

# Equal, self-determined and free

## TERRE DES FEMMES

Annual report 2019

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## **TERRE DES FEMMES - Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V.**

TERRE DES FEMMES – Human Rights for Women e.V.

TERRE DES FEMMES - Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V. is a non-profit human rights organization for girls and women, which supports girls and women affected by violence with actions, public relations, promotion of projects and international networking. TDF clarifies where myths and traditions make life difficult for women, protests when rights are curtailed and demands a world worth living in for all girls and women - equal, self-determined and free! Our main topics are domestic and sexualised violence, forced marriage and crimes of honour, female genital mutilation, trafficking in women and prostitution. The association was founded in 1981, the national office is located in Berlin.

### **Foreword**

Dear readers,

An annual review at TERRE DES FEMMES (TDF) means not only countless Facebook entries, Instagram posts, dozens of press releases, interviews and newspaper articles, but also ongoing campaigns and constant theme work as well as volunteer work on all channels. The present annual report summarizes this wealth of work and activities, yet does little justice to the diverse commitments of TERRE DES FEMMES. It can only present the highlights of TDF employees' and volunteers' daily fight for equal rights and freedom for girls and women, finding creative ways to draw attention to women's rights and TDF itself, in addition to their political work.

A spectacular action at the Brandenburg Gate on the occasion of 25 November, the international Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, during which TDF women and men loudly protest against any kind of violence, is part of the annual agenda of TERRE DES FEMMES. At the same time, the "live free - without violence" flag of TDF is raised nationwide and in many other countries on this day. The thematic focus of the flag campaign in 2019 was the demand for a ban on the purchase of sex. In 2019, TDF increasingly focused on working with men. Both sexes are affected by the particular issue of genital mutilation and TDF is therefore participating in the EU-funded project "Men Standing Up for Gender Equality".

A very special event for me was the award of the Order of Merit of the City of Berlin. As a long-standing TERRE DES FEMMES national managing director, I was presented with the award at a ceremony in the Rotes Rathaus (Red City Hall) on 1 October 2019 by the governing mayor, Michael Müller. With the Order of Merit, the city of Berlin honors people who have rendered outstanding services to Berlin. The fact that it was awarded to me for my work at TERRE DES FEMMES shows the importance that our organization has now acquired also in the capital. For example, it was emphasized that TDF is vehemently committed against female genital mutilation and domestic and sexualized violence. Special praise was given to our successful flag campaign around 25 November, which I initiated and which encourages civil society to take action against violence against women. The international Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women has now become a fixed date in the calendars of many equal opportunity commissioners, entrepreneurs and politicians throughout Germany.

I accept the award also on behalf of the fellow campaigners and companions who constantly support, defend and promote the ideas and convictions of TDF. The women of the TDF Board of Directors, our prominent ambassadors, the volunteers, the office staff, interns, sponsors, donors and support organizations have all contributed to this success. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for this commitment and great help.

For the Board of Directors,

Christa Stolle

## **Review of the women of the board**

From the French women's rights activist Flora Tristan (1803 – 1844) comes the sentence that has been on the back of our annual report for years: "The fundamental equality of man and woman is the only way that can lead to human unity". As logical and natural as this saying may seem to many of us - humanity is far from this unity. As women board members, we are concerned with the whole range of violations of women's rights that TERRE DES FEMMES denounces and which this annual report focuses on. In doing so, the particular departments stand for specific forms of this oppression and inequality - be it female genital mutilation, violence in the name of honor, domestic and sexualized violence or trafficking in women and prostitution. We are still and again and again outraged by the number of areas in which girls and women are sexually harassed, defamed on the basis of sexism and disadvantaged on a daily basis. For TERRE DES FEMMES, equality means mainly one thing: equal rights are human rights.

So, in our board work, we are constantly facing up to this standard to demand human rights for girls and women. Together with a strong team of professional and highly committed employees in the national office and numerous dedicated TDF activists throughout the country.

