

WIE

women

Flüchtlingsfrauen

in Exile

werden laut

"WIE" is a group of refugee women, who are focused on asylum seekers problems from a woman perspective and who fight against laws, that damage emancipation of women and children.

2011 WIE+sisters+friends startet the campaign:
No to Lagers for Women! Close all Lagers!

womeninexile.blogspot.de

Memorandum

We claim: No Lager for refugee women!

In Brandenburg women asylum seekers and children live for years in the asylum homes. Violence and assaults take place very often in conditions of difference of power. As the women are affected both by racist and sexist oppression, it is irresponsible to enforce this oppression by other dependences which result from the living conditions in asylum homes. Women and children suffer because of these living conditions, which make sick frequently .

The collective accommodation for refugee women and children disregards their rights!

We claim: Women and children living in collective accommodation have to be moved to apartments in their residential cities. The collective accommodations have to be closed down with immediate effect.

We - women and children in collective accommodation ...

- We live in a situation of isolation, often far away from residential areas, schools, shopping centres, railway stations etc.
- We don't have privacy, as we share rooms, toilets, kitchens, bathroom with many other people we hardly know. Women have to share toilets with men, often even without the possibility of locking the doors.
- We suffer under the bad hygienic standards, which are a result of the common use of facilities – toilets, showers, kitchen. In these conditions, persons suffering from contagious illnesses can hardly take precautions in order not to infect others. As everywhere, toilets used also by men are usually even more unhygienic and dirty.
- We pass sleepless nights due to movements and noise going on almost every night. Because of people's differing interests and living conditions, the noise level is so high that we can not sleep. That is especially burdening for children.
- We live in an environment that is not appropriate for children, where learning and playing according to children's needs is not possible. In the situation of a close, not chosen living together, parents are denied the possibility of fully taking care of their children's well being by creating a positive living and learning context and by protecting them from harmful behaviour.

- We consider the disregard of our already very limited privacy as assaults. Workers in the Heim disregard our privacy by entering our the rooms when we are not there or in some cases using the master key to get in without knocking and not caring if the women are naked or not. Sometimes workers in the Heim even take advantage of the ignorance and dependence of women by compelling sexual contacts.
- We are experiencing frequently sexual and physical violence. We have to live in an environment where, when leaving the bathroom, we are confronted with men trying to touch our breast. Again and again it comes to rape in asylum homes. In cases of harrassment it is not the agressor, but the victim who is removed from the asylum home. So the other women stay with the danger of abuse.
- a) We are vulnerable in the context of a close living together with men we do not know. At night we don't feel safe when we have to pass long corridors to go to the toilet. In some places we even have to leave the building to get to the toilets. Also, cases are known where men have tried to drug women by adding drugs to their drinks. As many German men also many migrant men's behaviour towards women is characterized by sexism. The specific aspect of our living condition is that the forced living together aggravates this conflict and makes a respectful living together more difficult.
- We feel discriminated and segregated from society. The decision of making us refugee women live in a collective accomodation in the outskirts makes out of us the object of stereotypization. We are confronted with men's stereotypical conviction that the refugee women living in that place are at their disposal and we are discriminated and harrassed by their respectless offers.
- We are not sufficiently taken care of in the case of acute illness. In cases of urgency we depend on the warden's will, who decides about calling an ambulance or not. After operations we find ourselves out of the hospital without any financial and practical help in coming back to our isolated asylum homes, and without support and medical advice during the healing process.

Women in Exile, women living in the collective asylum accommodations and numerous groups and individuals are saying:

The living conditions of women and children in collective asylum accommodations are not acceptable!

We ask the City Councils, Social Services and all persons responsible to move all women and children to apartments and to close down all collective asylum accommodations with immediate effect!

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