



ARRIVED -

IN A SAFE PLACE?

JUNE 2ND, 2017 - HOSPITALHOF, STUTTGART - GERMANY

Conference documentation on implementing
special protective needs of LGBTQ refugees
// Summary

Editors:

Netzwerk LSBTTIQ Baden-Württemberg
(LSBTTIQ network in Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Türkische Gemeinde in Baden-Württemberg
(tgbw; Turkish Community in Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Türkische Gemeinde Deutschland
(TGD; Turkish Community in Germany)

CONFERENCE CONCLUSION AND PROSPECTS

The conference themed »Arrived - in a safe place?« on 2 June 2017 made it possible for more than 130 participants to discuss how to handle the special protective needs of LGBTQ refugees. The cooperation of the *Netzwerk LSBTTIQ Baden-Württemberg* and the *Türkische Gemeinde in Baden-Württemberg (tgbw)* proved highly fortunate. The organizers were outstandingly successful in bringing together various actors from different fields and facilitate their respectful and equal interaction. The participants included ministerial representatives, various deputies from Stuttgart municipality as well as professionals from the refugee aid. In addition, staff from migrant organizations and numerous volunteers from both refugee assistance and LGBTQ work actively participated in the conference.

The exchange of ideas on sensitive political and societal issues was seen as valuable input for the participants' further work. Through embedding political decision makers into the discourse the LGBTQ refugees' specific concerns in Baden-Wuerttemberg could be defined, discussed and illustrated. In workshops and a panel discussion participants formulated lists of demands to political decision makers and civil societal actors.

It is now key to implement the demands and goals set in the conference which apply to various levels. The Network LGBTQ, the tgbw and the TGD will remain determined actors in this process and keep up the dialogue and consultancy of both individual LGBTQ refugees who seek help and political decision makers. We are very grateful for a successful conference in which existing cooperations could be deepened and new ones were initiated.

Our demands and wishes directed at political decision makers

- Recognize the special protective needs of LGBTQ refugees in Baden-Wuerttemberg (Berlin may serve as a paradigm)
- Recognize the protective needs of people persecuted in their home countries as a result of their sexual identity, also if these countries are classified as »safe«
- Guarantee more reliably the protection of LGBTQ people in refugee housing, for instance by lifting residency restrictions and providing counseling opportunities
- Do not transfer LGBTQ refugees into rural areas that do not provide respective counseling opportunities
- Provide more sensitivity training for public administration with respect to topics on diversity and LGBTQ
- Create special commissioners at BAMF [German Federal Office of Migration and Refugees] for LGBTQ refugees and qualify them by providing adequate training; LGBTQ community representative shall contribute to the curriculum
- Support LGBTQ counseling at arrival centers for refugees through trained LGBTQ counselors
- Support LGBTQ projects in their efforts to take care of LGBTQ refugees
- Include actors such as the Netzwerk LSBTTIQ Baden-Württemberg in the strategic discourse on the integration process of LGBTQ refugees
- Provide LGBTQ sensitivity training for employees in first admittance facilities as well as personnel in refugee aid
- Support the establishment of a regional coordination office for LGBTQ refugees in the Ministry of the Interior of Baden-Wuerttemberg
- Provide more financial support for the self-organization of LGBTQ refugees

We believe that the main contents from our workshops can efficiently be spread through joint efforts rather than isolated initiatives. Therefore we call all participants to contribute to making the conference's key messages heard.

What are the key messages from the conference directed at the civil society? The participants drafted following wishes and demands:

To the LGBTQ community

- Make more use of the Christopher Street Day Parade to emphasize LGBTQ rights
- Put more effort into fighting racism towards refugees and Muslims within the LGBTQ community
- Be more active as volunteers to support LGBTQ refugees
- Contribute more actively to make Lesbians and transgender people more visible in refugee communities
- Provide more affordable exchange and interaction opportunities from which refugees may also benefit
- Support the self-organization of refugees
- Be more determined in fighting the sexual exploitation of refugees
- Be more visible for refugees in general
- Provide more expertise on LGBTQ issues on various levels

To professionals and volunteers working in the field of refugee aid

- Include LGBTQ community representatives when designing counseling and contact points with refugees
- Treat LGBTQ refugees the same way as other refugees and show them appreciation and hospitality
- Demand, provide and participate in sensitivity training on LGBTQ issues
- Reflect on your own prejudices and feelings of supremacy against the LGBTQ community
- Take care of yourself and avoid over-commitment

To migrant organizations

- Show more hospitality towards immigrated LGBTQ people and LGBTQ refugees
- Support LGBTQ refugees by providing help in their orientation phase, for instance when dealing with civil servants and while learning German
- Support openness, acceptance and participation opportunities for LGBTQ people
- Strengthen ties and cooperation opportunities with LGBTQ migrant organizations
- Keep in mind that LGBTQ identity is not confined to homosexuality
- Appreciate in a more decisive manner the work of migrant organization which include LGBTQ issues, for instance by awarding a prize

FURTHER ONLINE INFORMATION ON LGBTTIQ AND FLIGHT/MIGRATION

Key contact points in Germany:

- Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund [in English]: www.asb.de/en/relief-and-welfare/rescue-services
- Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in Northrhine Westfalia [in German]: www.asbnrw.de/leistungen/fluechtlingshilfe
- Bundesverband für Interkulturelle Arbeit e.V. (u.a. : Refugee Welcome Map) [in German]: www.refugeeswelcomemap.de/map
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband [in German]: www.der-paritaetische.de/schwerpunkte/fluechtlingshilfe
- Refugee Councils in Germany [in German]: www.fluechtlingsrat.de
- Lesbian and Gay Association Germany (LSVD) [in English]: www.queer-refugees-support.de/en/
- LGBTTIQ network in Baden-Wuerttemberg [in German, English, French]: www.netzwerk-lsbttiq.net/refugees
- Pro Asylum Initiative [in German]: www.proasyl.de
- Quarteera – queer [in Russian]: www.quarteera.de
- Queeramnesty - Amnesty International Germany [in German]: www.queeramnesty.de
- Queer refugees for pride [in English]: www.refugee-pride.org
- Queer Refugees – More than welcome?! [different languages]: www.more-than-welcome.de
- Turkish Community in Baden-Wuerttemberg (tgbw) [in English]: www.kultursensibel-lsbttiq.de/en/counseling
- Turkish Community in Germany (TGD) [in German]: www.tgd.de/category/themen/flucht-und-asyl

LEGAL NOTICE

Participating organizations:

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Türkische Gemeinde
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