Many discussions and processes continued to advance all areas to which TDF is dedicated in 2019. Particularly noteworthy in this regard are the restructuring of the International Cooperation Department, the position-finding process on the subject of surrogacy/tenancy in the area of reproductive rights and our petition "HAVE THE HEAD FREE!" on the subject of children's veil.

In the International Relations Department, we discussed how we could intervene more quickly and in a more situational way in acute emergencies or global hot spots. In many countries, human rights are violated in their entirety as autocratic dictators, militias or rebels of all stripes fight each other and devastate countries. Elsewhere, patriarchal ideologies prevail, which force girls and women in particular into strict rules that hardly allow them any freedom. TERRE DES FEMMES wants to be able to react quickly and flexibly in the future when crisis situations of a political or humanitarian nature come to a head. In order to be able to use these resources, we terminated three partner projects which are still able to operate well under their own steam after

many years of support from TDF. Florika in Bulgaria, Lokia Women's Association in Israel/Palestine and YAKA-KOOP in Turkey were created and grew independently of TDF and continue to exist after the end of the project. This applies to all partner organizations supported by TDF. So, the important work of the great women on site continues!

We were commissioned by the 2019 Member Assembly to draft a position paper on the demand for a ban on legalizing surrogate motherhood in Germany. TERRE DES FEMMES uses the term tenancy, because the woman's body is used contractually to carry a child in it. According to the Member Assembly resolution, TDF rejects this, since tenancy regards both the woman's body and the child itself as goods and thus violates her dignity. The understandable wish to have a child of one's own must not be carried out on the backs of other women who take on restrictions and risks. The position paper is used as the official political position of TERRE DES FEMMES as a women's rights organization.

We actively supported the petition "HAVE THE HEAD FREE!", which calls for a ban on the veiling of minors, and informed the public about it at a press conference in August 2019. A constitutional expert opinion certified that a ban would not violate the constitution - i.e. the right to freely practice religion. The much-acclaimed conference represented the first constitutional debate on the subject and reaffirmed the principle of equality in the constitution, which must guarantee girls and boys the same opportunities for development. This enabled TDF to clarify an essential point in the controversial debate.

Our TERRE DES FEMMES board work in 2019 was characterized by discussions, agreements, the struggle for common perspectives and political options for action. We were also involved in events and actions, such as the spectacular demand for a ban on the purchase of sex on the occasion of the day "NO to Violence Against Women" in November 2019 at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, or the high-profile charity art auction at which 49 artists donated their works, thus raising a large sum for TDF's work. We were motivated and committed to many countless assignments, including lectures, media inquiries, conferences, talks with politicians and meetings with TDF employees at the national headquarters. We are also happy to be a contact person at the annual Activists' Day, which offers members from city and university groups, working groups or activists a platform for exchange. Because this is where the soul of TERRE DES FEMMES lives. Women who - despite all differences of opinion - want to get together, fight together and achieve something important: Human rights for all - human rights for women!

For the Board of Directors

Inge Bell

## Thanks to all staff 2019

Firdeza Asanova  
Vanessa Bell  
Ute Binder  
Gesä Birkmann

Désirée Birri  
Myria Böhmecke  
Susanne Habele  
Birgitta Hahn  
Anna Hellmann  
Behije Jusufi  
Sina Kehr wieder  
Ciler Kilic  
Sabrina Kürzinger  
Angelika Lange  
Birgit Michael  
Monika Michell  
Anna Molenda  
Idah Nabaterregga  
Ute Oesterle  
Maan M. Obaid  
Lovina Okonkwo  
Rebeca Panoschi  
Carolin Pranz

Dagmar Rösler  
Lilith Schardt  
Maria Schrammen  
Christa Stolle  
Andrea Tivig  
Sina Tonk

