



Dear friends and all other interested readers,

in our last newsletter for 2017 we have a lot of positive things we can tell you. There was a large parliamentary evening event at the Bavarian State Government that took place on October 10th in Munich where we took the opportunity to inform the guests about our work and

about the vulnerable position of the women who contact us for help. At the event we met Dr. Mahbuba Maqsoodi, an artist and founder of an initiative for Afghan women. The SOLWODI Duisburg's 20th Anniversary gave us another reason to be thankful and to celebrate. The Duisburg counselling centre and women's shelter was founded back in 1997 by Sister Leonie Beving, together with committed catholic women of the KFD. SOLWODI also took part in the PRISMA research project carried out by the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BKA) and the University

of Vechta, the results of which were presented in Hannover. And colleagues were invited to speak at a conference in Munich on trafficking in South Eastern Europe. We have a good tradition of being able to report so many activities benefiting our clients. Most of the activities wouldn't be possible without the commitment and willing support of our volunteers. **OUR HEARTFELT THANKS!**

The conception of home is something essential for human beings. It's more than a place. It includes fellow humans, language, culture, tradition. Every day SOLWODI encounters people who have had all these things taken from them: women and children who have been uprooted by violence and distress. Our work, our careful support, our persistence help these people to find home again. And that is what we want to continue to do in the future.

Sister Annemarie Pitzl

Parliamentary Evening for SOLWODI in Munich

On 10th October 480 guests followed the invitation from the president of the Bavarian State Government, Barbara Stamm, and gathered at the State Parliament House, the Maximilianeum, to attend an event held for two women committed to promoting women's rights: Sister Lea Ackermann and Ms Mahbuba Elham Maqsoodi, artist and chairwomen of the Association for Afghan Women, based in Munich. "In many countries with a traditional understanding of roles, women have little or no school education. A self-determined life is not possible and so they fall into the hands of criminals or become dependent on husbands", Barbara Stamm explained. Cabaret artist and song writer, Dr. Georg Ringsgwandl, criticised the fact that "in our country there is insufficient awareness of the situation of women around the world". It is a great achievement of SOLWODI that the organisation repeatedly draws attention to that fact.

Sister Lea told of the worrying numbers the Bavarian SOLWODI counselling centres have been confronted with this year: 89 cases of trafficking in humans, 17 cases of rape, 21 cases of genital mutilation. A total of 456 women have sought help from SOLWODI in Bavaria this year.

SOLWODI's founder called on the government to provide adequate funding: "the traumatised women must be supported by qualified and paid personnel. Many of the women require therapy, legal help and language courses. That can't be provided on a voluntary basis!" A

women's wing in a mixed accommodation is not a solution.

An example of how education and equal opportunities can help develop self-confident women is Mahbuba Maqsoodi, who was born in 1957 in Afghan Herat. The art historian with a doctor's degree was brought up by a cosmopolitan father. Maqsoodi's works were on show in the State Parliament House after the evening event: her exhibition "as clear as glass" is primarily concerned with the topic of vieling (comprehensive report on SOLWODI homepage – see past dates).



Foto - from left: Andrea Kammhuber (chairwoman), Barbara Stamm, Dr. Mahbuba Maqsoodi, Sr. Dr. Lea Ackermann, Dr. Georg Ringsgwandl ©SOLWODI/Ruth Müller

We are **active on a regional level** through our counselling centres, women's shelters and safe apartments, **networked on federal state level** through our SOLWODI federal state organisations, and **work politically and practically on national and international levels**.

Regionally active

... in Ludwigshafen

The Nordic Model sets a precedent. SOLWODI employees Helga Tauch and Eva-Sisko Lappin spoke in two business schools about prostitution and trafficking in humans and in-

... in Boppard-Hirzenach

For many years in the past, volunteers regularly prepared the SOLWODI newsletters for distribution by folding and enveloping them at the SOLWODI headquarters in Boppard-Hirzenach. For age reasons, this task has now been taken over by the printers. At a thank-you get-together the volun-

... in Neuwied

A couple from Neuwied found a special way to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They invited 36 guests on board a ship and sailed with them on Holland's Ijsselmeer. They chartered the Ortolan, a ship built in 1897, with a young woman

... in Andernach

Representatives of Andernach's One World Shop ("Eine-Welt-Laden") paid SOLWODI a visit to find out more about SOLWODI's work, their garden project in Kenya and the

... in Augsburg

On 21st September 2017 the Augsburg chapter of the German catholic women's association, KDFB, started a fundraising event called "shelter and support for refugee women" as part of the campaign "show a heart for refugees". Proceeds

... in Bad Kissingen

The local charity "Die Kissinger Tafel" which provides food for the local needy donated new school satchels to "our" three

... in Berlin

This year's SOLWODI summer event was a picnic. The clients brought self-cooked food and as always there were

... in Helmstedt

The SOLWODI work group in Helmstedt had a promotion stand called "Stop Trafficking in Humans" for the European

Networked nationwide

... in Bonn

SOLWODI is now on the crowdfunding platform "give wings" (verleihefluegel.org).

