

Time Content

8.45 - 9.30

Registration

9.30 - 10.00

Words of Welcome from the BNS and the DGSA as well as from the State Secretary for Integration, Anti-Discrimination and Diversity Max Landero

10.00 - 11.15

Keynotes

Life Between Reception, Exclusion and Resistance - Refugee Camp or Open Jail? (In English)

The keynote offers insights into the lived realities of people seeking protection. What does life in a camp like Tegel mean? How does increasing social exclusion affect them? And just as importantly: how do refugees themselves organize to resist these mechanisms of exclusion?

Fatuma Musa Afrah is an award-winning women's and human rights activist and the founder of United Action Women and Girls e.V. The association supports women and girls with migration and refugee backgrounds in rural areas of Brandenburg.

Asylum Law Restrictions, CEAS, and the Shift in Current Political Discourse

The lecture provides an overview of recent tightenings in asylum law, with a particular focus on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The emphasis is on the shift in political discourse towards isolation and restriction, as well as their effects on those seeking protection. Impending restrictions such as possibilities for detention, exclusion from social benefits, and restrictive accommodation are discussed.

Berenice Böhlo is an independent lawyer in Berlin with a focus on migration law. She is a board member of the Republican Lawyers' Association (Republikanischer Anwältinnen- und Anwälteverein e. V.)

Withdrawal, Struggle, Defiance? How to Continue When Migration Policy Abandons Human Rights?

The lecture offers an assessment of the current situation, the related challenges, pressures to act, and the scope for action in social work within the field of forced migration. It also explores the potential role of collaboration between academic research and social work practice.

Susanne Spindler is Professor of Social Work and Migration in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences at the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf.

Her work focuses on critical perspectives on racism, research on forced migration and migration, and gender relations in immigration societies. Her research is particularly concerned with opportunities for participation among refugees and migration-focused social work.

11.15 - 11.45

Coffee Break

11.45 - 01.15

Workshop Phase I

1. From Shared Experience to Reflecting on Conditions of Arrival: When Social Workers Become Researchers

In this workshop, the speakers will draw on their own practical experience and illustrate how they developed scientific questions as social workers and how their theory-based findings can be transferred back into practice. They will shed light on the influences of professionalism of social workers in refugee camps and the importance of documents in refugee migration regimes.

Katrin Hermesen is a research associate and PhD candidate at the Institute of Educational Science, University of Münster, in the Department of Social Pedagogy. In her academic work, she combines scientific research with her many years of practical experience in the context of flight and migration.

Alexandra Kattein is a PhD candidate at the University of Rostock. Her research focuses on social work with refugees, migration, the critique of antisemitism and racism, as well as organizational and professional studies.

2. Social Exclusion in the Asylum System – Racism as a Structural Principle? How Does the German/European Asylum System Produce Exclusions?

This workshop is dedicated to the social exclusion of refugees in the context of the German and European migration regime, taking into account Michel Foucault's concepts of "biopower" and "governmentality". Practical options for action are discussed against the background of social work theory such as the triple mandate.

Asa Rudolf (M.A. Sociocultural Studies, B.A. Social Work) is the coordinator at XENION for traumatized refugees and survivors of severe violence within the framework of the BNS.

Leon Rentrop (M.A. Social Management, B.A. Social Work) is the coordinator of social work at XENION e.V. and has been engaged in the Berlin Network for Vulnerable Refugees (BNS).

3. Psychotherapy as a Safe Place? Psychotherapeutic Care in Times of Repressive Asylum Policy

The workshop deals with the increasingly precarious conditions of psychotherapeutic work with refugees. A critical-psychological input will be followed by a discursive exchange that reflects on clinical work, taking into account political and social challenges.

Maria Hummel works as a psychological psychotherapist at XENION e. V. in Berlin and is dedicated to the psychotherapeutic and psychosocial care of refugees and torture survivors. Additional clinicians are part of the expert panel.

4. Special Protection Needs: Between Recognition, Pathologization, and Self-Identification

The workshop critically examines the concept of vulnerability. It discusses the challenges and risks such as differing interpretations, the danger of pathologization, and the neglect of other identity aspects, while reflecting on the implications for social workers.

Tamara Tries is a PhD candidate in the Department of Migration and Education at the University of Innsbruck and has practical experience as a social worker in the field of flight and migration.

Johanna Gaub is a social worker and most recently worked as a counselor for refugees with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Elena Litzmann is a social worker and has been part of the BNS network coordination team since 2022, responsible for collecting and analyzing data on the situation of particularly vulnerable refugees.

5. CEAS and the New Tegel Arrival Center – Demands from Civil Society

The workshop provides information on the Senate's current plans for implementing the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and, using the example of the planned Tegel arrival center, develops concrete proposals and red lines for ensuring a strong civil society presence on site.

Nicolay Büttner (fully qualified lawyer) and **Andrea Haefner** (MSc Migration, Mobility, and Development, B.A. International Relations) are responsible for network coordination, advocacy, and public relations for the BNS.

