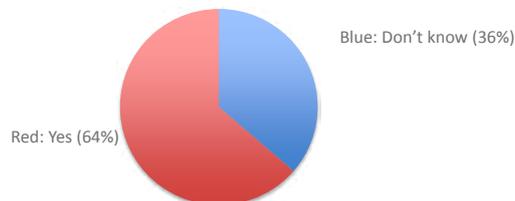
Rejection due to language barriers:

- Red: no rejections (55%)
- Dark blue: rejections (6%)
- Light blue: no statement (33%)
- Lilac: frequently (3%)
- Green: put into contact with other institutions (3%)



Evaluation: Concepts for the Protection against Violence

... does there exist a concept for the protection against violence at your institution?



→ ...experience?

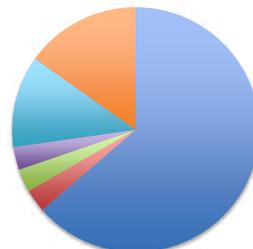
→ Necessity that all involved parties know about organised procedures (where they exist) in cases of violence



Evaluation: Coverage of the Expenses of Women's Shelters

Coverage of expenses of women's shelters:

- Blue: No statement (64%)
- Orange: By the municipality that previously provided accommodation (15%)
- Light blue: By the municipality in which the reception centre was located (12%)
- Lilac: By the municipality in which the women's shelter is located (3%)
- Green: No coverage (3%)
- Red: Application was mandatory for costs to be covered (3%)





Evaluation: Practical Problems

- ❖ asylum legislation!
- ❖ insufficient public relations efforts, unified protest
- lack of funds for personnel
- lack of daycare and school capacities as well as apprenticeship positions,
- lack of access to the job market
- lack of German course places
- lack of affordable housing in metropolitan areas
- lack of awareness among staff at authorities
- lack of therapeutic (trauma-specific) assistance
- insufficient barrier-free shelters for disabled people
- building relationships with people affected by violence has been considered difficult
- demand for more work with perpetrators
- demand for more low-threshold offers
- necessity that all involved parties know about organised procedures (where they exist) in cases of violence
- more pastoral care for Muslims
- support for overburdened volunteers and full-time employees



Evaluation: Suggestions for Possible Solutions

- commitment on the side of all involved actors
- change of course in asylum policy
- steady funding
- more adequate, safe, clean and well-equipped shelters for refugees
- expansion of basic services through special representatives for protection against violence
- more officially recognised offers for German courses (together with childcare) that are not tied to countries of origin
- shorter and more flexible processing times and more accommodation facilities for persons affected by violence
- increased awareness at authorities, also regarding particular projects
- staffing ratios that are appropriate to the target group
- more time for individual counselling and support services
- more capacities for public relations work



Awareness about Discrimination / "Culture"?

- There is a debate: But how does the debate take place?
- Difficulties in contexts of team discussions?
- When does culturalisation become a problem?



Discussion

Further reading:

Empowerment and Protection Against Violence – Survey Results:

http://www.frauenhauskoordination.de/fileadmin/redakteure/pdfs/PDFs_zu_Infothek_Themen/Flucht/Empowerment_and_the_Protection_of_Female_and_LGBTI_Refugees_Against_Violence_-_Survey_Results_.pdf

Welcome Speech

Heike Herold, managing director, Association of Women's Shelters

I cordially welcome you on behalf of the organisers.

The Association of Women's Shelters and the six non-statutory welfare umbrella organisations have jointly prepared this meeting.

We are delighted that our invitation has been taken up by so many professionals working in projects and counselling services in the field of displacement and protection of women against violence, but also by experts engaged in migrant self-organisation, in municipal administrations, in other federal coordination offices and in welfare associations, who are here today as both speakers and participants.

Also, I especially want to welcome Diana Gruber, who represents the working staff of the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration. The interest in our event has been so enormous that we were not able to satisfy all participation requests.

The protection of female refugees against violence has become a major concern for the Association of Women's Shelters, not least because of our two projects on empowering female refugees and on complaint management systems in refugee shelters.

We were able to carry on the project „Exchange and Networking between Projects Aiming to Support Women with Experiences of Displacement – Approaches for a Successful Transition Management“ once again this year, thanks to the special support by the member organisations of the Federal Association of Non-Statutory Welfare and by the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration.

The central task of our project consists of supporting professional networks and promoting exchange – a task that we realize by disseminating professional know-how, through queries into work experiences and demands for further development regarding the protection of female



refugees against violence in the context of more than 100 diverse projects run by welfare organisations. To this end, the expert meeting 2017 is an integral part.

The positive feedback on last year's meeting and the great demand for professional exchange among the project members have induced us to organise a two-day meeting this year. Accordingly, the professional exchange will take centre stage.

Moreover, I would like to point out that, this year and next, the Association of Women's Shelters will be offering, together with the Federal Association of Women's Counselling and Rape Crisis Centres bff, training courses for staff members of women's shelters and counselling services on how to support female refugees affected by violence. FHK and bff will also publish important professional and legal information provided in the training courses in the form of „frequently asked questions“ (FAQs) this fall.

I would like to thank my colleague Tatjana Leinweber and the representatives of the coordination group of the welfare associations for preparing and supporting the organisation of this meeting, and also thanks to all the team members of the branch office for their support.

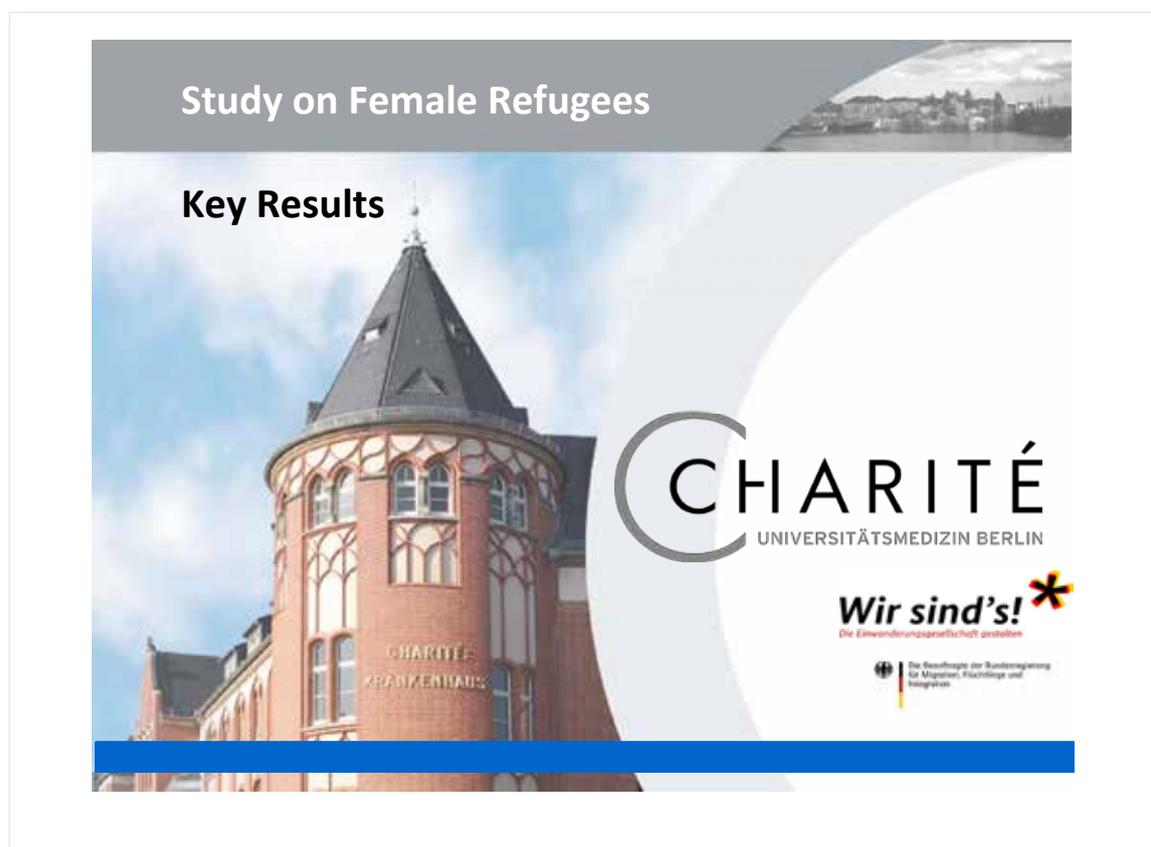
For today and tomorrow, I wish us all a worthwhile professional exchange, interesting expert contributions and exciting debates.

Presentation:

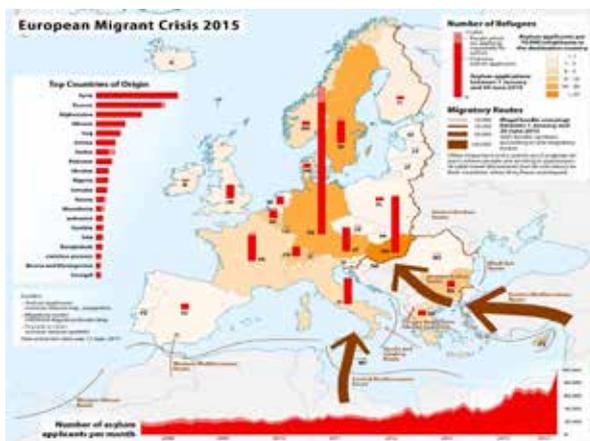
“Study on Female Refugees” – Key Results

Speaker: PD Dr. med. Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK

PD Dr. med. Meryam SCHOULER-OCAK has been attending physician of the Psychiatric Clinic of the Charité at the St. Hedwig Hospital since 2010. She is also the project director of the Intercultural Research Group on Migration and the Health Sector, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. She is chairwoman of the German-Turkish Psychiatric Society (DTGPP e. V.).

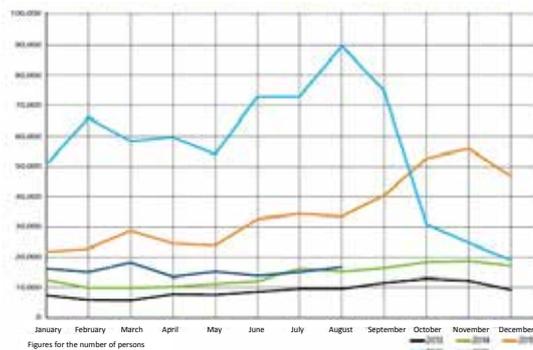


Routes to Europe



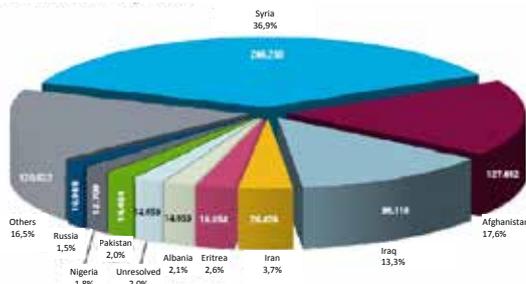
Figures on asylum recognitions in five-year-comparison

Development of figures on initial asylum applications in annual comparison



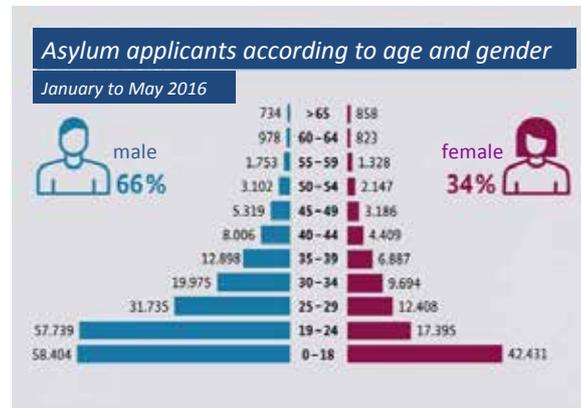
Context: Female Refugees

Main countries of origin in 2016
Total number of initial applications: 722.370



With 36.9%, Syria ranks foremost among the countries of origin in 2016. Afghanistan holds the second place with 17.6%, followed by Iraq with 13.3%. The first three countries of origin thus make for more than two thirds (67.7%) of all initial applications filed since January 2016. (BAMF 2017)

Figures



(Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 2016)

Traumatic experiences before migration

- Loss of important attachment figures
- Murder of family members or friends
- Destruction of livelihood
- Destruction of property
- Precarious living conditions
- War
- Torture
- Incarceration
- Terror attacks
- Abuse
- Sexualised violence

Traumatic experiences during migration

- Defenselessness and disorientation (cold, heat, hunger, thirst, homelessness)
- Lack of health care
- Assault
- Discrimination
- Witnessing or experiencing traumatic events
- Forced separation from family members
- Murder of family members or friends
- Attacks by strangers
- Unnatural death of family members or friends

Mental health of refugees

Many refugees are in bad physical and mental condition upon arrival.
(Wirtgen 2009)

Due to experiences made in crisis regions, flight experiences and their consequences, affected persons can develop adaptation disorders as well as chronic psychiatric disorders such as anxiety disorder and depression.
(Lindert et al., 2009; Hansson et al., 2012)

Studies indicate that the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) victims among refugees is ten times higher than among the population at large.
(Fazel et al., 2006; Crumlish et al., 2010)

Impact of asylum proceedings

Mentally strained/ill refugees find appropriate help/therapy much too late and indirectly.

(Laban et al. 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008)

In care facilities (shelters) there is often a lack of knowledge about the basic symptoms of common mental illnesses ('health literacy') such as depressive adaptation disorder or the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorders.

(Laban et al. 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008)

Post-migration stress factors

Unable to register a home, no roof over one's head
Inadequate coverage of basic needs;
Accommodation in mass shelters, residence only in allocated municipalities
Forced isolation; but without privacy or possibilities to retreat
Difficulties in dealing with authorities due to linguistic and cultural barriers
No meaningful work; dependency on social security benefits (minimum subsistence level – poverty)
Lack of future perspectives, uncertain residential status, "asylum or tolerated stay", fear of deportation
Racist and right-wing extremist attacks
Perceived discrimination and stigmatisation
Lack of access to health care

Study on Female Refugees

Supported by Federal Minister Aydan Özoğuz



Wir sind's!
Die Einwanderungsgesellschaft gestalten

Project management:

- PD Dr. med. M. Schouler-Ocak, Psychiatric Clinic of the Charité at St. Hedwig Hospital,
- Dr. Christine Kurmeyer, Central Women's Representative and Equal Opportunity Officer at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Study on Female Refugees

Cooperation partners:



Universität Rostock



Universitätsmedizin Rostock



Klinikum Nürnberg

CHARITÉ
UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN BERLIN



UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN.
MAINZ



Alexianer
ST. HEDWIG-KRANKENHAUS
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Causes of flight specific to women

- Causes of flight:
 - Women have been politically active
 - Gender-specific endangerment and violence
 - Abduction and violence as weapons of war
 - Genital mutilation, sexual abuse
 - Forced marriage, early marriage, honor killings, restrictive morals
- Violence during migration:
 - Women traveling alone, family reunion
 - Labour exploitation
 - Forced prostitution, rape

(German Women's Council)

Selected study goals

- First-hand data, directly from affected women
- Representative data on this issue is not available in Germany so far – only individual case studies and regional reports
- Analysing the psycho-social situation of female refugees from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia and Eritrea
- Comprehensive and reliable representation of support needs specific to women
- First detailed insights into the general psycho-social situation of female refugees
- Deriving recommendations for action

Sample

- **Representative survey**

Sampling procedure: Stratified sample (census survey, regional quotas)

- **Focus groups**

According to specifications made by the ethics commission in Berlin, female refugees in “recognised asylum proceedings” have been included in the study.

