

Pecha Kucha von Women in Exile zur 'Care Revolution Aktionskonferenz'

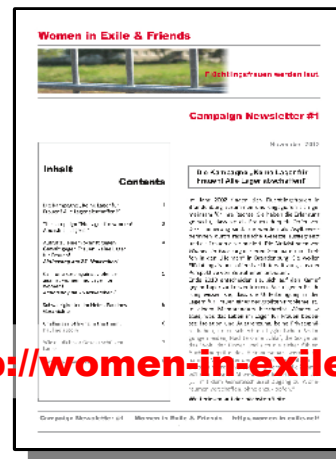
Women in Exile is a group of refugee women who identify ourselves from a women's perspectives with problems refugees face and fight against laws which are aimed against women and children emancipation.



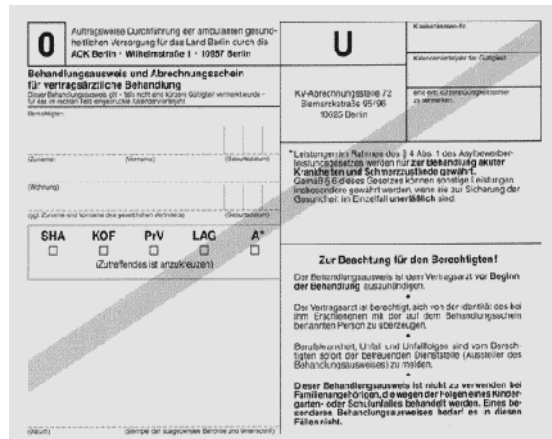
Together with other anti-racist groups we fight all discriminatory laws against refugees, such as Residenzpflicht, Gutscheine and so on, but since 2010 we decided to focus on the issue of accommodation. Since then we are running as Women in Exile and Friends the campaign "No Lager for Women" "Abolish all Lagers"!



If you want to know more about our campaign, please visit our web-blog or read our newsletter. I now want to tell you now in a few tags how we as refugee women relate to the topic "Care".



As asylum seeking women we are denied the basic human right for sufficient health care. According to the 'Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz' we get health care only in emergency cases for which we have to beg by explaining every detail of our symptoms to the Sozialamt.



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As pointed out in the call of this conference housing is one of the fundamentals of human live. But we are stored in so called collective accommodations, where it is nearly impossible to take care of our selves and our children.



We have no safe space there. The rooms, the kitchens and sanitary installations are shared by many people. Often we have to go through long corridors to do daily routines which other women do in the privacy of their own homes. This increases the risk to become a victim of harassment, assaults and violence and the daily life is influenced by fears.



This is why Women in Exile and Friends have intensively been campaigning since 2011 for the women living in the collective accommodations to have the possibility of living in the privacy of their own flats.



**Keine Lager für Frauen!
Alle Lager abschaffen!**

The right to work is also denied to most asylum seeking women. This is pushing them to undocumented work. Many times undocumented care work, like cleaning jobs in homes where they are paid very little money and are exposed to exploitation.

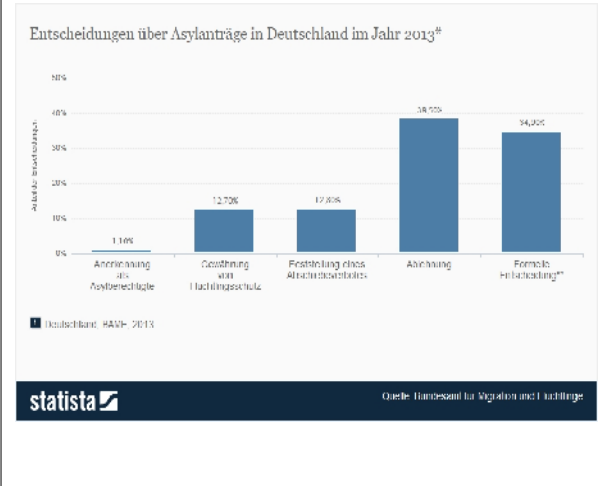


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Or other kinds of care work... While German women go for more qualified employment and quotas in management jobs, household or care work is "redistributed" many times to migrant domestic workers.



