

WOMEN BREAKING BORDERS

15 years of WIE – we are still getting loud

What: A conference organized by Women in Exile, Friends and Sisters!

When: On the 21./22.-24.9.2017

Where: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung | Franz-Mehring-Platz 1 | 10243 Berlin

This year refugee women are getting loud by organizing a nationwide conference on “Breaking Borders”. This was a decision reached during the evaluation meeting of the 2016 nationwide summer bus tour of „women in Exile & Friends” and the network of refugee women and groups working with refugee women national wide.

After surviving dangerous routes on our journey to Europe, as women we are faced with sexism and racist borders which expose us to all types of prejudice. As refugee women we are confronted with multiple inner and outer borders during and after the flight. When we arrive in Germany and request for asylum and think we are safe to build a new life, we are immediately threatened with deportation. We have no chance if we don't fit into the BAMF concept of “legitimate refugee“. What about climate and economic crisis, grassroots political activism and wars that are not acknowledged by the European policy makers? And what about the sexual assaults, systematic violence, gender specific issues, and borders we are trying to break every day? In our experience, every woman seeking asylum in Europe has a “legitimate reason“. The double discrimination of refugee women makes life more difficult for us and is resulting in all kinds of desperate measures including suicides from depression, stress and trauma. The aims of this conference are:

To weave networks beyond borders

To empower women to break borders of sexism and racism

To find strategies on how to dismantle all borders

To make public the refugees political perspective to the causes of migration

To create space for refugee women to break borders and build community by expressing their talents

In this conference, together we will find ways of breaking racist and sexism borders. Borders which are visible or invisible, borders which the society ignores or looks the other way

because they do not affect them directly. Borders termed as “cultural” or those existing in our minds. **We need each other’s solidarity to break inner and outer borders and boundaries.**

Join us in declaring that no borders are high, low, wide or solid enough when women unite.

Workshops and discussions will touch on topics such;

- Deportation (“**Why do they want to deport us?!!!**”)
- History on feminist movements (“**Is it possible to learn from past experience? Past and current feminist fights**”)
- Effects of the tightened refugees laws, (**How do the new laws affect our stay?**)
- Discrimination in health services and rights to good health care
- **Strategies of finding a Job (Labour Market)**
- How can we defend ourselves from sexual violence?
- “Do not give me fish but show me how to fish” (**Critical support**)
- The lager accommodation system is supposed to discourage us and to isolate us from the rest of the society. We need to stand up for our rights as women living in this society (**No Lagers**).