Native-language team members

- Berlin: 13 native language team members from Syria, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia
- Developing the questionnaire together and across different locations
- Training:
 - Intercultural competence training
 - Cultural background information on regions/cultures and migration
 - Working with interpreters
 - Basic symptoms of psychological disorders – post-traumatic stress disorders (health literacy)
 - Dealing with relatives and friends of respondents
 - Dealing with crisis situations

Socio-biographical questionnaire

- Quantitative data:

Age, country of origin, number of children, family constellation, religion, language skills, education level, former profession, causes of flight, migration routes

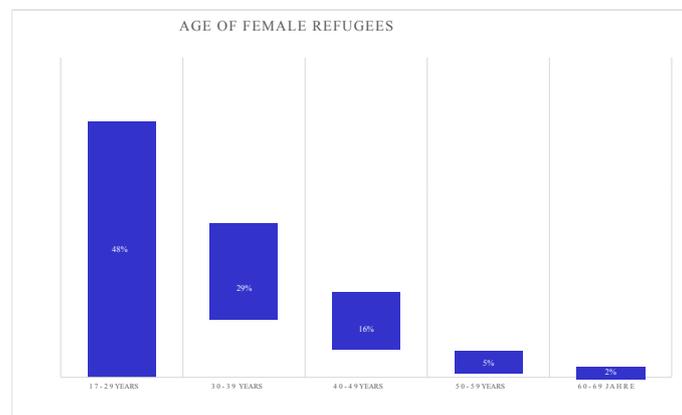
- Qualitative data:

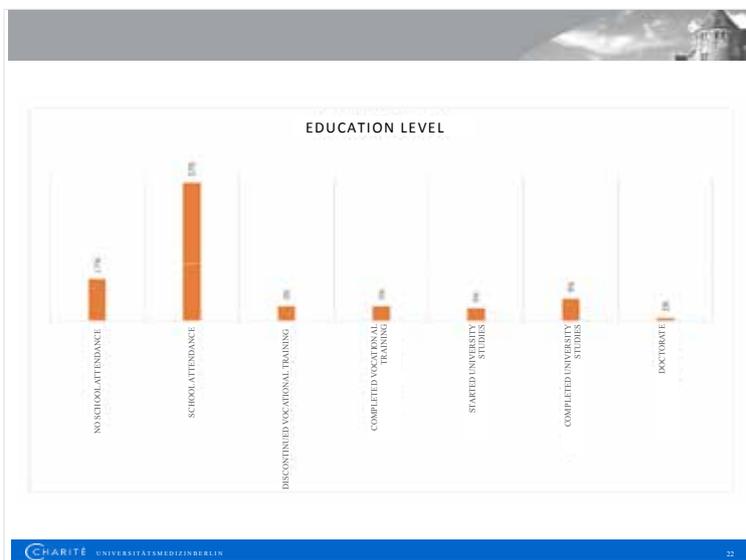
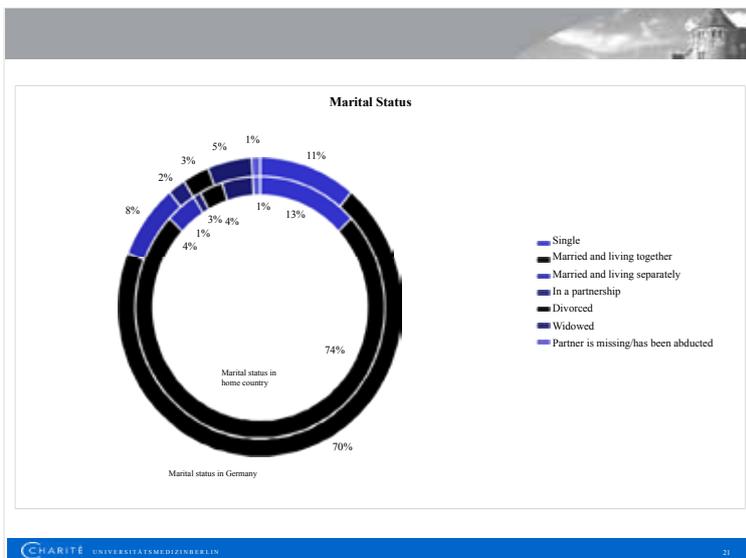
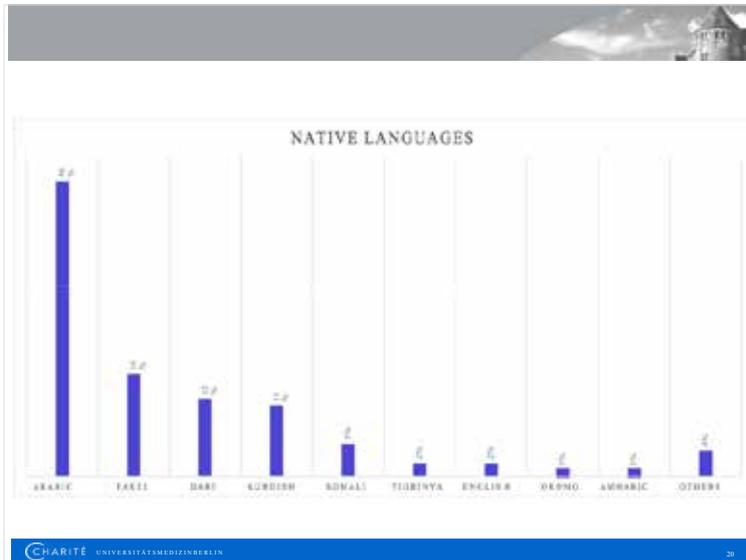
- Experiences of discrimination
- Medical and psychological support in Germany
- Wishes and goals for the next 5 years
- Presently burdening and supporting factors, needs and expectations towards the health care sector

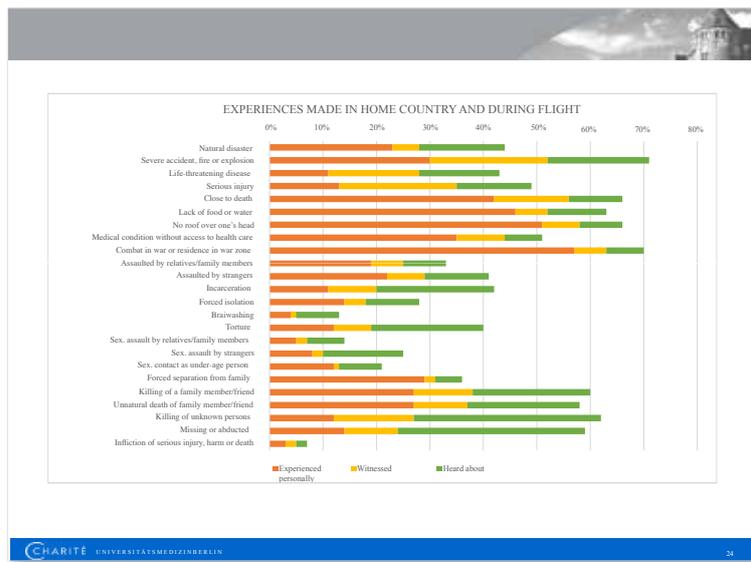
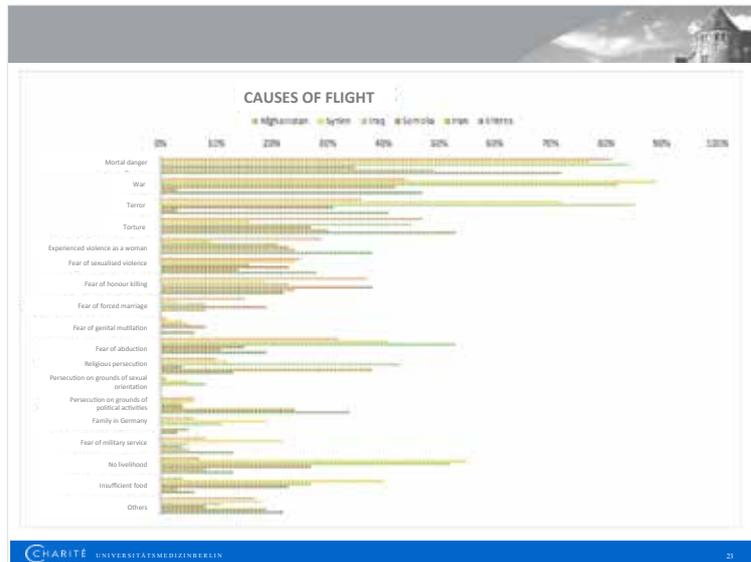
Difficulties

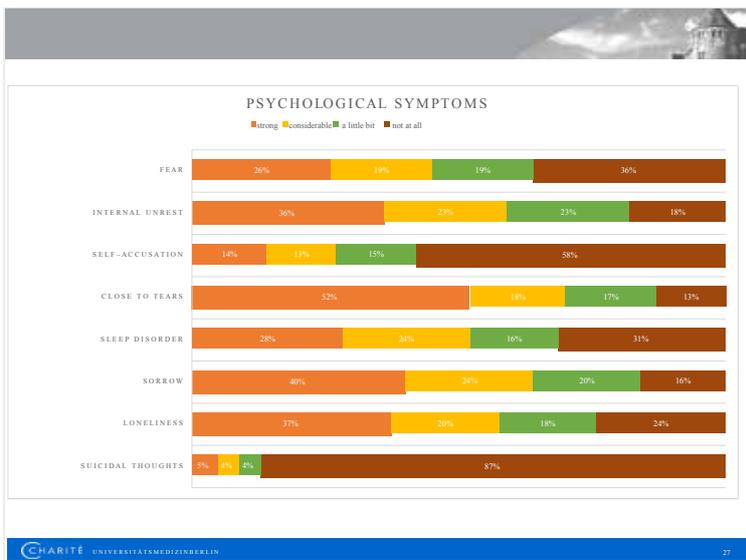
- Delays in bureaucratic processes
- Accommodation and allocation of refugees varies across different regions
- Small number of female research and student assistants with the required language skills (especially for Somali and Tigrinya, at all locations) and state-certified interpreters
- psychologically burdened women, sometimes suspicious
- Lack of willingness to cooperate on the side of institutions
- Overloaded shelters
- Vote by the ethics commission: 24 hours between first contact and interview

Results









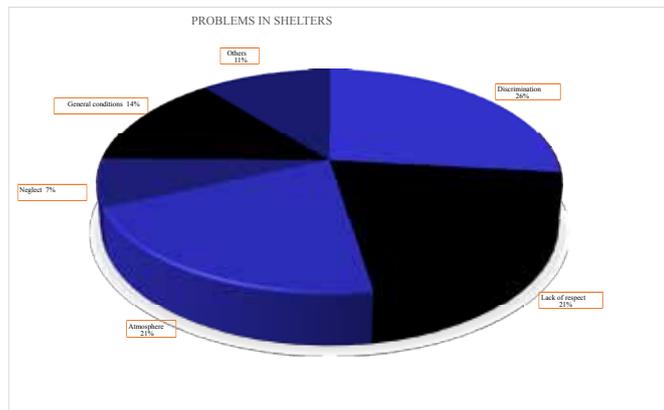
Focus groups

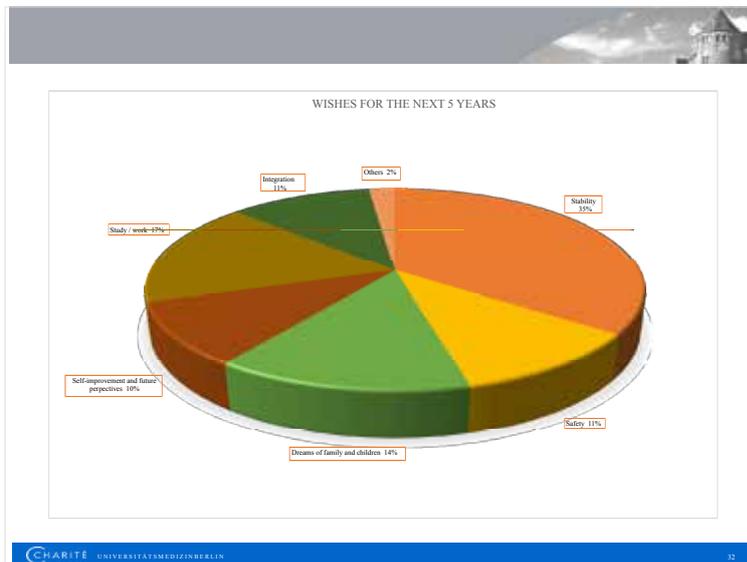
- Women from Somalia and Eritrea afflicted by severely traumatising experiences
- state that their access to the health care system is impeded by language barriers
- medical detection and treatment of defects and complications arising from genital mutilation (severe pain during sexual intercourse, menstrual pain, complications during childbirth) is often inadequate
- intolerable conditions that should be brought to an end

Focus groups

- Great demand for psychological assistance to women suffering from severe psychological stress
- Supporting “their souls”, in the sense of fostering spiritual health
- Request that women in need of help should receive help right upon arrival
- Linguistic problems as a cause for poor gender-specific treatment possibilities (topics accompanied by feelings of shame and little self-confidence)
- In individual cases, problems of understanding led to false and life-endangering diagnoses on the side of German doctors

PROBLEMS IN SHELTERS





- ### Summary of recommendations
- 1. Solutions to linguistic understanding** (medical, psychosocial and legal questions)
 - 2. Right to comprehensive health care** (standard psychosocial, psychotherapeutic and psychiatric support for refugees)
 - 3. Recognition of particular needs for protection** (through trained staff, interpreters and appropriate funding; culturally sensitive concepts for protection against violence; separate accommodation; initiatives and projects on women-specific issues such as genital mutilation and domestic violence)
 - 4. Family reunion** (because the separation of family members, especially when it comes to children and the care of them, creates severe psychological stress)
 - 5. Integration into the job market** (job coaching or mentoring; literacy courses)
 - 6. Independent ombudsperson and complaints offices** (that female refugees can turn to without fear and worry in cases of assault, discrimination, but also when they have been improperly treated)
- CHARITÉ UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZINBERLIN 33

- ### Summary of recommendations
- 7. Literacy courses**
German courses, together with organised childcare, and information on how to access such courses. In addition to expanding the existing course offers through digital learning media (apps, online courses)
 - 8. Culturally sensitive concepts for the protection against violence**
in accommodations, along with counselling services for women and men
 - 9. Separate accommodation**
for women travelling alone, increases in regional and municipal housing development, easier access to social housing vouchers and to assistance programs for the homeless, especially for female refugees in particular need of protection. There is also a need for appropriately protected spaces of retreat, especially for women and children, and for separate sanitary facilities for men and women.
- CHARITÉ UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZINBERLIN 34

Special thanks

to

- all the women who took part in the study
- all team members
- all study partners
- all shelters
- all interpreters
- everyone else who supported us
- all of you for showing interest

Supported by



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Migration, Flüchtlinge und
Integration

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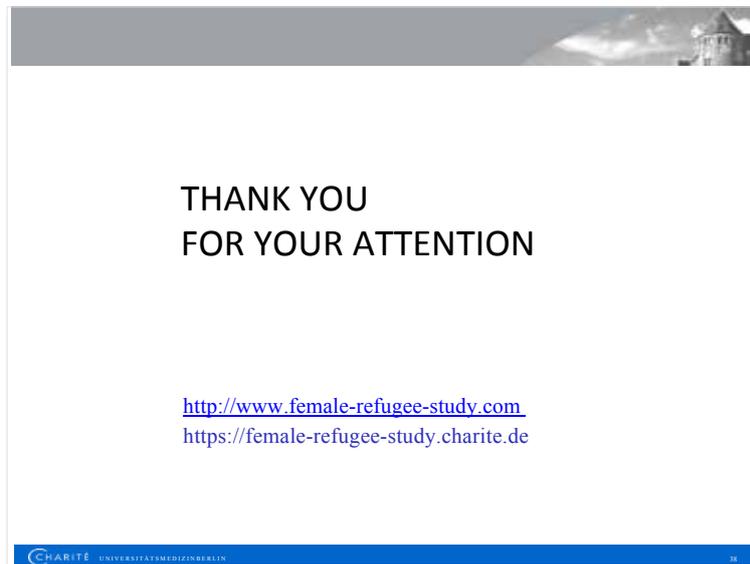
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Rostock:

Prof. Dr. med. Attila Altiner
Dr. phil. Anja Wollny, M.Sc.
Antje Krüger, M.A.

