

## WORKSHOPS

### **Solidarity for All. For equal rights and a good life. Regional No Border lasts forever Conference**

**Frankfurt Main 4–6 March 2016**

**Studierendenhaus, Campus Bockenheim, Mertonstraße 26-28, 60325 Frankfurt  
am Main**

#### **I Saturday 11am- 2pm**

- A right to housing
- Access to Education
- How to act? Being capable of acting in confronting right-wing and racist violence
- Situation at the External Borders: Our Experiences and Perspectives
- Actual Aggravations in Asylum Law
- Exchange of experiences: Welcome Cafes and Contact Points

#### **II Saturday 4pm -7pm**

- Precarious working environments and how to empower ourselves
- Health - a human right!
- Root Causes of Flight and the Situation in the Countries of Origin
- Stop Deportation!
- Self-organization
- Crossing Fights! Feminism and Antiracism

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#### **I Saturday 11am- 2pm**

##### **A right to housing**

(Not only) in the Rhine-Main metropolitan region there has been a problem with the deteriorating housing situation for years. The situation regarding temporary and permanent accommodation for refugees ranges from unacceptable to precarious. At the same time the scarcity of housing allows for large profits at the cost of marginalized migrants and others. The gentrification process taking place in whole urban quarters pushes precarious lifestyles, low-income individuals and families and socio-cultural institutions further and further away from the center and into the periphery of the city or metropolitan region. Yet we keep hearing “there is no supply gap“.

This workshop will be about ways to bring the different situations and problems regarding housing together, and to assert the right to good housing for all.

### **Access to Education**

In this workshop we want to show both legal injustices and difficulties in practical implementations of legal services, which people especially refugees are facing in access to training, education and language.

First we want to oppose a concept of Isolationbreaking, which aims to achieve social participation and autonomy. Persons concerned often talk about language as a potential resource to break their own isolation. Furthermore we are talking about the conditions under which asylum seekers and refugees in Germany are doing an internal vocational training, which financial support they can receive and which services offer companies free advice and support on these issues. In exchange with persons concerned, we want to reflect about language and its impact. What are the possibilities to break the legal framework of education and training? How can possibilities for action and scopes for action be created to make social participation in education possible?

Netzwerk konkrete Solidarität - Teachers on the road, Jugendliche ohne Grenzen

### **How to act? Being capable of acting in confronting right-wing and racist violence**

The Anne Frank Education Centre provides two different Models of counselling: response. is a psycho-social counselling for persons subjected to right-wing and racist violence. The MIT (Mobiles Interventionsteam) provides counselling for institutions, groups and individuals who want to take action against this type of violence. The aim in both the approaches is to strengthen the capability to act as well as to enlarge the space of action. The starting positions and conditions, as well as the individual concerns and concrete action can be very different though. What can I do as a person subjected to racist violence? How can I support people subjected to violence? We would like to offer an inside into our work methods, strategies and experiences. However as the field is complex, we will set priorities to the questions and concerns of the participants attending the workshop.

Olivia Sarma / response. und Oliver Fassing / MIT

### **External borders of the EU: Experiences and perspectives**

The „long summer of migration“ is continuing until today: although the numbers of arrivals decrease at the moment because of the bad weather conditions, every day hundreds of people cross the sea – in the first weeks of 2016 about 45.000 people in the Aegean – and cross the Balkan route to come to Europe. The transit procedure everywhere is mostly under control and is managed, run and supported by official responsables, NGOs and Volunteers.

What are the experiences of the last year? What are your experiences of the last months crossing borders coming here? What real effects the announced restrictions

will have and what does it mean for the routes of flight in the coming months? What initiatives support refugees on their way across the Mediterranean and the Balkan route to northern Europe? How can people get involved?

In this workshop we will have space to talk and exchange about your own experiences during the trip to Europe. Different initiatives will be presented, as for example the WTM-Alarmphone, Ferries not Frontex, Noborderkitchen.

### **Actual Aggravations in Asylum Law**

In the public debate, Chancellor Merkels policy is equated with the new paradigm of "welcome culture". But at the same time the federal government has adopted different asylum packages with very strict regulations: unannounced deportations, more "safe countries of origin", reductions of social services, new asylum procedures with faster deportations, restrictions in family unification and deportations despite psychological problems. To obtain an overview in this conglomeration, the workshop aims to present what has already been decided, what will be decided and which potential legal and political counterstrategies could be fruitful.