... in Bonn

CMS Foundation helps SOLWODI clients get access to justice

For most of SOLWODI's clients it's not easy to get access to justice. Many of them come from cultures where they have had bad experiences with the legal system and therefore have little belief in the German legal system. In addition, many clients do not see themselves as being victims since they have

Engaged worldwide

... in Kenia

The two SOLWODI participants Janet Bahati Mwamure and Judith Atieno Onyoyo have successfully completed the DFB international trainers' course at the Oberwerth School for Sports and have received their Trainer C Licence. Janet and

... in Kenia

Our new project „Rescuing and rehabilitating child prostitutes and sexually exploited young women in Kisauni, Mombasa“ is due to commence in January 2018 and aims at freeing 15 girls and young women up to the age of 20 from forced prostitution within the first 12 months. The project's goal is to give

formed students between the age of 15 and 30 about the Nordic Model.

teers reminisced about their work over the past 30 years. Sister Lea thanked all the committed men and women for their support.



from Cologne as captain. Instead of presents the couple asked for donations to be made for SOLWODI: 1,802 Euros were collected.

ProstSCHG (Prostitute Protection Law). The guests also gave Sister Lea a donation for her work.

will go to SOLWODI Augsburg's "House of Hope", a multicultural residential community: Some of the residents are severely traumatised women and their children who receive intensive support and therapeutic help.

first-year pupils. The charity supports SOLWODI every year and makes sure the boys and girls get appropriate satchels.

numerous helpers and volunteers to help behind the scenes.

Day against Human Trafficking. Many people from Helmstedt showed their solidarity by painting a hand on a poster.

Our supporters can see on the platform when we need donations and who receives acute financial support.

been told they have only got themselves to blame. The CMS Foundation encourages people to use the opportunities which the Law offers, regardless of their financial means. The foundation has been supporting SOLWODI in its 18 specialised counselling centres on a national level since this August. They pay for legal counselling with a needs-based approach so costs for an interpreter will also be covered where required.

Judith will use the acquired skills and knowledge when they return to the SOLWODI sports and agricultural projects (Heike Boomgaarden).

gradual therapy and rehabilitate them so that they can return to school or get vocational training. The project can be implemented thanks to the financial support from the Oliver Herbrich Children's Fund.

For more information and Photos: see the SOLWODI homepage and facebook

Results of the Primsa Study presented in Hanover



The German-Austrian joint project “Prevention and intervention regarding trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation” (PRISMA) started back in November 2014 under the coordination of Professor Dr. Yvette Völschow (University of Vechta). Over the past three years scientists and practitioners from various fields

have aimed at developing practical solutions to effectively combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings. At the final conference which was held on 8th September in Hanover the research alliance presented the results, which included an interdisciplinary training con-

cept. The study partners have also explored new technologies: up to now the police have needed to obtain a court order for an X-ray of the hand bones in order to establish whether the person concerned is a minor. In the future, the hand bones test for being under age can be carried out using a non-invasive ultrasonic device on site. Led by Professor Dr. Silke Gahleitner (Alice Salomon University of Applied Science in Berlin) and together with the partners from the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BKA) and the University of Vechta, SOLWODI also contributed to the PRISMA project with employee Roshan Heiler interviewing women who work in prostitution (see newsletter 113).

Against buying sex - kfd in the diocese of Trier take a stand against prostitution

The Trier branch of the Catholic Women of Germany (kfd) demand a national ban on buying sexual services as set out in the Nordic Model. The diocesan meeting in September passed a position paper in which they de-

mand the gradual phasing out of prostitution. The work group’s conclusion: „Strengthen women – conquer violence: prostitution is not compatible with the concept of human dignity and Christian values”.

Eirene and Femmes de Salem visit SOLWODI

Brigida Ferber from the International Christian Peace Service (Eirene Neuwied) and Boussou Bintou Coulibaly from the women’s organisation Femmes de Salem (Abidjan, Ivory Coast) visited SOLWODI in Hirzenach on 12th October. Sister Lea Ackermann, Sister Annemarie Pitzl and Ruth Mueller told them about SOLWODI’s projects in Kenya. It soon became apparent that the situation for women in Kenya and the Ivory Coast are similarly precarious: many suffer from forced marriages, young marriages and prostitution. Like SOLWODI, Femmes de Salem supports women and tries to find vocational perspectives for them.