It is not a secret, that German and as in general the European Asylum system is very unfair and many times our need for protection is not recognized, because we have no "proof" of the reasons of our flight.



Therefore sometimes asylum seeking women decide to take care of their stay in Germany by other means and get married or have a German child.

But quickly they will discover that they have to take care of their husbands very well...

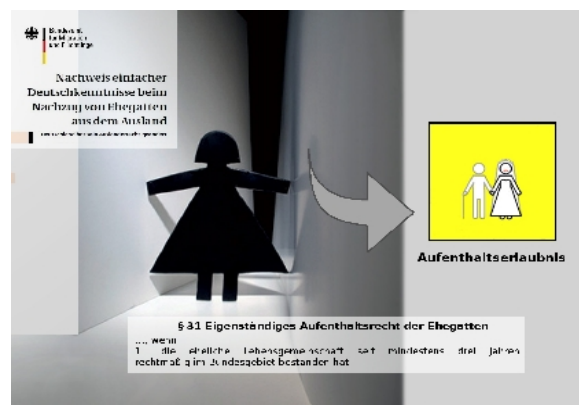


Already the interview by the authorities which many of us have to pass, before we get a stay as spouse is teaching us what a good wife in Germany is supposed to do: Take care of every little detail of your husbands life.



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For three years a migrant woman has to fulfil all the needs and requests of her husband if she wants to avoid the risk to lose her status again.



The state is also intervening in the way we take care of our children. I guess all migrant mothers know the pressure of a "well-wishing" surrounding to talk German with our kids to help them to cope with a German school system.

Mama lernt Deutsch



Statistics show that care work will be doubling in the next years and it is not a secret that the state is encouraging migrants from Eastern Europe who are specialised in this field. Refugee women, who have the possibilities to work or train for a job, are also being advised to take courses in the care field.

Pflegesektor: Akuter Fachkräftemangel

So viel Prozent dieser Einrichtungen berichten von einem spürbaren Fachkräftemangel	... erwerben einen Fachkräftemangel
Krankenhäuser	78,9	11,4
Sozialstationen	76,8	17,6
Stationäre Altenpflege	63,6	23,7
Stationäre Jugendhilfe	52,8	30,1
Kurzzeitpflege	50,0	29,2
Ambulante Jugendhilfe	49,2	31,1
Familienpflegestationen	36,0	12,0
Stationäre Behindertenhilfe	35,0	37,1
Bereitetes Wohnen für behinderte Menschen	34,4	31,1
Erziehungsberatungsstellen	33,3	35,6
Insgesamt	51,2	23,8

Befragung von 945 Einrichtungen des Pflegesektors zwischen November 2010 und Januar 2011
Quelle: Caritas

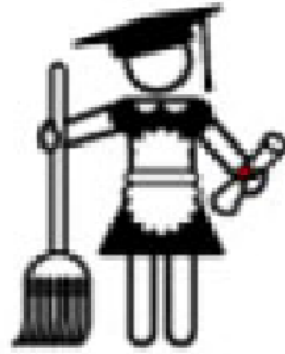
Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln

This is usually with the promises of that there are enough jobs in this field. The advisers forget to inform them that they are training as assistant cares and that the pay is sometimes less than the minimum wages especially if they are working through private agencies.



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One example: the Labour office asked one of my comrades in Women in Exile after completion of her master degree in social services to train as a helper in care work. This shows how the whole system is pushing foreigners in this field.



On the other side- If migrant women are working in another field of care work – in sex work, they are either criminalized or seen as victims of trafficking – Or, totally absurd, both in the same time.



So let us unveil together who does care work, and why they do it and! Who does not care. Let us unveil the sexist and racist structures that determines who cares.



Thank you for your interest. If you want to find out more about us and our work – have a look on our web blog or contact us.