With Maximilian Pichl, legal assistant PRO ASYL

### **Welcome Café, Come Together, Refugio, Café without borders**

Everywhere new venues emerge that are about face-to-face encounters and spaces free of hierarchy. The cafés are organized mainly by groups of supporters and emerge out of different contexts: in self-organized centers, in civic and public spaces. From an antiracist perspective, the idea is to invite refugees to become more than mere guests. But how can this succeed? What is needed to make venues into spaces of political practice? Or have they already political by opening up new spaces in urban quarters and smaller cities to raise the social question of refugees, self-organizations and activist together anew.

In this Workshop we want to exchange experiences made by cafés in different cities and discuss which activities and organizations can be developed there or already have been developed.

## **II Saturday 4pm -7pm**

### **Precarious working environments and how to empower ourselves**

Rising numbers of people with jobs don't say anything about the real situation on the labor market. For many the wage they receive isn't enough to make a living. They are forced to apply for supplementary social support in order to ensure a minimal level of subsistence for themselves.

State subsidies on the other hand are designed to force their recipients into accepting any kind of low-paid job. For many migrants, refugees and illegalized persons it is even more difficult to gain access to the labor market and to social benefits. An almost impenetrable tangle of laws offers different ways to access or to be excluded for

different social groups. Especially people who have been excluded because of lacking residence permits are prone to blackmailing and exploitation by employers. All mentioned groups experience different working and living conditions that stem from the same cause: the capitalistic rule of the minority over the majority. The demands resulting from this may be different, but they all contain the common perspective of achieving a good life for all – no matter whether they have a residence permit or not, whether they have employment or not.

In the workshop we will first look at the different kinds of employment as well as the legal preconditions for employment and social benefits. In a further step we will debate which demands can be comprehensive, which material and immaterial components define a good life and which interventions could be made. In this context we want to include the experiences made at the “City Walk” as well as at the convention of precarious persons of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March-Action Day. We will also build on the results of the two “Frankfurt for All: Solidary City!” Meetings of December 2015 and January 2016.

### **Health - a human right!**

Income, education, gender and origin decide on how well we are being medically treated in this health care system. Health is a human right and therefore ALL people should have the same opportunity to be healthy! Poverty may not be used against poverty in the healthcare system. This is what we strive for with our structural demands and in our everyday practice. In our workshop we want to introduce the different groups and present the gaps and chances in the existing healthcare system.

Andrea Appel (Medinetz Mainz) and Nele Kleinehanding (Medizinische Ambulanz ohne Grenzen/ Armut und Gesundheit in Deutschland e.V.

### **Root Causes**

### **Stop deportations!**

In our Workshop we will initially report on the work of the vga (vernetzung gegen abschiebung – network against deportation) throughout the last years, about successful and failed attempts to enable people to stay. We will talk about different strategies in fighting against the deportation regime, about blockades and actions at airports, about petitions, church asylum and others.

We will also briefly elaborate on the legal framework we are faced with in our struggle against deportations. How and in which ways are deportations carried out? Which changes stemming from last year's development can be seen in the practice of deportations? How can we get better organized, learn of (pending) deportations more quickly? Which new strategies could we use in order to enable all people to stay where they want? These are the questions we would like to discuss with you.

Vernetzung gegen Abschiebung

## **Self-organization**

Youth without Borders (JoG) is a volunteer initiative of young refugees and their friends of different countries of origin. They all have in common that together with their friends and supporters they campaign against racism and pending deportations. Since June 2005 they demand the right to stay for everybody and the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the child by organizing demonstrations and public campaigns. By now there are regional and federal JoG groups.

JoG is Empowerment because it basically is about encouraging children and youths to become active themselves and to fight for their rights. The only way to break isolation is to get active together. There are different ways to do this which we want to look at together during this workshop - activists with and without the experience of displacement.

More information: [www.jogspace.net](http://www.jogspace.net) , [www.facebook.com/jogspace](https://www.facebook.com/jogspace), [jog@jogspace.net](mailto:jog@jogspace.net)  
JoG - Jugendliche ohne Grenzen

## **Crossing Fights - Feminism and Antiracism**

Even before the events in Cologne, antifeminists were campaigning against refugees. In their argumentation, daily sexism and sexualised violence are products of „others“. These racist debates eventually also legitimized the tightening of the asylum law, exploiting for its need the bodies of women and girls as well as the fight against sexualised violence.

In this workshop we want to ask: Are refugee women part of these debates? How can we create a common feminist and anti-racist struggle without neglecting different forms of discrimination? How can we talk and act against sexualised violence without falling prey to racial prejudice? Which initiatives and ideas exist in the Rhine-Main region? What is going on in other cities? What can we do in the future and how can we intervene?

AntiRa\_K, queer-fem IL Frankfurt und ju\*\_fem\_netz