Safa Himida
Reem Alabdallah
Rawia Al-Obadi
Rueida Ali Qasem Ghalab
Maryam Fathollah Gol
Ahd Ali Ali Al-Dhabi

Wir sind's! 
Die Erwachsenenprojekte für hoch qualifizierte



Key points of the discussion:

- The course of action recommended in the study could and should form the basis for advocacy work of states/ municipalities etc.
- Women without residential perspective, that is, women from so-called safe countries of origin, have not been interviewed. This was due to practical reasons (the interview phase spanned several months).

Further reading:

Final Report - Study on Female Refugees:

https://female-refugee-study.charite.de/fileadmin/user_upload/microsites/sonstige/mentoring/Abschlussbericht_Final_-1.pdf

Presentation: Supporting Refugees: Between Civilising Mission and Support on Equal Terms?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Nivedita PRASAD

Prof. Dr. Nivedita PRASAD is a professor at the Alice Salomon University in Berlin, where she chairs the MA program "Social Work as a Human Rights Profession." She is involved in implementing an effective complaint management system and a concept for the protection against violence at a refugee accommodation centre in Berlin.



Supporting Refugees: Between Civilising Mission and Support on Equal Terms?

!!!trigger warning!!!

Prof. Dr. Nivedita Prasad



Alice Salomon

The Core of Colonialist Thinking

- Rejection of equal rights on the grounds that **the other is simply not as rational as we are, but rather backward, underdeveloped or uncivilised**. In other words: Colonialist thinking makes it possible to promote equal rights for everyone in a postcolonial era and at the same time to adduce good reasons why some people are more equal than others and why the latter should not be granted equal rights (Ziai 2016: 12).
- Focus: **feminist social work with female migrants and refugees in contexts of violence**



Andromeda 2

Jornades Radical-ment feministes, Barcelona, 3-5 June 2016



Andromeda 3

No random imagery

- Who is wearing pants/skirts?
- Who has breasts?
- Who has unshaved legs?
- Who is wearing long hair?
- Who has how many books?
- Who is holding on to them, who can put them aside?
- ...



Andromeda 4



5

Manufactured dichotomies (cf. for example, Mohanty, Volpp, Klappeer, etc.), **uninterrupted continuities**

White women

- Sexually liberated
- Rational
- Rather independent in financial terms and educated
- Enlightened and acting individually
- Capable of emancipation
- Victims of a patriarchal system, equipped with agency
- Givers of human rights
- ...



Women of Color

- Sexually repressed or promiscuous
- Emotional
- Poor and without formal education
- Religionised and **culturalised**
- Traditional, family-oriented
- **Victims** of "their" men, in need of external assistance
- Victims of human rights violations
- ...

Arundhati Roy 6

Manufactured dichotomies,
uninterrupted continuities

White Men

- boys are kids
- dangerous for *white* women
- familiar with emancipation
- familiar with partnershipbased sexuality
- better off financially than women
- independent and educated
- offenses: individual
- guardians of human rights



Men of Color

- boys = men
- dangerous for all women
- uncivilised
- repressed, domination-based sexuality
- poor and without formal education
- religionised and **culturalised**
- traditional
- offenses: as part of a group
- violators of human rights
- ...

Arundhati Roy 7

Key elements of a colonialist feminism

- The negation of one's own rootedness in cultural, religious traditions
- Sex/gender as a crucial category for legitimising “civilising missions”
- **Instrumentalising** the (supposed) violence of *other* communities for political purposes. Aided by feminist actors experiences from the social work practice:
 - Instilling a culture of fear
 - Wars!
 - Example Forced Marriage Legislative Amendment 2007
 - Tightening of asylum legislation in the wake of 2015 Cologne New Year's Eve



Key elements of a colonialist feminism: double standards

colonialist: from 1883 to 1907, Evelyn Baring, 1. Earl of Cromer, was consul-general in Egypt, where he advocated the liberation of women; in England, he was the president of the Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage (cf. Ahmed 1992, p. 150ff).

continuity: CSU, AfD, PI ...

- White men saving brown and black women from brown and black men (following Spivak)
- Mono-sectionale feminists provide supposed legitimations for this

Key elements of a colonialist feminism: the dangerous “other” male

- **colonialist:** sexualised violence by colonial rulers against black women/women of color is not addressed, socially acceptable and goes unpunished vs. the image of the “other” male who is especially prone to violence
 - **continuity:**
 - Focus on “violence against women” as intra-ethnic violence in communities that are constructed as Muslim
 - Violence against Thai and Eastern European women is neglected; especially when committed by men belonging to mainstream society
- The focus remains on migrant/black men as perpetrators



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Colonialist



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Continuity:

<http://frauenrechte.de/online/index.php/presse/pressefotos/662-protestaktiongegenhoehungehebestandszeit.html>



13

Anti-Muslim Racism and Gender

“The category of gender plays a central role in anti-Muslim racist discourses. Here the trope of the oppressed Muslim women goes hand in hand with the stereotype of the misogynist Muslim men. Anti-Muslim racism defines sexism as a **cultural essence** of Islam that people marked as Muslims cannot escape. Racist discourses **naturalise** cultural characteristics by ascribing them to all member of a culturally defined group, thus implicitly forging a collective attribute.” (Shooman 2010: 34).



Shooman 14

Culturalisation in anti-Muslim discourse

The attempt at defining a course of action in terms of a cultural character cannot be seen as impartial because:

- culture-specific considerations only occur in relation to the **deviant behaviour of a constructed Other**;
- ethnicised people are **denied any kind of individuality**;
- the culturalisation of conduct is something that only migrants experience, so it can be taken as **discriminatory** as such;
- the recognition of **aspects specific to migration and milieu** becomes more difficult.



Shooman 15

Culturalisation of violence against migrant women

- “Honour killing” instead of **lethal force** against women: disregards that such murders are often committed due to women’s intentions to break up
- Is the perception of lethal male violence against women dependent on the perpetrator’s ethnic background?
- Culturalisation masks **relations to enduring violence** by (ex-)partners/to the field of domestic violence and makes for a privatisation of the problem
- Ethno-sexism as a term for forms of sexism that rely on **sexualised racism**, that culturalise gender and that discriminate against ethnically marked people based on their supposedly problematic or ‘reactionary’ sexuality or sexual order (vgl. Dietze 2016:178).



Shooman 16

The Civilisation Craze

following the first night of New Year's Eve in Cologne



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The first night of New Year's Eve in Cologne and its Messages

- "Have we turned into a feminist nation over night?" (Christina Clemm and Sabine Hark, *Zeit* 18 January 2016)
- Women were believed in
- Sexualised violence against women was talked of
- Women were **publicly encouraged** to issue statements
- Women were promised that they will be taken seriously
- The investigation of the suspected men was pursued emphatically
 - as long as the perpetrators were "the *Others*"!!!



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The consequences of New Year's Eve in Cologne and its Messages

- Changes to the penal code became possible
 - The threat posed by the other men is so great that it makes legal changes necessary
- The deportation of convicted sex offenders becomes easier
 - Asylum legislation as an instrument against sexualised violence!
- Representing men as savages that need to be civilised
 - An old image that can be quickly reproduced!



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Politics of Ascription and Civilising Missions

- **Women's rights as a currency** in order to civilise "the Others"
- Constructing the "savage Other"
- Constructing helpful "white" men and women
- Valorising the "we-group"
- Invented Traditions (Haritaworn 2015):
 - FRG
 - as a safe place for women
 - where rape is punished
 - where native men are not violent
 - ...

Terres des Femmes: Equal Rights for Men and Women, Flyer



Terres des Femmes: Equal Rights for Men and Women, Flyer



Politics of Ascription and Civilising Missions



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Politics of Ascription and Civilising Missions



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Politics of Ascription and Civilising Missions



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Practical consequences: on (professional) helpers

- (unconscious) continuation of **civilising missions**
- **Paternalism** (unconscious) as an attitude:
 - Infantilising “the Others”
- Reducing women to the **role of victims**
- Ignoring the strengths/resources of “the Others”
- **Racialised demonisation** of offenders
- **Culturalisations**
- Reinforcing the feeling of “superiority toward the Others”



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Practical consequences: on female refugees seeking support

- Furthering **loyalty** towards offenders; flight/migration/ fear of racism as a uniting experience
- Few possibilities of opening up to others (to members of mainstream society)
- **Culturalisation** as strategy
- Concern that one’s story reinforces colonialist continuities
- **Renunciation of one’s original community**: Overadaptation to **white** norms
- **Willingness to report issues** decreases; worries about:
 - fomenting racist prejudices
 - unfair legal proceedings and/or
 - double punishment for the offender



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Practical consequences: on male refugee receiving counselling

- Overadaptation to **white** norms
- Compensation through other resources (e.g. education)
- Internalisation and realisation of such images, Stüve (cf. 2015):
 - Masculinities are contingent upon **milieu, family, cultural origin stories shaped by migration, experiences of racism**
 - It appears that middle-class boys are habitually more capable of developing **socially acceptable forms of masculinity**



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Practical consequences: on male refugee receiving counselling

- Internalisation and realisation of such images, Stüve (cf. 2015):
 - socially and racially marginalised boys “often revert to hypermasculine performances that exaggerate stereotypically male, and often violent, behaviour. In this way they can at least temporarily achieve some of the promises associated with hegemonic masculinity.” Such a protest masculinity (Connell 1999, 132ff.) allows them to subjectively counteract social contempt and institutional racism.



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Societal consequences of such ascriptions

- Consolidation of colonial-racist imagery
- Non-stereotypical biographies remain invisible; lacking role models
- An attitude in terms of ‘West is best’ provokes defensive reactions on the part of criticised communities and fosters ‘cultural nationalism’ (cf. Volpp)
- Dividing lines within feminist and critical male movements
- Issues of violence within the dominant society remain invisible, just as different topics within the group of “Others”
- The agency of women of color within patriarchal frameworks remains unrecognised



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Challenges for professional helpers: Equal terms?

- Plausible assurance that individual cases:
 - will be considered as individual cases
 - will not be used to improperly legitimise demands against the community
- Maintaining and presenting an intersectional stance (at least in terms of race, class and gender)
- Recognising the danger of culturalisation
- On what is the perceived distance based?
- On what is the image of “the migrant woman” based?
- Questioning one’s trust in media representations!
- Active unlearning: Willingness to question images



Handwritten signature and page number 31

Challenges for professional helpers: Equal terms?

- Explanations that go beyond the obvious, e.g.:
Statistically higher rate of vulnerability and overproportional presence of female migrants in women's shelters
 - See also Gaitinides
- Willingness to question stereotypes
 - See e.g.: film: "Vaterliebe Muslim Style – Eine neue Generation jenseits von Stereotype"
 - Project: paternal leave during Ramadan
- Relating incidences of violence to
 - class
 - resources (social, financial, educational, linguistic etc.)
 - experiences of discrimination
 - Living conditions (in shelters!!)
 - Number of children...



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Specific pitfalls in social work

- Social work only deals with those who want/have to solve problems
- Danger of paternalism
- Danger of normalisation
- Seductions of successful lobbying
- Funders want to hear particular stories, have them confirmed
- Only certain issues will be funded...
- There is a demand for notions of masculinity and pedagogues that are intersectional and critical



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Thank you for your attention!

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Presentation: Empowering Newly Arrived Women

Speaker: Fatuma Musa AFRAH

Notes: Sinje Vogel, AWO Bundesverband, **Abstract:** Tatjana Leinweber

Fatuma Musa AFRAH (Fadhumo) arrived in Germany three years ago. When she was around 3-4 years old, she migrated from Somalia to Kenya and later from Kenya to Germany. She holds a bachelor's degree in developmental studies, a diploma in community development and counselling as well as a diploma in project management, report writing and gender studies. She is currently doing freelance work as a speaker (on empowerment) and counsellor (dealing with issues such as migration, human rights, integration, diversity, gender, child protection and education). She is also a political activist.



How to empower women? And what does empowerment mean?

Fatuma Musa Afrah is working to change the perspectives on newcomers and for them to be acknowledged not only as refugees.

Empowerment and inclusion are a two-way street. It's a contradiction to expect empowered and included newcomers without doing something for it as a society. Empowerment without the community, without inclusion isn't working! Newcomers can't achieve inclusion alone.

Empowerment means confidence and the courage to stand up for oneself. But it's difficult, when you grow up in a culture that restrict women's rights. In lots of contexts women have not had the chance to express themselves. So they need support and guidance. We (social workers) are the experts to provide guidance/support on questions like: how can I be part of the new community/society?

Empowerment is a journey with several levels. It's incredibly important to ask the women what their needs are. Women should take actions and act by themselves; they should not get something imposed on themselves that they don't need or want.

Newcomer women can be multipliers for sustainability, they can be involved, get training. The women can pass on their learned role to the community.

Help us to help ourselves.

Another important aspect for empowerment is language. Language and information are power.

Discussion:

- It's not about solving all the problems. Ask women what they need, and try to network. Lower the expectations. Be clear what their and what your expectations are.
- In order to solve problems related to translation and to special languages, multipliers are important.
- It is important to have the chance to work. No job, no empowerment!

Presentation: Safe Danger – Dangerous Safety? On the Situation of Female Refugees Living Under Precarious Conditions

Referentin: Beshid Najafi

Notes: Sinje Vogel, AWO Bundesverband, Abstract: Tatjana Leinweber

Behshid NAJAFI was born in Iran in 1956 and studied political science and pedagogy. She has been advocating democracy and justice in Iran. Due to her political involvement, she was forced to leave Iran in 1986. Since then she has been living in Germany, where she works on anti-discrimination and supports the human rights of female migrants and refugees. Since 1993, she has been working for agisra e.V., Center for Female Migrants and Refugees in Cologne. She is a board member of the European network PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants). As a coordinator, she helped establishing the umbrella association of female migrant organisation (DaMigra) in Germany in 2013.



agisra is a Cologne-based counselling centre whose team members speak more than 15 languages.

