

29th October 2019
**Having Rights and Fighting for them -
Strengthening Refugee Women**

Findings and needs for action from working with refugee women and particularly vulnerable persons

Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstr. 32, 12049 Berlin

What rights do refugee women and vulnerable people have? What are the current challenges in accessing and enforcing these rights? Which impact does this have on those affected? How can the rights and a self-determined life of refugee women and those particularly in need of protection be strengthened? And how can they benefit from support under the approach of empowerment?

These and other questions will be discussed at this year's conference of the Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare (BAGFW) on the topic "Having rights and fighting for them – strengthening refugee women", to which we cordially invite you today. The conference takes place within the framework of the projects funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Migrants, Refugees and Integration to support refugee women and particularly vulnerable groups. The projects are being implemented nationwide by the BAGFW associations.

The aim of the conference is to bring together project staff, refugee women*, activists* and other people interested in the topic and to shed light on the project work to date with regard to strengthening the rights of refugee women and those particularly in need of protection. Together we want to discuss successful approaches and framework conditions to support the awareness-raising of rights and their enforcement as well as the necessary framework conditions.

We are looking forward to your participation!

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Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
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Preliminary Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content</u>
10:30	Registration
11:00	Introduction
11:15	Keynote – „Having Rights and Fighting for them - Current Challenges for Refugee Women in Germany” Prof. Dr. Beate Rudolf, Director of the German Institute for Human Rights
11:45	Panel Discussion „Fighting for Rights – but how? Need for Action and Perspectives in the Support Work” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Dr. Beate Rudolf, Director of the German Institute for Human Rights - <i>tbd</i>, FIM - Frauenrecht ist Menschenrecht e.V. - Behshid Najafi, agisra e.V. (Arbeitsgemeinschaft gegen internationale sexuelle und rassistische Ausbeutung) - <i>tbd</i>, political representative - <i>tbd</i>, refugee self-organisation
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Impulses
14:30	Expert forums (a description of the contents can be found on the next page) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reproductive rights and health 2. Rights of LGBTI* refugees/multiple discrimination 3. Refugees with disabilities 4. Women-specific reasons for asylum and their recognition in the asylum procedure 5. Accommodation and protection of violence for women
16:30	Closing plenary session
17:00	End of Conference

The conference is accompanied by an exhibition of the volunteer agency Jugend-Soziales-Sport e.V. Wolfenbüttel. The event will be simultaneously translated (German-English).



Forums

Expert forum 1: Reproductive Rights and Health

The access to reproductive rights and health care is partially limited for refugee women. In addition to that they are often faced with special barriers. How can access barriers be reduced for refugee women, what are the solutions to current challenges?

Expert forum 2: Rights of LGBTI*¹ refugees/multiple discrimination

Queer refugees have specific rights, but are not yet considered sufficiently as a target group in many services. Which forms of discrimination are LGBTI facing in the area of refugee aid? Which rights do they have and how can they be supported to enforce them?

Expert forum 3: Refugees with disabilities

Refugees with disabilities are a particularly vulnerable group whose needs have not yet been systematically addressed. How can the needs and abilities of refugees with disabilities be strengthened? What kind of support is needed for asylum procedures, access to integration assistance and accommodation in refugee camps?

Expert forum 4: Women-specific reasons for asylum and their recognition in the asylum procedure

The claim of gender-related reasons for flight in asylum procedures often faces many obstacles. Which specific female grounds for flight are there and which special rights exist for those concerned? Which offers of support do they need and what kind of support exists already?

Expert forum 5: Accommodation and protection of violence for women

Refugee women in collective accommodation centers are often at particularly high risk of suffering from violence. How can the right to humane accommodation and to protection from violence be realised? What are improvements, what are difficulties?

¹ LGBTI is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender and intersexual persons.