01.15 - 02:15

Lunch Break

02.15 - 03.45

Workshop Phase II

1. Struggles for (Human) Rights in Social Work

This workshop focuses on struggles related to the Benefits Act for Asylum Seekers and explores, in a practical way, how human rights can be implemented as concrete tools in social work - ideally in collaboration with legal professionals.

Hannah Franke is a trained social worker, board member of the Saxon Refugee Council, and PhD candidate researching alliances in the struggles of young refugees for (human) rights.

2. Young People in Refugee Communities

The workshop examines the situation of children and adolescents in refugee communities and the numerous exclusion mechanisms. It discusses what objectives can be derived for social work from this situation analysis.

Daniel Jasch heads the specialized unit for (unaccompanied) minor refugees within the BNS and serves as Berlin state coordinator for the Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees (BumF).

Tamara Tries is a PhD candidate in the Department of Migration and Education at the University of Innsbruck and has practical experience as a social worker in the field of flight and migration.

Katrin Hermesen is a research associate and PhD candidate at the Institute of Educational Science, University of Münster, in the Department of Social Pedagogy. In her academic work, she combines scientific research with her many years of practical experience in the context of flight and migration.

3. Collective Resilience Rather than Resignation: An Exchange on Addressing the Societal Shift Toward the Right in Social Work

The workshop addresses the growing pressure on professionals due to right-wing attacks, repressive laws and precarious conditions. Based on the concept of collective resilience, strategies will be developed for coping with stress and remaining capable of acting. After a short impulse, there will be space for exchange and reflection on experiences, limits and forms of support in solidarity.

Nik Sturm is a mediator and systemic organizational developer. He has been helping NGOs and activist groups to work sustainably and in solidarity for many years. He is currently working for Sea-Watch e.V.

4. From Vouchers to Bezahlkarte: The Shifting Architecture of Exclusion in EU Asylum Policy (In English)

The workshop explores current forms of social exclusion in the asylum system - from cashless cards and biometric surveillance to closed camps. Centering lived experience, it discusses how these measures operate, their colonial continuities, and what perspectives for solidarity and action emerge.

Rose Wanjiku is a climate and social justice activist based in Berlin. She is organising with the International Women* Space and actively engages in various forms of activism, community organizing, documentation and advocacy work on refugee and migrant women*. She is working to launch a working group known as Borderless Earth Action Network (BEAN), formed within International Women* Space to advocate for a feminist, anti-racist approach to climate justice that acknowledges the interconnected struggles of marginalized people globally and calls for collective action to address the root causes of climate change and the systems that sustain inequality.

5. What Kind of Support Does Resilient Social Work Need?

The workshop explores various forms of resistant practices in social work with refugees. It discusses the institutional support required and which actors can provide assistance.

Sebastian Muy is a social worker and PhD candidate at the University of Education Freiburg, researching professional practices of social work with refugees in reception centers.

Gesa Langhoop is a social worker and PhD candidate at the Doctoral Center for Social Work in Hesse on political (micro) practices in social work with people with tolerated status.

Johanna Gaub is a social worker who was most recently involved in counseling refugees with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Der Solidaritätstreff Soziale Arbeit Neukölln established at the end of 2022, pursues to advance the political shaping of social work and the organization of its employees.

03.45 - 04.00

Kaffeepause

04.00 - 05.15

Panel: Safe Harbor Berlin – How Can Berlin Incorporate Insights from Practice and Research to Improve Reception Conditions, Strengthen Social Work, and Counteract Exclusion?

Panelists:

Adam Bahar, Flüchtlingsrat Berlin

Júlia Weber, DGSA

Nicolay Büttner, BNS

Sunna Keleş, Senate Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Integration, Diversity, and Anti-Discrimination, Senate Commissioner of Berlin for Participation, Integration, and Migration, I D

Adam Bahar, a refugee activist from Sudan, came to Germany in 2012. He took part in the protest march from Würzburg to Berlin and in the occupation of Oranienplatz. Since the founding of Alarmphone, Adam has been active as a translator and point of contact for people on the ships.

Today, he works full-time at the Refugee Council Berlin.

Júlia Weber holds a professorship in Migration Society and Democracy Education at the University of Neubrandenburg.

Nicolay Büttner is responsible for political work and advocacy at the Berlin Network for Particularly Vulnerable Refugees (BNS). He is a fully qualified lawyer and spent several months in 2015/2016 working in the camps on Lesbos and in Thessaloniki. In 2018, he co-founded the Seebrücke movement.

Sunna Keleş is a advisor in the Department of Migration and Refugee Policy at the Office of the Berlin Senate Commissioner for Participation, Integration, and Migration. Previously, she worked as a consultant in the bridge network and as a lawyer specializing in asylum, residence, and criminal law.

Moderation: Andrea Haefner, BNS

05.15 - 05.30

Closing Remarks

Eine Veranstaltung von



Deutsche
Gesellschaft für
Soziale Arbeit  **DGSA**
Fachgruppe Flucht, Migration, Rassismus-
und Antisemitismuskritik (Migraas)

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