The focus of the counselling centre's work is threefold:

- Counselling, support and assistance for migrants, regardless of their religion, country of origin, residential status etc.
- Information services, educational work, and lobbying
- Strengthening and supporting the self-organisation of migrants. *ärkung und Unterstützung von Selbstorganisation von Migrantinnen.* It is also in this context that agisra co-founded the umbrella association of female migrant organisation DaMigra (<http://www.damigra.de/>).

Reasons for flight and migration:

5 % of refugees worldwide reach Europe. Women-specific human rights violations are one of the reasons for fleeing: This includes, among other things, sexualised violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking in women.

It is vital that women from non-democratic societies have the possibility to continue their fight for their rights in Germany.

Women in Germany had to fight for their rights as well. Examples would be the fights against anti-abortion legislation, domestic violence and sexual harassment. It was through such fights that changes were realised.

What do women in precarious situations need? What exactly are their needs?

Central needs:

- **Right of residence/legal certainty:** all further steps are thwarted by uncertainty. This fact overrides all other areas of action. It is important and helpful to have legal assistance, even or especially for women from secure countries of origin (in order to assert women-specific factors, to organise family reunification etc.). Picum.org is a platform that fights for the rights of undocumented women.
- **Democracy, welfare state principle, and rule of law** depend on each other and have a huge impact on social life. People without the right to vote or work are excluded from key areas of society.
- **Healthcare provision:** the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Law (AsylbLG) restricts healthcare provisions (no psychological care, no reimbursement of costs for contraceptives). That there is no reimbursement regulation for interpretation services means that, de facto, medical support cannot be provided due to language barriers.
- **Education/German classes:** language as a means to assert rights.
- **Right to work:** work as human right; work permit regulations should be abolished for it counteracts inclusion.
- **Right to counselling and protection:** requirements in cases of uncertain residential status impede access to women's shelters in other municipalities and create reimbursement problems.
- **Access to different services:** cultural and religious offers, opportunities to build networks, tandem programs.
- **Own living spaces**

Empowerment becomes possible when women are supported according to their needs. Such needs are individual but also structural.

The dependency on the welfare state principle has to end so that women can lead self-determined lives. Human rights are universal.

The Istanbul convention has to be legally implemented. Germany's reservations against the Istanbul convention should be publicly criticised.

Key points of the discussion:

- **Problem:** women's shelters in Cologne have only little capacities. The funding regulations concerning the accommodation of women with uncertain residential status are complicated. In individual cases, it was possible to accommodate women without residency permit by means of donations, but this involved a lot of effort.
- **Child care:** There are only a few integration courses that also offer child care. They have been increasingly phased out by the Federal Ministry for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which means that, de facto, many women are kept from taking part in the courses.
- **Undocumented women:** how to provide access to women's shelters?
- When a pregnant woman provides a medical certificate stating that she is unable to leave the country, the foreigners office has to suspend deportation. Every woman who has a child in Germany is allowed to stay here for 6 months, then the residence permit due to pregnancy/childbirth expires.



Workshops: Reflections on the Work with Refugees

WS: Reflecting and Evaluating Work Structures in the Refugee Support System

Jennifer KAMAU is co-founder of the International Women's Space that was established at the occupied Gerhart Hauptmann School in Berlin in December 2012. The organisation was part of the Oranienplatz refugee movement. In November 2015, International Women's Space published a book called "In Our Own Words," which portrays refugee women and their motives for migrating to Germany.



Topic: This workshop aims at addressing issues that women encounter in their everyday lives. It focuses on how they resist oppressive situations without having a support structure at their disposal and how they keep struggling for their existence. Such situations in which strong refugee women find themselves go unnoticed, so we decided to approach and tackle them ourselves.

Minutes: Melike Cinar (Paritätisches Bildungswerk Bundesverband e.V.)

Which questions were raised in the workshop?

- How to make women visible as political actors?
- How to break with speechlessness?
- How to fight racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination in shelters?
- How to create empathy? And how would the system still function that way?
- How to do something about systemic violence and unequal treatment?
- How to empower women? How could concrete measures look like?
- Is it possible to do more at the level of state associations?
- Is it better not to work within the support system, or can it change something?

Which lessons can be drawn?

- The intransparent asylum proceedings have to be made explicable.
- People have to know about their rights.
- Women need spaces to express themselves. They have to be heard.
- Mainstream society has to learn about colonialism.
- The living conditions in shelters lead to violence and conflicts.
- Refugees are systematically barred from exercising their rights. This has to be made visible.

- Women are survivors, not victims.
- The support system is dysfunctional.
- Empowerment is not a top-down approach.

What is the significance of the workshop regarding social work for and with refugees in the field of empowerment and protection against violence?

- Women need their own spaces and channels of representation.
- Take a stand. Do not keep silent.
- External structures are reproduced within shelters → be aware and reflect on this.
- Promote knowledge and empathy on the side of the police.
- Work towards political change.

WS: Empowering Newly Arrived Women. What works and what does not

Fatuma Musa AFRAH (Fadhumo) arrived in Germany three years ago. When she was around 3-4 years old, she migrated from Somalia to Kenya and later from Kenya to Germany. She holds a bachelor's degree in developmental studies, a diploma in community development and counselling as well as a diploma in project management, report writing and gender studies. She is currently doing freelance work as a speaker (on empowerment) and counsellor (dealing with issues such as migration, human rights, integration, diversity, gender, child protection and education). She is also a political activist.



Minutes: Sinje Vogel (Workers' Welfare Federal Association)

Topic: For various reasons, the empowerment of newly arrived women represents a great challenge in the field of migration and integration. The big question is how we can support newly arrived women and how we can help them to help themselves. I am a newly arrived woman myself, and I have experienced many difficulties in the course of my self-empowerment. Currently I work with newly arrived women in empowerment projects in Berlin and Brandenburg. I have many own experiences to share, but also those of other newly arrived women. Not long ago we published a book on „Newcomers Women Empowerment Safe Space“. Join the workshop, and let us learn from each other. In the workshop we will discuss in small groups and share experiences.

In the workshop “Empowering Newly Arrived Women. What works and what does not?”, the instructor Fatuma Musa Afrah suggested different questions which were then discussed by the participants in small groups. Afterwards the results developed by the small group were presented in a plenum. Fatuma then commented on the results and registered the key issues (see photos).

At the beginning of the workshop, Fatuma induced a change in perspective by replacing the term “refugees” with “newcomers”. This way she aimed at avoiding ascriptions that solely refer to the refugee status, instead focusing on the individual person.



The following question were discussed in the small groups and later on in the plenary session:

1. What does the concept “empowerment” mean to you?
2. What are the most important means to promote “empowerment”?
3. What do “safe spaces” for women involve, and why are they so crucial for newly arrived women?

Participating and strengthening one’s own resources:

- The social workers were considered as supporters who can help opening possibilities for newly arrived women. Each women thus requires a different kind of support so as to develop their skills and to express their needs. An integral part of empowerment work is the peer-to-peer approach that allows newly arrived women to build their own networks and to mobilise each other. Empowerment starts with the newcomers themselves.
“Help us to help ourselves!”
- Accordingly, social workers should register the women’s questions and not simply “impose things on them”. They are mediators between the women and should connect them to each other.
- The task of social workers is to distribute information. Information is power, and this is the idea that should be pursued first and foremost.
“Information is power. To know nothing enables violence.”
- One question that came up concerned how to reach women and how such work can be implemented practically. Information needs to be distributed in such a way that all women learn about them. This also involves taking women by the hand, taking time and talking to them over a cup of tea. It is only by building

For Fatuma, the following statement, which ran through the whole workshop, was central:

“ASK THEM! This is the most important aspect. Don’t see the woman in front of you just as a refugee; see her as a person with her needs and capacities. But most of the women have never learned to express their needs, so you can support them in doing that.”

trust and showing a genuine interest in the needs and skills of the women that we can support them. It has also been pointed out in this context that social workers cannot and do not have to solve each and every problem and that they can also put women into contact with other institutions.

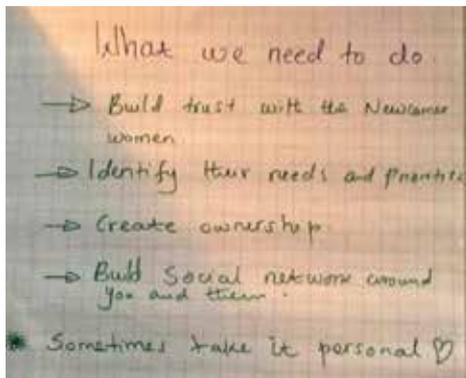
- Although learning German and gaining access to the job market are relevant factors when it comes to supporting women in realising a (mostly) autonomous life, it is also important not to lose sight of basic needs:
“Having fun is a basic need.”

While recounting her own experiences Fatuma emphasises the significance of a mutual exchange between newcomers and those women who have lived here for a longer time. Supporting each other and establishing contacts is vital for empowerment, for inclusion must be understood as a two-way road, as something that comes from both newcomers and the whole of society. Exchange keeps newly arrived women from living in isolated shelters and makes it possible to learn and understand how the foreign society works.

By way of conclusion the relevance of safe spaces for women was discussed. These represent the safety that women need in order to express themselves without constraint and to promote empowering work.

Fatuma described the issues under discussion as central to empowerment and summarised them as follows:

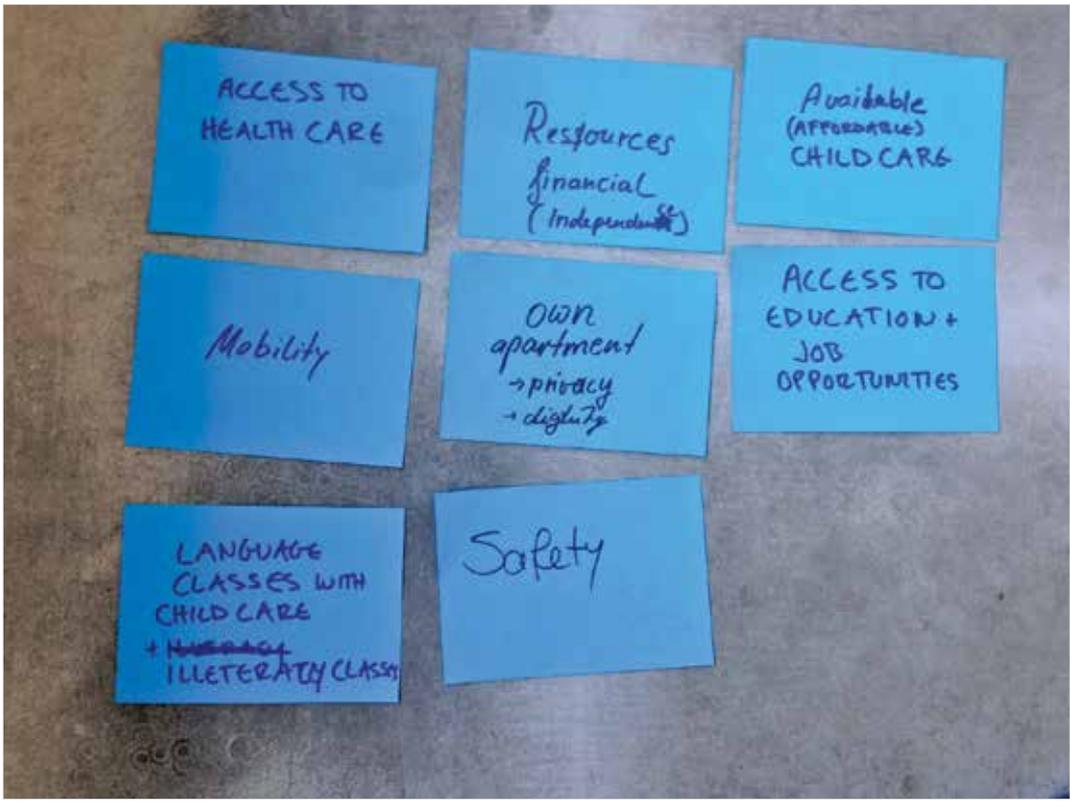
„Every day is women's day!“

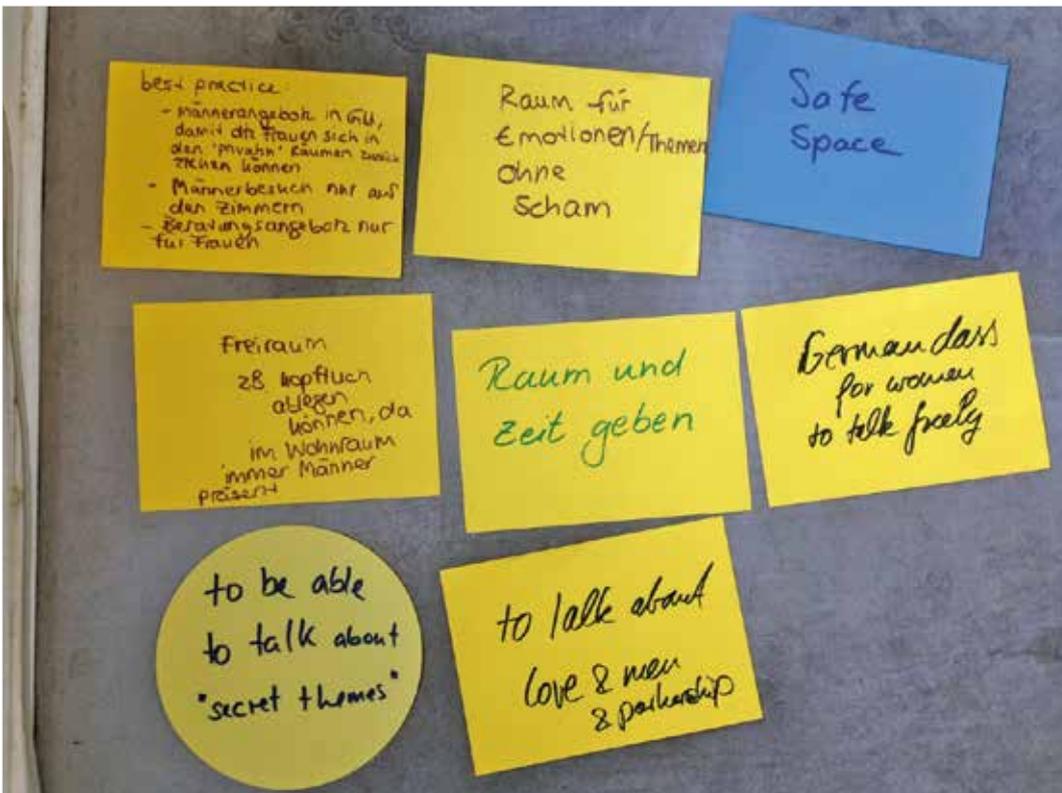
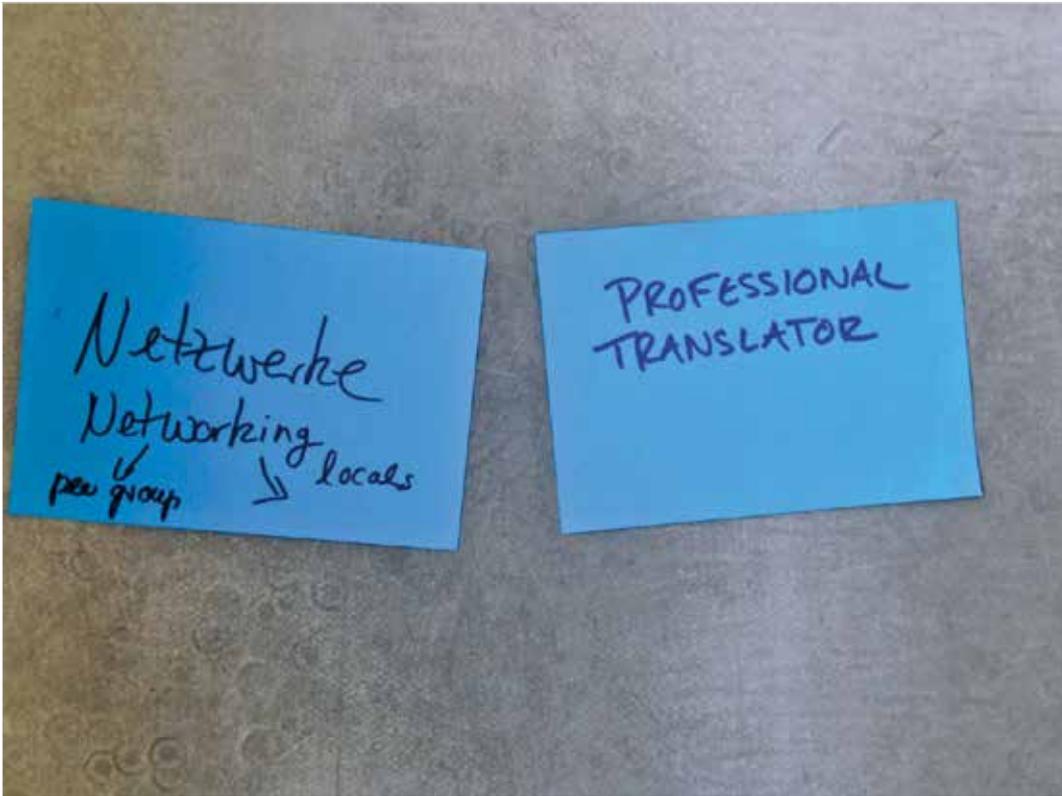