20th Anniversary of SOLWODI in Duisburg

Our first SOLWODI centre in North Rhine Westphalia was opened on 10th October 1997 in Duisburg. Sister Leonie Beving († 2009) was instrumental in implementing and developing the counselling centre and women’s shelter. At the 20th anniversary party on 25th October she was remembered with gratefulness. The centre was founded back then because so many inquiries were reaching us from North Rhine Westphalia. And 20 years on, SOLWODI’s work is indispensable. This became

clear during the celebrations. Sister Lea greeted the guests and gave an overview of SOLWODI’s development in Duisburg. In her speech, lawyer Petra Borgschulte pointed out the complex nature of problems involved in cases of trafficking. Iris Sperg from the health authorities spoke of her experience in counselling women in prostitution with regards to the Prostitute Protection Law. Sister Annemarie spoke about future perspectives regarding the “Nordic Model”.

SOLWODI activities against trafficking and prostitution



Employees of SOLWODI Brunswick walked in silence through the Brunswick town centre together with 125 passers-by in the „Walk for freedom“, to raise awareness regarding trafficking

in humans and slavery.

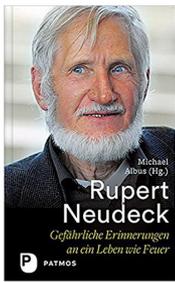
On 16th October in Schwaebisch-Gmuend representatives of the town administration, the Aids Support, the Gmuend Women’s Forum and Ingrid Krumm from SOLWODI’s Ostalb work group started the initiative „Turn off the red light”. The campaign supports the Nordic Model which makes asking for sex services punishable by law.

On 10th October a conference on “Trafficking in women in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary” was held in the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Munich together with Renovabis and the action group against trafficking in

women. Workers from various projects in those countries as well as a policewoman from Augsburg reported on their experiences. Daniela Marinache gave a presentation on the work of SOLWODI Romania and SOLWODI colleague Renate Hofmann spoke of the experiences at the SOLWODI counselling centres: „Women in prostitution have been victims of violence, exploitation and submissiveness since they were children. They just continue in that way in so-called voluntary prostitution”.

On the European Day Against Trafficking in Humans (18th October), SOLWODI Osnabrueck opened an exhibition of the broken hearts foundation at the cathedral called „Trafficking-People act – right now” (“Menschen? Handel! – Hier und heute!”). For more information and photos see the SOLWODI Homepage and Facebook.

Media Recommendations (in German)



Prof. Dr. Michael Albus: Gefährliche Erinnerungen an ein Leben wie Feuer (Biography about Rupert Neudeck) (Dangerous memories of a life like fire)

Rupert Neudeck founded the organisation »Cap Anamur« (German Emergency Doctors) and the peace corps "green helmets". His radical life style in his worldwide efforts for people in need is still an impulse for all those politically and ethically interested. The famous theologian and journalist, Michael Albus, has collected testimonies and reports from people who have come in contact with Neudeck, such as Konstantin Wecker, Sister Lea Ackermann, Alfred Grosser, Norbert Lammert, Wolfgang Schaeuble and Wolfgang

Thierse amongst others.

Patmos-Verlag, ISBN: 978-3-8436-0952-4, 19,00 €

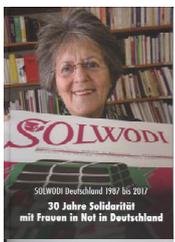


Der Tropfen weiß nichts vom Meer. Eine Geschichte von Liebe, Kraft und Freiheit. Mein afghanisches Herz (Dr. Mahbuba Maqsoodi) (A story of love, strength and freedom. My Afghan heart)

It's not thought to be a good sign to have a daughter in Afghanistan. Mahbuba's father however celebrated the birth of each of his seven daughters. Mahbuba was spared the typical fate of thousands of Afghan girl: She was able to choose her own husband and work as a teacher. And she was also politically active. When her sister was shot by a terrorist she went to Leningrad with her husband. Once she had finished her art course there, she could not return home due to the civil war. In 1994 the family received political

asylum in Germany. Mahbuba works in Munich as an artist and glass painter-

Heyne-Verlag, ISBN: 978-3-453-20156-9, 19,99 €



Dr. Lea Ackermann / Dr. Barbara Koelges / Annemarie Pitzl: 30 Jahre Solidarität mit Frauen in Not in Deutschland (30th Anniversary of Solidarity with Women in Distress in Germany)

The multifaceted chronic of the women's rights organisation takes a look back on the achievements over the past 30 years: The central themes used to depict SOLWODI's astonishing story are the individual plights of the clients and the challenges which the staff face. The chronic is supplemented by SOLWODI's political demands.

Rhein-Mosel-Verlag, ISBN: 978-3-89801-351-2, 14,90 €

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