

18th of October 2018

Conference

Participation in the empowerment of female refugees - Approaches from working with refugee women and other vulnerable people

Since 2016 the perspectives of female refugees are being highlighted by the associations of BAGFW (Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare) in separately funded projects - enabled by the Federal Government Commissioner for Migrants, Refugees and Integration. In these projects, female refugees are supported by a wide range of need-oriented offers to create a self-determined life.

Participation is a key aspect in planning and managing many projects. But what does participation actually mean? Are we talking about active involvement in projects, self-organization or genuine political participation? Which forms of participation are even possible if not all have the same rights or approaches to rights or even approaches to possibilities of participation? Nevertheless how can we strengthen participation and develop a participatory culture? How can we provide more spaces in everyday work, where female refugees are able to present their interests and what is needed to change existing frameworks in this regard?

With the focus on **“Participatory approaches in the empowerment of female refugees”** BAGFW is conducting a conference on 18th of October 2018 in Berlin, in continuation of the very successful conferences in the past two years. We'd like to invite project staff, female refugees, activists and other interested persons for a common exchange. Together we would like to reflect the aspect of participation in the previous project work, present approaches of successful participative work and discuss conditions for success in the empowerment of female refugees and the necessary framework for it.

We cordially invite you, to register for this conference until 19th of September 2018 via this [Link](#).

18th of October 2018: 10:00 am - 4:15 pm

Werkstatt der Kulturen

Wissmannstraße 32

12049 Berlin

The conference is organized by the Association of BAGFW (Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare)

We are looking forward to a wide range of expertise, an active and empowering exchange and to attaining new and promising ideas!

Program

Moderation: Miriam Camara

10:00am	Arrival and registration
10:30am	Welcome speech Annette Widmann-Mauz, Federal Government Commissioner for Migrants, Refugees and Integration
11:00am	Keynote Fatuma Musa Afrah, Activist
11:30am	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N.N., political representative - Fatuma Musa Afrah, Activist - Armaghan Naghipourm, Laywers without Borders - Sabine Halabi, Project Staff: „Safe and strong – female refugees in Bielefeld (AWO)“
12:30am	Lunch
- 01:30pm	Participation in practice – an insight into the project work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hülya Wunderlich, Mädchen- und Frauenzentrum in Hof - Nahid Yakmanesh, pro familia Landesverband Hamburg (Paritätischer)
- 02:30pm	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer to peer: trainings of multipliers (<i>Nele Diether, Empowerment-Project Stuttgart, Diakonie</i>) - Peer to peer: empowerment workshops (<i>Project Women Power of Agency of Voluntary Workers, Wolfenbüttel AWO</i>) (requested) - Structures of participation in refugees accommodation centres (<i>Gloria Goldner, Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V. and Aleksandra Borkowska und Yana Kravtsova, Accomodation Rathaus Friedenau</i>) - Cultural participation (<i>Razan Naser-Agha and Stefanie Stücker, Empowerment-Project in Mannheim DRK</i>) - Community building (<i>Gal Rachman, Project Brückenbau ZWST</i>)
03:45pm	Conclusion & Photo shoot
04:15pm	Closing

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop I “Peer-to-peer: training of multipliers”

Peer-to-peer approaches can be effective especially in self-empowerment. Women who fled in the past and have been living quite a long time in Germany are able to encourage newly arrived female refugees by using their own experiences and ways of coping so that these women recognize their own strengths, resources and confidence in their self-efficacy. In trainings for multipliers women are qualified and empowered to support newly arrived female refugees by working with them in groups or by one-to-one counselling. The multipliers can contribute with their own experience providing the newly arrived women a safe environment and empathy.

In this workshop Fraueninformationszentrum FIZ Stuttgart will present their project on this subject. In addition to the training of multipliers this project is scientifically monitored and evaluated.

After a short input this workshop wants to consider ideas and possibilities how female refugees can be involved in project work. Furthermore we want to figure out which requirements and frameworks are needed to implement successful “Trainings of multipliers”.

Workshop II “Peer-to-Peer: Empowerment-Workshops”

Peer-to-peer approaches can also be effective in self-empowerment. Women who fled in the past and have been living quite a long time in Germany are able to encourage newly arrived female refugees by using their own experiences and ways of coping so that these women recognize their own strengths, resources and confidence in their self-efficacy.

Empowerment-Workshops – in a peer-to-peer approach – can strengthen individual resources and can contribute to an independent life with a high self-efficacy – as far as possible.

In that effort participants will not only be seen as recipients, but mainly as experts of their own lives. Empowerment-Workshops also include offers for political and cultural education. By providing information and knowledge exchange common strategies for actions could be developed together, so that participants are able to empower themselves in the best ways.

In this workshop we will get to know examples of best practice Empowerment-Workshops. There will be space for critical discussions. We will also address the question if and how far Empowerment-Workshops could contribute to a social participation of female refugees.

Workshop III „Structures of participation in refugee accommodations centres”

It is harder and more complicated for refugees to take part in social life in general in and outside of refugee quarters, mainly caused by structural and everyday-life conditions. Decisions which concern the life of the people in refugee quarters are often made without them.

In this workshop we want to address the following questions:

- What structures to be provided would include the perspective of the residents in all decisions?
- How can we ensure that complaints about dissatisfaction, discrimination and human rights abuses can be expressed and will be taken seriously by the authorities?
- What scope of actions do we have and what are possible limitations?

Citing existing complaint-systems in refugee quarters and resident counsels we want to take a look, how these forms of participation can strengthen the residents scope of action and enhance their rights.

Workshop IV „Cultural Participation“

Active and passive participation in cultural life are both important parts of a self-determined life choice. Free artistic and cultural expressiveness and access to cultural offers contribute to develop a critical mind, mutual understanding and respect for each other. Hartnuß and Maykus (2008:85ff) specify the following conditions for successful participation: voluntarism, seriousness, effectiveness, sustainability, environment-oriented, age-oriented, differentiation (gender, culture), qualification, (pedagogical) monitoring, financial resource-oriented, cross-cutting issues, political lobbying, (further) development of a culture of participation.

In this workshop we will present the bottom-up approach of cultural participation of a project of DRK in Mannheim. There will be space for critical discussions about opportunities and challenges.

Workshop V “Community building”

In order to sustainably motivate people to become self-initiated, to be socially involved and to support them with their own project ideas, IsraAid also focuses on leadership groups. Refugees of all nationalities and religions are involved in these activities with the goal of independently managing social activities in their communities and promoting participation, inclusion and mutual support. In this workshop an overview of existing and planned activities will be given and also transfer and implementation possibilities will be discussed with the participants. **The workshop will take place in English.**