What we need to do

- Build trust with the Newcomer women
- Identify their needs and priorities
- Create ownership
- Build social network around you and them
- * Sometimes take it personal ♥







WS: Raising Awareness for Racism

Adam BAHAR migrated from Sudan to Germany in 2012 and, assuming an activist perspective, became involved in the refugee camp at Oranienplatz and other forms of refugee resistance. He has been working as an anti-racism and empowerment trainer at glocal e.V. for two years now. In 2016, he received additional training as an empowerment trainer and counsellor for asylum seekers.



Minutes: Jan Drunkenmölle (Federal Working Committee Asylum in the Church)

Topic: This workshop deals with the work of refugee supporters. It focuses on solidarity and antiracism, on how privileged people can work together with refugees, on what kinds of pitfalls are involved here and what needs to be paid attention to.

Participants: 15 persons from different cities and institutions such as Diakonie, refugee shelters, pregnancy counselling, Caritas, women's shelters, Foundation Magnus Hirschfeld, Alice-Salomon-University, Workers' Welfare Association, Unicef, Refugee Office

Which questions were raised in the workshop?

- How to deal with my own privileges when counselling?
- How can non-refugees face refugees on equal footing?
- Does racism against Germans, Christians and so on exist?

Which lessons can be drawn?

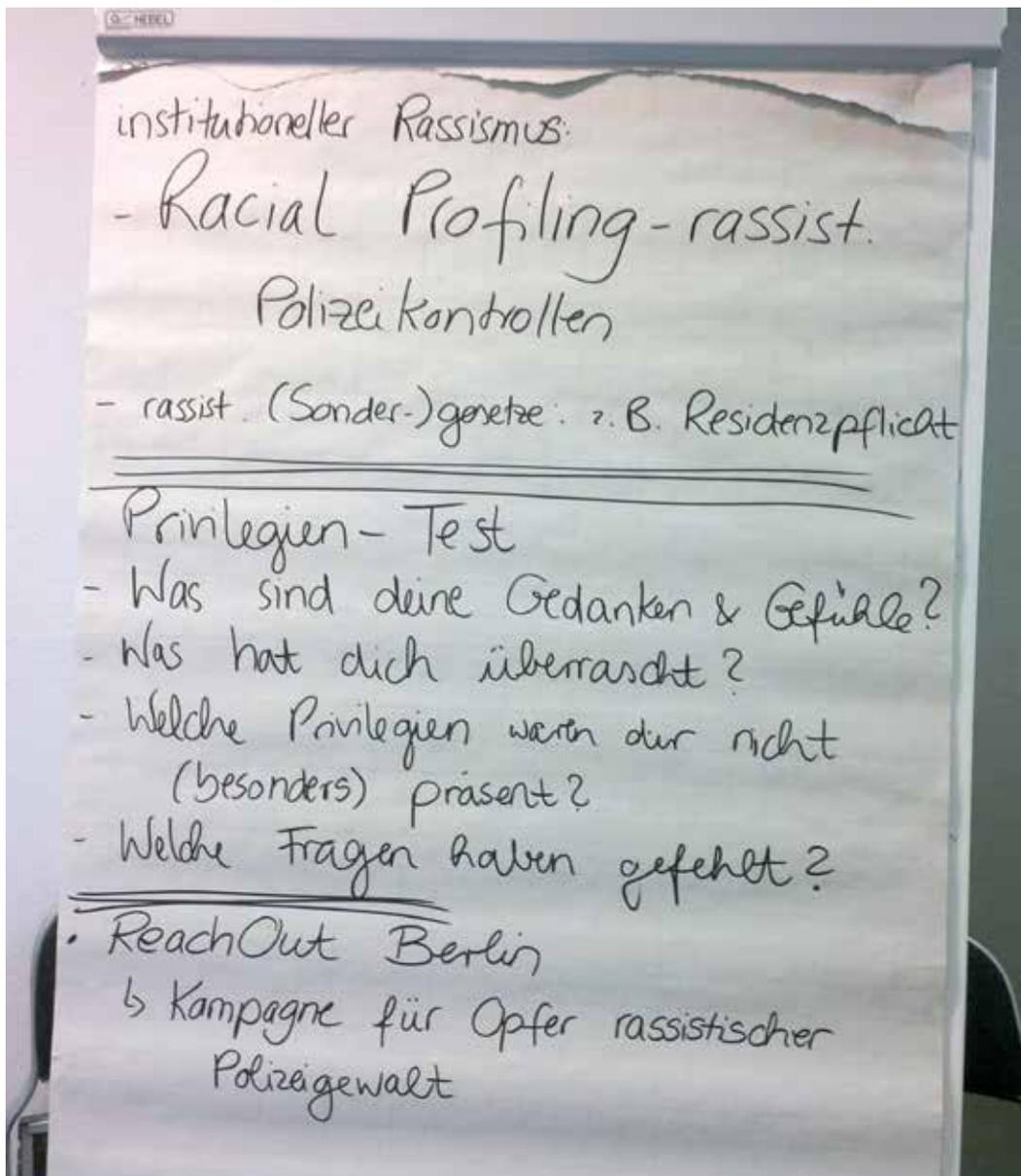
- In order to understand racism, its historical dimension has to be considered
- Contemporary forms of racism still carry colonial continuities in them
- Racism is not the same as right-wing extremism

- Distinguishing between different dimensions of racism: individual, ideological, institutionalised, internalised
- Racism is not irreversible, it is tied to societal power relations

What is the significance of the workshop regarding social work for and with refugees in the field of empowerment and protection against violence?

- It's important to regularly reflect on one's own positions as a counsellor/social worker
- Being conscious of prejudices and aware of different privileges in everyday life
- Being aware of injustices: fear, access to health care

- Understanding human rights also as the foundation of practical work
- Representational bias: knowing better who needs what
- Sharing power as counsellors: Accept decisions made by minoritised people, do not expect gratitude – counsellors often tend to enjoy the helplessness of counselled people (victimisation)
- After having attended the presentation by Prof. Dr. Nivedita Prasad, two participants spontaneously changed their minds about which workshop to choose and decided to take part in the workshop on “Raising Awareness for Racism” in order to reflect more intensively on their own racism.



WS: Self-Definitions, (Self-)Critique and Policy-Making in Social Work

Miriam BURZLAFF studied social work and is an educational counsellor in the project “ju:an – Project for Anti-Semitism- and Racism-Critical Youth Work” at the Amadeu Antonio Foundation. She is a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Her focus is on critical social work, the curricula and professional ethics of social work as well as policy practice. Miriam is active in the task force Critical Social Work and in queer-feminist political groups.

Naemi EIFLER is a legal officer and social worker who currently works for the Amadeu Antonio Foundation/the association “Lola for Democracy in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern” within the project “un_sichtbar – Lesbians, Gays and Transgender in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.” Naemi focuses on (re-)considering and dealing with ideologies of structural inequality and on engaging with processes related to the emergence of discriminatory practices and their effects. She is specifically concerned with LGBT*QI*-issues, the historicisation and problematisation of (post-) national socialist paradigms and the scandalisation of asylum politics and its consequences.

Minutes: Gloria Goldner (Association of Women’s Shelters)

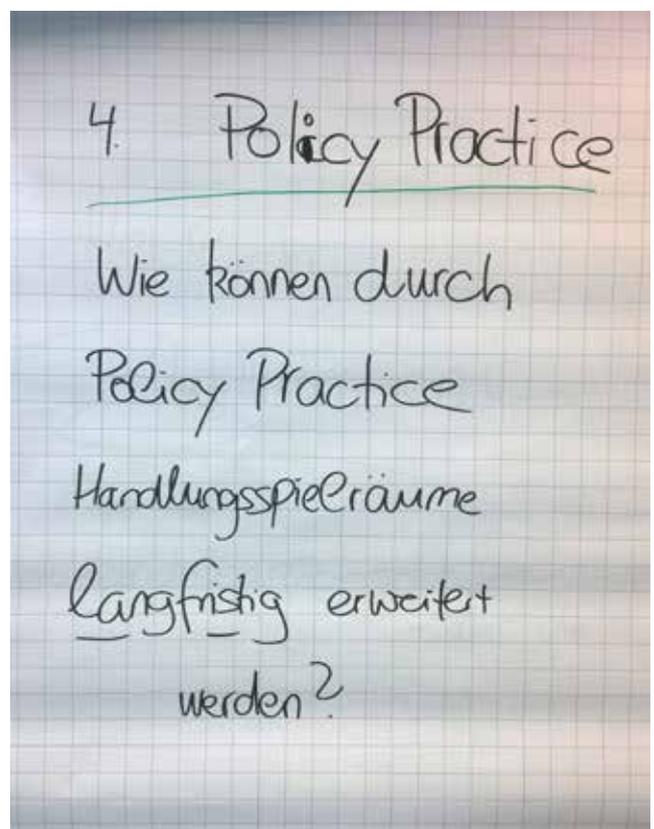
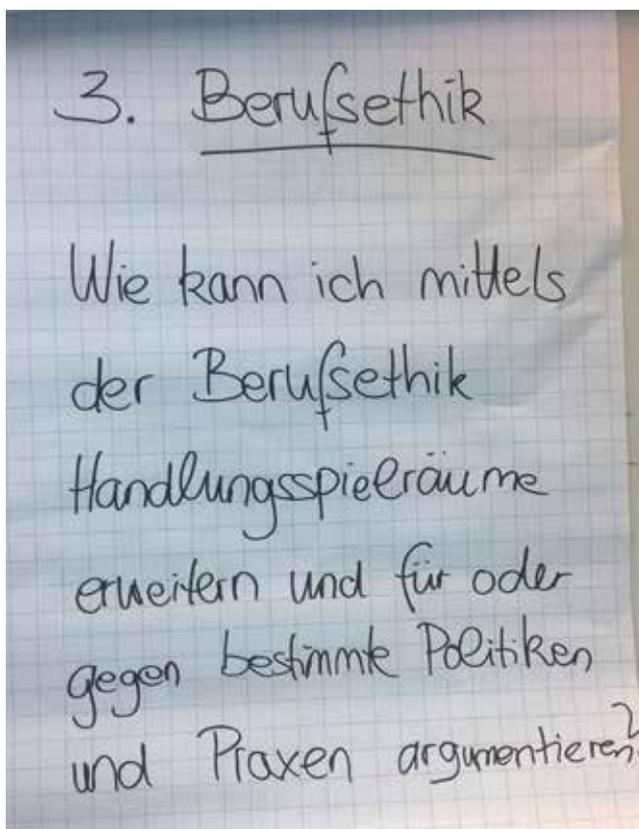


right to left: Naemi Eifler, Miriam Burzlaff, Gloria Goldner

Topic: Apart from a much-lauded 'welcome culture,' the German discourse on refugees and migration is shaped by racism, a drastic tightening of legal frameworks and the steady disenfranchisement of particular (groups of) people. In this regard, a certain silence on the side of social work is discernible; common positionings and outcries often fail to materialise. This begs the question of the self-definition of social work: Is this about adapting (oneself) to the status quo? Or is it also about critical interventions when it comes to injustice and oppression? Following an introductory input on this issue, we will discuss together where to locate avenues for resistant social work practices.

Which questions were raised in the workshop?

1. Which forms of critique and intervention do exist in the field of social work?
2. How to politicise social work?



Which lessons can be drawn from the workshop?

“Social justice is not something that can be simply harvested.”

(quote from the workshop)

1. Forms of critique and intervention in social work

Questions and utopias

One of the tools of criticism in the field of social work is to ask questions. Based on fundamental questions, self-criticism can be formulated, processes of reflection can be initiated and guiding utopias can be drafted, for example: In what kind of world do we want to live? On which ordering principles and norms does our society rely? Who is and who is not allowed to participate in decision-making processes? Which assumptions serve me and my own practice as a guideline?

Creating a platform that is independent from funding bodies and administrations

Social work interventions (organising expert conferences, issuing press releases, producing stickers - not only writing statements!) are often easier to plan and implement as a group. In order to be effective in different ways and on a wide scope, the platform is ideally connected at regional, national and international levels. One example would be the “Working Committees on Critical Social Work“, which have local groups in different cities and which can also be initiated independently.

2. Politicising social work

Aside from sustained networking efforts that take a broader view, the following aspects can be instrumental in politicising social work:

- Disseminating the ethical foundations of social work (see “Professional Ethics of the German Professional Association for Social Work, DBSH e.V.)
- Additional courses for students of social work (e.g. on learning how to initiate legal proceedings and on how to get involved in politics)
- Calling in the professional association (e.g. in cases of work overload or in order to draw attention to deficits)
- Organising unions and strikes
- Establishing an impartial complaints office and an ethics commission at the DBSH so as to counteract power imbalances in social work.

What is the significance of the workshop regarding social work for and with refugees in the field of empowerment and protection against violence?

This question was discussed to conclude the workshop, yielding the following insights:

Protection against violence begins with respect

First of all, one has to define which form of violence is at stake: If there is poor protection against violence in shelters due to an inadequate staffing ratio, we have to talk about state violence. In general, protection against violence only becomes an essential or aggravated problem when accommodations are located in mass shelters (no lockable showering rooms; no privacy; dependency on social workers).

Respectful interaction in everyday work is the basis for successful protection against violence. An exemplary question on which to reflect: With which kind of attitude should we face male refugees?

Making empowerment possible

A key prerequisite for supporting the empowerment of refugees is that social workers themselves claim their rights and start tackling grievances.

Possible concrete steps when it comes to supporting empowerment:

1. Finding out about the needs, demands and desires of refugees.
2. Providing structures and resources (e.g. rooms, funding, help with networking) in order to realise the ideas and demands made by refugees regarding their empowerment.

Further reading:

Article „German asylum policy, refugee protests, and the silence of social work“ (German version):
http://www.gemeindepsychologie.de/fg-1-2015_05.html

WS: Intersectionality and Privileges in Working with Refugees

Lahya (Stefanie-Lahya AUKONGO) is a freelance artist, writer, poet, curator, multiplicator, photographer, activist, workshop teamer and singer. Too much for a single person? The answer is clear: No! Lahya's life is all about placing molecules of reality next to each other, both affectionately and critically. She lives for letters and, in doing so, deals with topics such decolonisation, dream/trauma, self-love, intersectionality, healing, privileges, identities and warm strawberry ice-cream.

Yemisi BABATOLA received an MA in cultural studies in 2012, having focused on critical whiteness. Since 2013/2014, Yemisi writes on and pursues teamwork in anti-racist education, drawing, among other things, on anti-bias methodology. Since 2015, the focus is on strategies for empowering black/queer people as well as multiple exclusion and intersectionality. Since 2016, Yemisi works on community building and empowering black adolescents in the project Building Time at EOTO e.V.



Minutes: Katharina Goepner (bff: Women Against Violence)

Topic: After a brief introduction to intersectionality, we will jointly make palpable particular hierarchies of power and discuss their links to work with so-called refugees. By means of a self-discovery strategy, we seek to question and reflect our own social positionings so that we can accomplish genuine alliances..

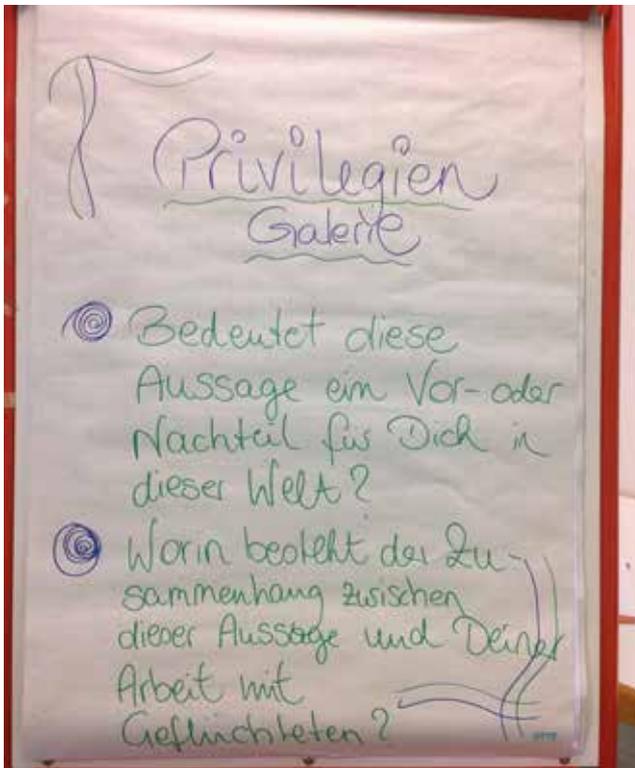
Which questions were raised in the workshop?

The workshop dealt a lot with one's own privileges and their intersections. What kind of privileges do I have, and how do they manifest themselves? And what does this do to me? In doing so, feelings such as shame were repeatedly expressed, along with the question on what the process of reflecting on privileges implies regarding the work with and the support of refugees.

What kinds of effects do privileges and lacking privileges have?

What does this mean for solidarity? And what does taking responsibility mean from a privileged position?

The workshop also raised the question of how the interplay of different forms of discrimination becomes visible in daily work routines and where this plays a role.



Which lessons can be drawn from the workshop?

Taking responsibility, that is, being sensitive and opening one's eyes to forms of exclusion and discrimination and their interplay. It also means taking account of the particularly uncertain and underprivileged situation of refugees, especially women. Intersectionality can be a useful concept in this context, but also when looking at personal experiences.

It also means initiating small changes, e.g. by considering one's own privileges and how they can be reduced in both personal and professional everyday life.

At the same time, it is important to keep in mind the working conditions in social work and to commit oneself to their improvement: More staff, more time and resources to focus on individual situations and characteristics of people, but also, for example, to promote structural improvements (different housing conditions etc.).

What is the significance of the workshop regarding social work for and with refugees in the field of empowerment and protection against violence?

Intersectionality provides a very good foundation for conceptualising forms of discrimination as linked together and for discerning which forms of exclusion take effect in which kinds of situations and what we as social workers can do to reduce them.

For this purpose, it is crucial to reflect on one's own position and, at the same time, to act on this basis. Intersectionality is not only an analytical perspective but also a practical tool for the individual support of refugees.

In the workshop, we also briefly came back to terminologies and the risk of subsuming so-called refugees as a homogeneous group, which does not reflect reality and involves the danger of losing sight of individuals.

In the field of social work, this also implies a commitment to opening up predominantly white structures. In doing so, dealing with one's own privileges is essential so that we do not lose sight of forms of inequality and discrimination.

The workshop also addressed that, in the specific work with refugees, there is often not enough time to provide adequate assistance and to develop a 'holistic' perspective. LGBTI refugees, for example, are often affected by different forms of discrimination – a fact that should always be taken into consideration in the case of specialised offers.

Further reading:

Guest speech by educational researcher Paul Mecheril at the town hall of Bremen (in German):
https://www.weser-kurier.de/bremen/bremen-wirtschaft_artikel,-Die-Gastrede-von-Paul-Mecheril-arid,1291009.html

Workgroups and Project Presentations



Mobile Support and the Question of How to Reach a Target Group

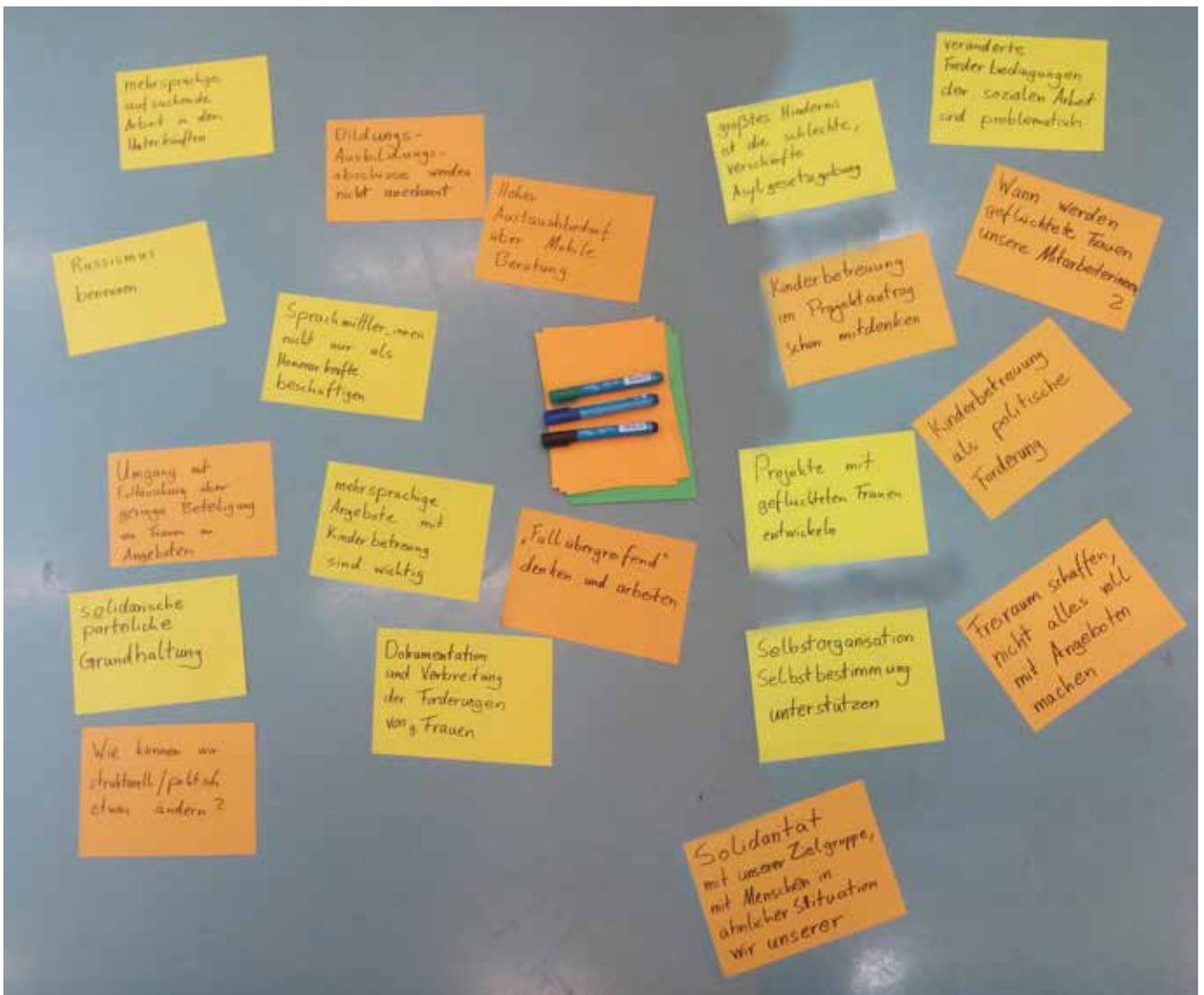
Title of the project presentation: Social Work: From Individual Supporter to Political Actor.

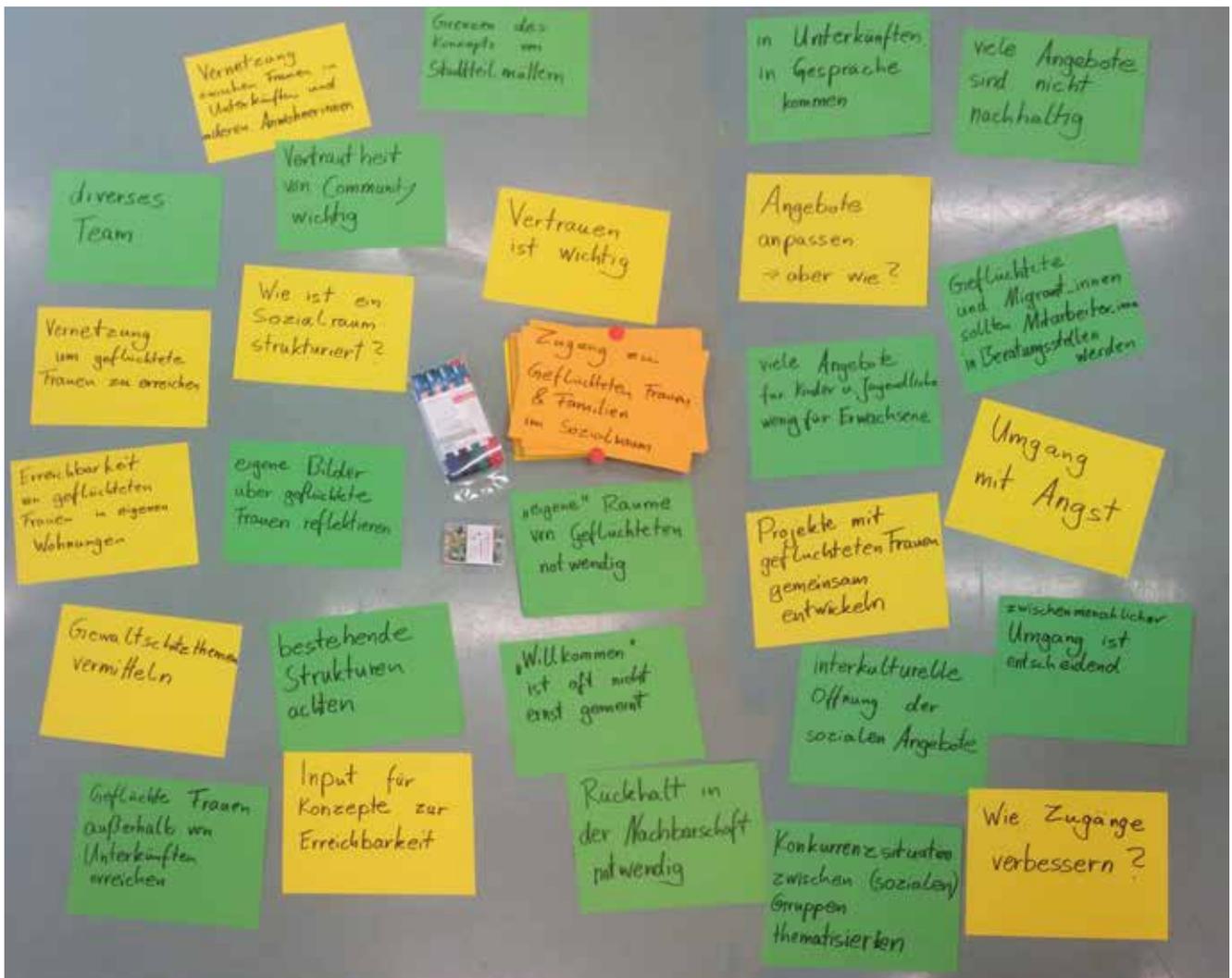
Project members: Serap ASAL and Golcan ÇALIŞKAN are project assistants at the Migrant Centre Gülistan – Women Learning Together Bonn

Description of the project presentation:

Project Participation. Through our low-threshold offers (outreach work, mobile counselling, weekly cafés, family meetings, information events, excursions), we aim at contributing to a change in perspective that embraces and fosters the strengths, capabilities and experiences gained by refugees and that highlights the obstacles they encounter. We support refugees in becoming aware of their competences and resources, voicing their opinions and critique, organising themselves and claiming their rights. Social work with refugees is always political work, because the precarious living conditions of refugees and the scope of action available to social workers are determined by politics.

(Project funder: Women Learning Together Bonn, The Paritätische)





Psychological Support Programs for Women and the Transition from Reception Centre to Other Forms of Residence

Title of the project presentation: Arriving in Germany – Possibilities and Obstacles for Women and Traumatized Refugees in a Reception Centre.

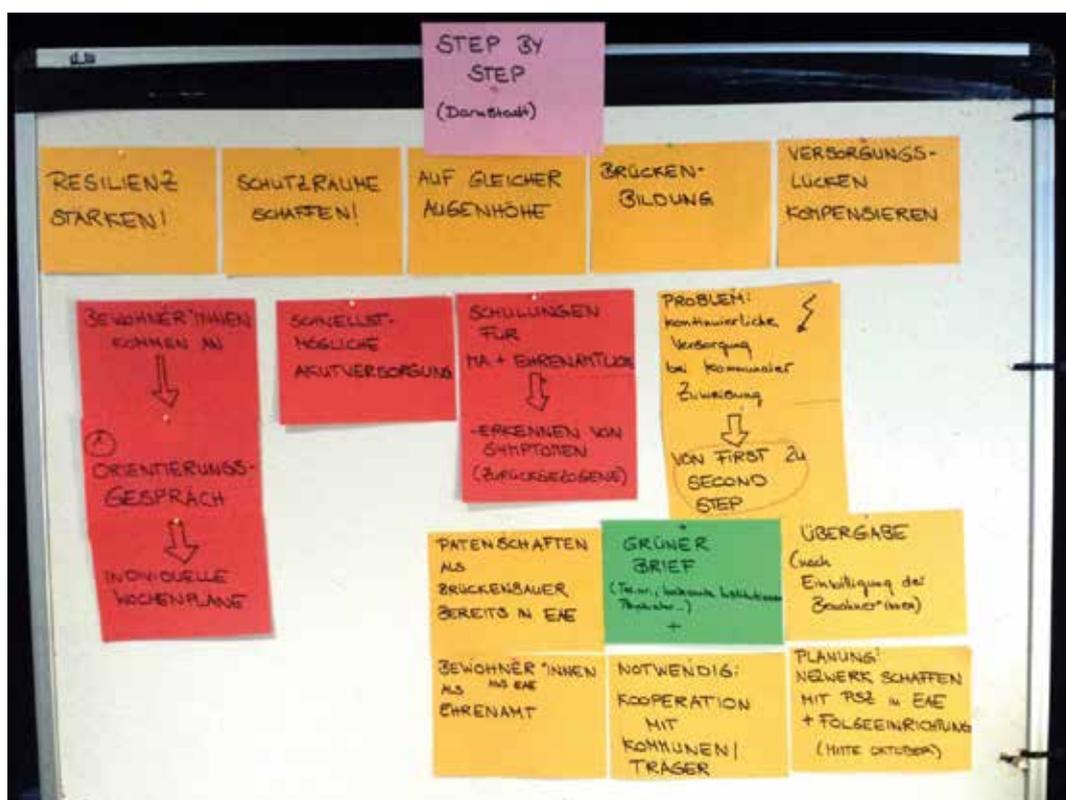
Project members: Mariam TAHIRI, is a political scientist and project coordinator (for particularly vulnerable groups of people) at a reception centre for refugees in Darmstadt/Hessia.

Description of the project presentation:

The project aims at ensuring a system of integrated support for refugees – based on their resources and skills.

The project basically takes an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on the individual. It seeks to develop strategies of empowerment, to accomplish regional networking and to prepare the transition from reception centre to community.

(Project funder: Red Cross Germany, district association of Darmstadt)



Working with and for LGBTIQ* Refugees

Title of the project presentation: Project with LGBTIQ* Refugees

Project members:

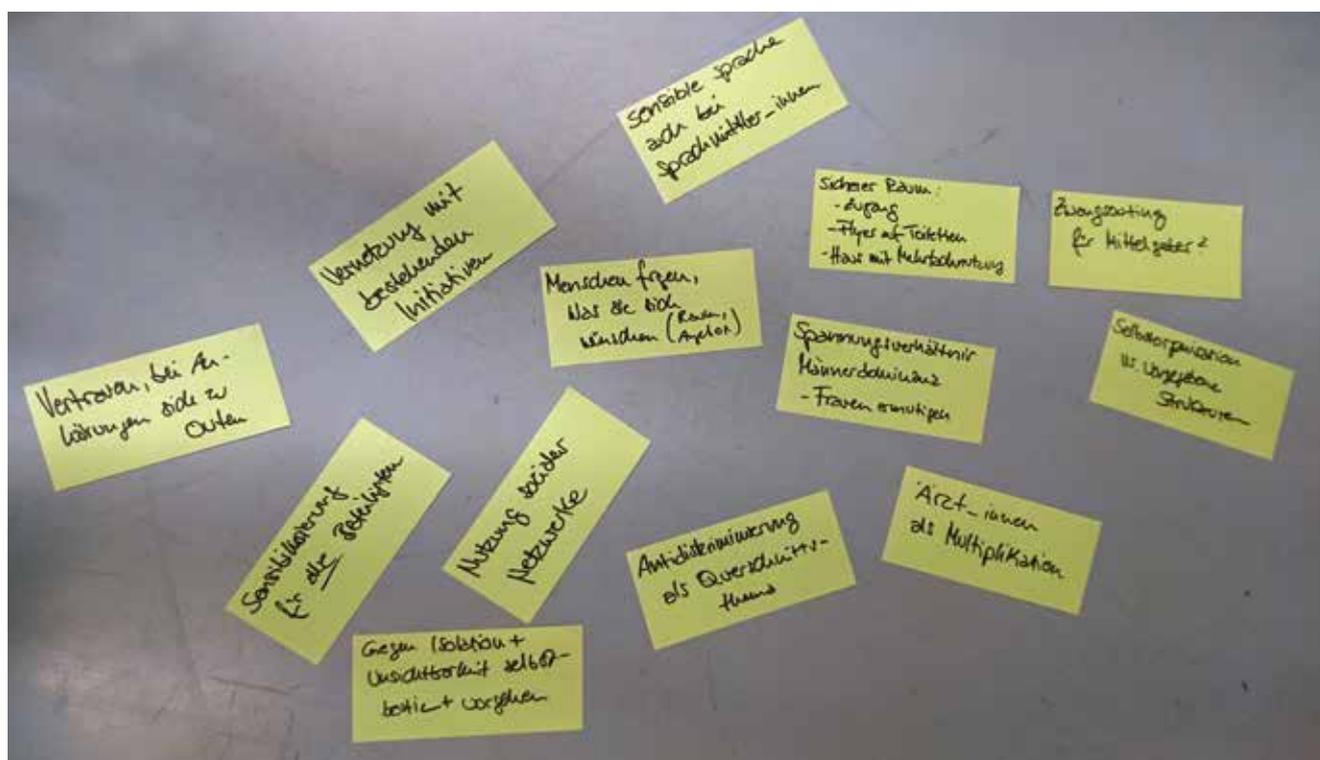
Maya HASAN – 33 years old, lives in Essen and works as linguistic and cultural mediator at the Lore-Agnes-Haus. After migrating from Syria to Germany in 2013, she started undergoing a process of gender reassignment.

Freddie* HEITHOFF – 27 years old, lives in Cologne and currently works as a counsellor for LGBTIQ*-refugees at the Lore-Agnes-Haus in Essen and works part-time at the Rainbow Refugees Cologne. Freddie* Heithoff holds a BA in African and French studies and, in the winter semester, will start pursuing an MA in queer and gender studies in Cologne.

Description of the project presentation:

Project with LGBTIQ* refugees – Scope of tasks: Counselling for LGBTIQ* refugees; training for staff employed at administrations, accommodations and initiatives; additional training for staff employed at AWO regional association, focusing on the life worlds of LGBTIQ* refugees; establishing and organizing an open meeting place for LGBTIQ* refugees. The first and last aspects will take centre stage in the presentation.

(Project funder: Workers' Welfare Federal Association (AWO), district association Lower Rhine).



• Gewaltschutzkonzept für
LSBTI* - Geflüchtete des
ASB

• GLADT e.V.

• Les Migras ♀

• Miles (LSVD)

• triq e.V.

• Queer Leben

! • TG EU

• Handreichungen von
Schwulenberatung, AWO BL,

ASB U.ä.

Outreach Work in Refugee Camps: Discussion Groups for Men and Women

Title of the project presentation:

Trauma and Group Therapy

Project members:

Natheem GANAYEM is a social worker and an MA student. He also holds a BA in psychology and works as a therapist with people who have experienced sexualised violence..

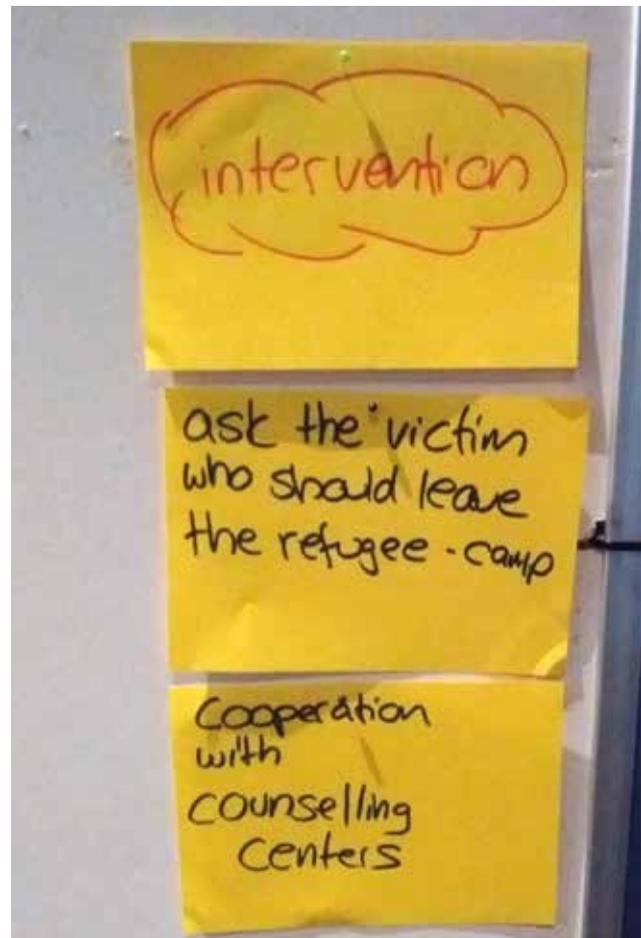
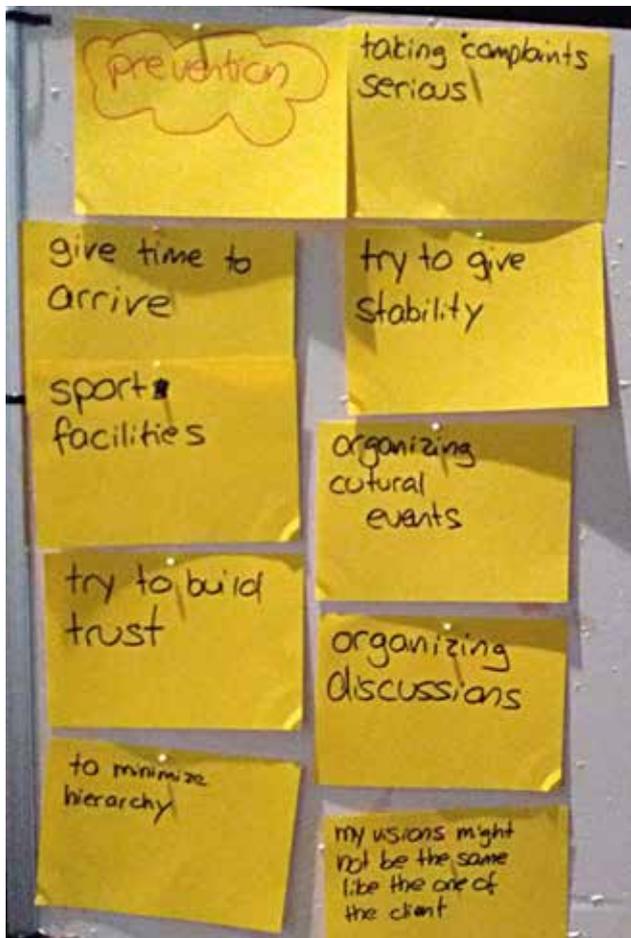
Tahreer GANAYEM is a social worker and an MA student. She works as a therapist with children who have experienced sexualised violence.

Description of the project presentation:

We will present two projects: The first one focuses on a group of men; the second one deals with a group of women and women's rights, women's health and the empowerment of women.

We focus on a group of men to show which kinds of challenges men often encounter and to present the therapeutic strategies for working with groups of men.

(Project funder: ZWST)



Human Trafficking

Title of the project presentation: Counselling for Female Refugees who have become Victims of Human Trafficking

Project members: Mira V. MACH is a qualified social worker at Nadeschda

Description of the project presentation:

The project seeks to provide the following services to women have become victims of sexual exploitation on their asylum routes:

1. Counselling services that provide information on the possibilities for legal and psychological advice
2. Accommodation in anonymous shelters with outpatient care
3. Training courses for volunteers working in the field of refugee assistance
4. Preparation of multi-lingual information material about aid for victims of human trafficking on asylum routes in North Rhine-Westphalia

(Project funder: Diakonie Rhineland-Westphalia-Lippe)



November 28, 2017

Funding body Protestant Women's Aid in Westphalia

**Regional responsibility:
Ostwestfalen-Lippe
Administrative district Detmold**

November 28, 2017

Human Trafficking

according to European Parliament and Council Directive 2011/36/EU of April 5, 2011

Actions of the perpetrators	Means of the perpetrators (not required with respect to children)	Intention of the perpetrators: exploitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment ➤ Transportation ➤ Transfer ➤ Harbouring ➤ Reception <p>of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Threat or use of force or other forms of coercion ➤ Abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power ➤ Exploitation of special vulnerabilities ➤ Achieving the consent of a person having control over another person, receiving of payments or the like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation ➤ Forcer labour or services (including begging), slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude ➤ Exploitation of criminal activities ➤ Removal of organs

Source: National Coordination Circle against Human Trafficking, KOK e.V.

November 28, 2017

Penal Provisions Human Trafficking

German Criminal Code (StGB)

- Section 232 Human trafficking
- Section 232 a Forced prostitution
- § 232 a No. 6 "Consumption" of sexual acts by victims of human trafficking on a commercial basis
- § 232 b Forced labour
- § 233 Work exploitation
- § 233 a Exploitation involving deprivation of personal liberty

November 28, 2017

§ 232 Forced prostitution (StGB)

Whoever exploits another person's predicament or helplessness arising from being in a foreign country in order to

1. engage in or continue to engage in prostitution,
2. engage in exploitative sexual activity with or in the presence of the offender or a third person or to suffer sexual acts on his own person by the offender or a third person

shall be liable to imprisonment from six months to ten years.

Whosoever induces a person under twenty-one years of age to engage in or continue to engage in prostitution or any of the sexual activity mentioned in the 1st sentence above shall incur the same penalty.

Action	Means	Intention
Unfairly influencing a person's will, e.g. through persuasion, pressure or abuse of authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploitation of personal or economic predicament or • helplessness arising from being in a foreign country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage in or continue to engage in prostitution • engage in exploitative sexual activity or suffer from sexual acts by the offender or a third person

Source: National Coordination Circle against Human Trafficking, KOK e.V.

November 28, 2017

Legal Frameworks and Information for Victims of Human Trafficking from Third Countries

- Right to residence on humanitarian grounds (according to Residence Act Section 25 No. 4 a)
- Right to accommodation outside of mass shelters (according to General Administrative Regulation to Residence Act Section 15.a.1.5.2.)
- Right to information on specialised counselling and support by expert counselling centres (according to General Administrative Regulation to Residence Act Section 50 No. 2a Sentence 4)
- Information: There are Special Representatives for Victims of Human Trafficking that the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) has assigned with examining the asylum applications filed by particularly vulnerable persons (see: <http://www.bamf.de/EN/DasBAMF/Aufgaben/Asylverfahren/asylverfahren-node.html>)

November 28, 2017

KOK member organisations



Source: National Coordination Circle against Human Trafficking, KOK e.V.

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How does NADESCHDA work?

Three areas of responsibility

- 1. Counselling
- 2. Networking
- 3. Public relations / trainings

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Counselling services

- Native-language counselling
Polish, Russian, English, Bulgarian, Czech, German
- Psychosocial support
- Emergency care including food, hygiene products and clothes
- Decentralised accommodation
- Accompaniment when going to police, doctors, lawyers and other counselling centres
- Establishing and supporting the contact with authorities, consulates, organisations
- Help regarding alimentionation
- Assisting and accompanying victim-witnesses during criminal proceedings against human traffickers, smugglers and pimps
- Procuring places in language courses
- Supporting job search
- Establishing contact with volunteers
- Help with returning to home countries

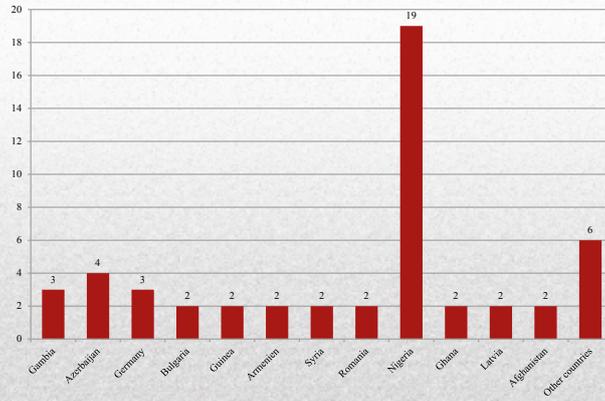
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Regional overview

- ✓ **Brothels/ clubs/ apartments**
 - across East-Westphalia-Lippe ca. 200
 - Herford district ca. 50 – 60
 - Lippe district ca. 25
 - Minden-Lübbecke district ca. 20-30
 - Gütersloh district ca. 44
- ✓ **Street prostitution**
 - Prostitution to finance drug use (Bielefeld)
 - occasionally in trailers

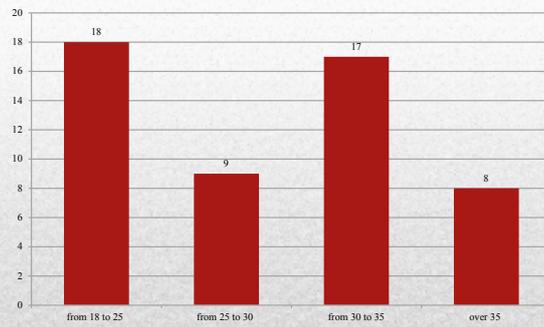
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COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN of clients 2016



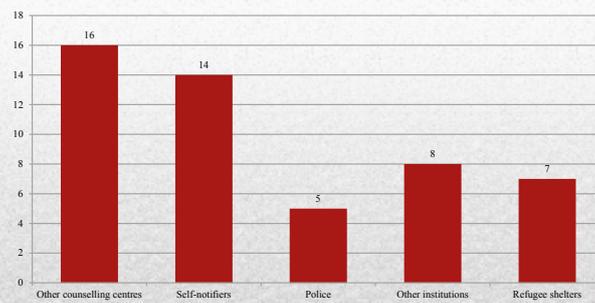
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AGE of clients 2016



November 28, 2017

ESTABLISHED CONTACTS in 2016



November 28, 2017

Causes for human trafficking

- Extreme poverty
- Daughter is supposed to provide for the family
- Threat of forced marriage, followed by flight
- False promises of work and education
- Former experiences of sexual assault
- Patriarchal society structures
- Taboo on the issue of human trafficking / prostitution
- Criminalisation
- ...

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Possible indicators of human trafficking

- Regions of origin: West Africa, Balkans, China
- Travelling alone
- Being routinely picked up (in the evening hours)
- Being monitored / controlled (often by compatriots, also using mobile phones)
- Reserved and suspicious
- Lacking ID papers
- Long migration route
- Afraid of the police
- Looking for work
- Large debts
- ...

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Methods of smugglers and human traffickers

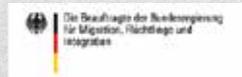
- Specifically searching for young women without perspective
- Promise of work, education, good income
- Nigeria 🖐️ voodoo oath
- Taking care of all formalities (passport/visa etc.)
- On arrival: Taking away passports
- Prone to violence / rigid control
- Large debts (> 80.000 €)
- Threat of divulging secret to family / village
- Leaving perspectives open
- ...

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Project work “Empowerin Female Refugees“ (01/01/2017- 31/12/2017)

The project aims at offering the following services to women who have become victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation during their migration route:

- Counselling and information on possibilities for legal and psychological support
- Psychosocial counselling
- Accommodation and outpatient care in shelters with anonymous addresses
- Training courses for volunteers and professionals in refugee support
- Information material on assistance for victims of human trafficking in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Networking with other aid organisations



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RefuShe

- Newapp »RefuShe« for female refugees
- The app »RefuShe« can be download in the Google store
- German, English, Arabic, Kurdish and Pashto
- provides information on German ways of living and society
- assistance in emergency cases
- contact points
- operable all across Germany

November 28, 2017

Thank you
for your attention!

Corinna Dammeyer
Olga Wall



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www.nadeschda-owl.de

November 28, 2017

Pregnancy Counselling

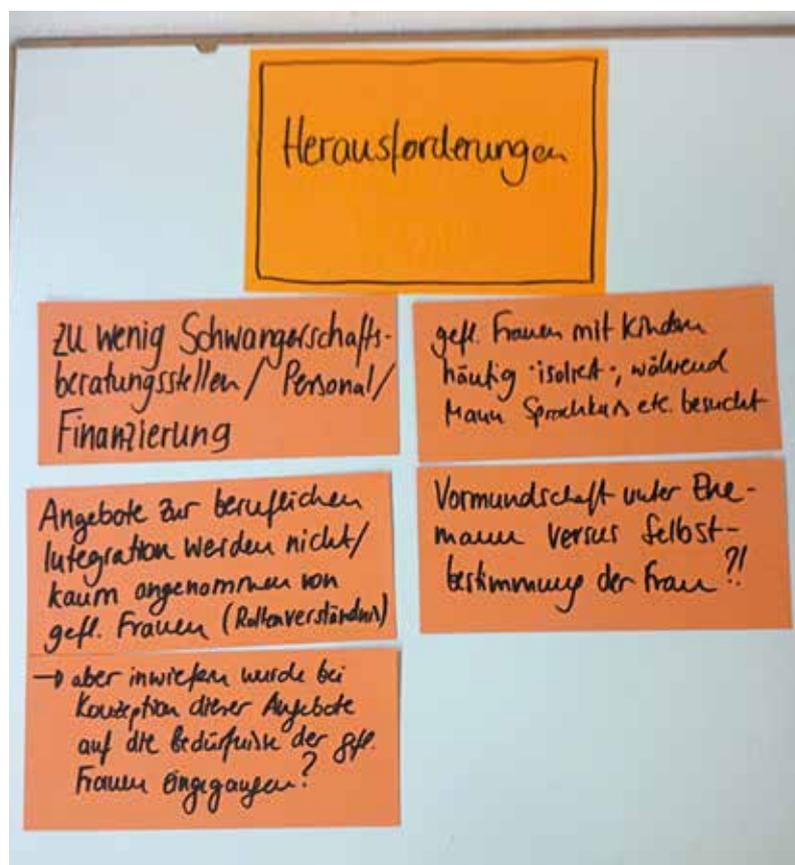
Title of the project presentation: Pregnancy Counselling and Family Sponsorship – Experiences and Insights from Social Work with Women

Project members: Susanne SMOLEN, 48 years old, is the managing director of the Catholic Women's Welfare Service Hörde (SkF e.V.). She has acquired additional training in debt and insolvency counselling, human resource development and business administration.

Description of the project presentation:

Supporting (pregnant) female refugees and their infants involves, at the SkF, identifying the best supporting measures from among a variety of services offered by the institution. This often implies a set of measures that integrates pregnancy counselling, individual domestic support, family sponsorships by volunteers as well as course offerings. If, however, too many 'well-intended' support measures take effect, a woman with a particular experience of displacement and personal history might be easily overwhelmed. Finding the right balance is then the intricate and challenging task that we have to face as voluntary and professional supporters.

(Project funder: SkF Hörde, German Caritas Association)



Gute Erfahrungen

Einbindung von Ehrenamtlichen

(Begleitung zu anderen Angeboten)

- Vorbereitungen / Vorgaben:
 - Treffen mit Hauptamtlichen
 - Verbindlichkeit für 6 Monate
 - 1x im Monat Kontakt zu Hauptamtlichen

- Ehrenamt koordinieren
- Begleitung
- Qualifizierung

- Erstellung polz. Führungszeugnis
- Reinkostenersatzung
- Qualifizierung, u. a. zu Interkulturalität

Familienpatenschaften als ergänzendes Angebot

Arbeit mit Dolmetscher*innen (nur bei Behörden-gängen)

Arbeit mit Übersetzungs-/ Sprach- Apps / Bildwörterbuch / zanzi.de

Einbindung von Männern, auch als Türöffner (Zugang zu gefl. Männern)

Beratungsstelle ist auch Kontakt-/Vernetzungsstelle für die Frauen

Was es braucht...

es braucht Angebote auch bzw. insbesondere für Analphabet*innen!

Bedarfe aller Frauen vor Konzeption von Angeboten berücksichtigen!

Vorbilder - verschied. Frauen als Empowerment

Schulungen / Fortbildung für hauptamtl. Mitarbeiter*innen

Workgroups on Topics Raised by Participants

In this phase, participants had the opportunity to introduce and discuss their own topics. This part of the program was used in different ways. One of the groups from the first workgroup phase on discussion groups for men and women decided to continue discussing their topic. Aiko Takahashi expanded on the survey results on empowerment and protection of female and LGBTI refugees against violence that were presented at the beginning of the meeting. Please see above (page 5) for an outline of the results..

Moreover, three workgroups on topics suggested by participants were formed, namely the following ones:

- **Empowerment through artistic and creative formats in which language is not a prime concern.**
- **Access to Refugee Women and Families in Social Spaces**
- **Female Refugees and Work. Supporting Self-Organised Projects.**



In what follows, some impressions of the workgroups are depicted.

Empowerment and Creative Methods

Empowerment über kreative & künstlerische Formate

- AMIF-Antrag
- Austausch zu Erfahrungen
 - x Empowerment
 - x Trauma-therapeutische Bearbeitung?
Resilienz-Förderung
(wichtig: fachliche Bildung zu Trauma)
 - x top-down vs. Zielgruppe gestaltet selbst
→ Einbindung in Konzipierung d. Projekts
zB Nähwerkstatt, Koch-gruppe
 - v Schlüssel-Person(en) - Multiplikator*innen
 - akzeptiert von Community
 - aktiv für Projekt

- x "über die Kinder" an die Eltern
zB. Musik, Tanz
Brauchtum...
Hip Hop, Rap, v.a. männl. Jugendliche
Sportangebote
Cafés, niedrigschwellig
Spiele, Nachmittage

Personen sollten „dabei“ bleiben ...

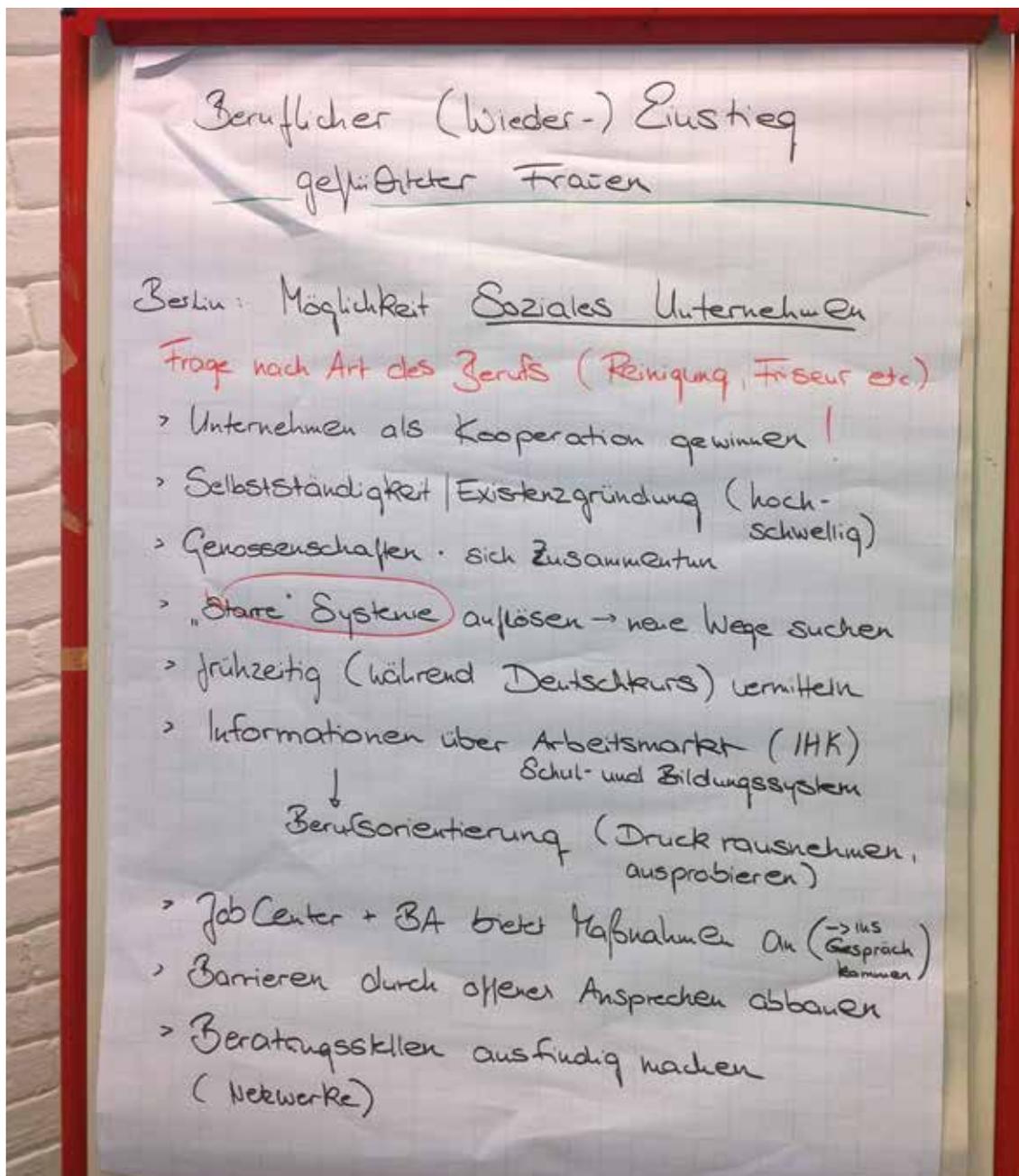
- Angebot in der Unterkunft starten,
dann in andere Räumlichkeiten
- vom Kochkurs zum Catering...

Anzahl der Gruppengröße beachten

↳ v.a. bei Personen mit Traumata

- Musikalische Angebote
zB. Another song (?)

Female Refugees and Work (tentative title)



The English and German versions of the results are also available online:

<http://www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de/gewalt-an-frauen/gewaltschutz-und-flucht/dateien-zum-download.html>

Impressum

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Wir sind's! 
Die Einwanderungsgesellschaft gestalten