Nastassja Wachsmut  
Maja Wegener  
Charlotte Weil

Data Management  
Domestic and Sexualized Violence  
Documentation Centre  
Head of Departments (from 03/2020: Head of Department  
Topics, Projects)  
CONNECT (from 01/2020: STARK)  
Honor Crimes  
Head of Finance  
International Cooperation  
Domestic and Sexualized Violence  
Accounting  
Data Management  
Equal Rights and Integration  
Head of the Film Festival FrauenWelten Berlin  
HR / internship coordination  
EDP  
Honor Crimes  
Office Management  
Female Genital Mutilation / Let's CHANGE  
Head of Finance, Personnel, Administration  
Men Standing up (until 02/2020)  
Female Genital Mutilation / Assistance (until 04/2020)  
Administration  
Female Genital Mutilation / Let's CHANGE / Honor Crimes /  
Gender ABC  
Distribution / Donation Service  
Association communication / Event organization  
Trainee Communication Department  
Managing Director  
Trafficking in Women and Prostitution  
Personal Assistant to the Management (from 03/20: Head of  
Departments)  
Head of Department Communication  
Head of Department Topics, Projects (until 02/2020)  
Female Genital Mutilation / Let's CHANGE / Men Standing up

## Former employees 2019

Abir Alhaj-Mawas (Equality and Integration), Melanie Götz (Digital Media), Clara Hülskemper (Administration / Real Estate Search), Alexandra Kampe (Conselling), Julia Mergenschröer (Charity Art Auction), Ayfer Schultz (Conselling), Renate Staudenmeyer (International Cooperation), Dorothea Windler (FGM / Let's CHANGE)

## TDF Interns 2019

Pia Ahmed, Ann-Christin Arnold, Leyla Balthasar, Antonia Beaulaurier, Hendrieke Becker, Fleur Behrendt, Laura Bertele, India Mae Black, Viviane Clemens, Anneke Essebaggers, Lea Essers, Marielle Findorff, Tamara Gans, Caroline Gansdorfer, Sophia Groth, Leonie Haller, Judith Hermann, Franziska Hildebrandt, Laureen Hinz, Nicole Holstein, Marie Janjic, Pauline Juris, Sina Kehr wieder, Lena Kempermann, Alisa Maj Kimpel, Nadine Kleineidam, Marco Lehmann, Maura Garrido Lüneburg, Laura Mendieta, Julia Mergenschröer, Annika Neid, Mascha Neumann, Trinh Ngoc-Mai, Paula Maria Nowak, Carina Pukade, Wiebke Riedel, Jascha Rittmann, Leya Safian, Clara Nike Schäfer, Aline Leonie Scherer, Hanna Schnieders, Julia Selamawit Araya, Hannah Sommerschuh, Lili Margit Steffen, Clara Stoll, Viktoria Szcypior, Ronja Tietz, Johanna Tigges, Camila Sánchez Ugalde, Eva Ulshöfer, Tessa von Richthofen, Jeanne Louise Wagner, Delia Wartmann, Alina Loreen Wascher, Johanna Wiese, Carolin Willaschek, Dorothea Windler, Frederique Wolff, Caterina Ziege

## **Film Festival FrauenWelten**

The 19th TERRE DES FEMMES film festival FrauenWelten took place for the last time in Tübingen from 20 to 27 November 2019. From 2020 it will be staged in Berlin with its extensive supporting programme. For the first time in Berlin, the film festival will take place from 28 October to 4 November 2020 in the cinema of the Kulturbrauerei. However, a small film series is still planned in Tübingen around International Women's Day on 8 March. With a total of approx. 4,300 viewers at twelve screenings less than in previous years, the film festival achieved the best result in terms of audience numbers in the entire festival period. The audience was particularly interested in the main topic "Exit from Prostitution – Now!" The stimulating audience discussions also ensured an intensive exchange with the international guests, among them activists, directors and experts.

### **Highlights of the Supporting Programme**

The high-profile panel discussion entitled: "Stop Sex Buying – Now!", which dealt with prostitution, human trafficking and the ban on the purchase of sex in the context of the "Nordic Model", was attended by: Sandra Norak, a prospective graduate lawyer, Simon Häggström, a Swedish Commissioner, Helmut Sporer, a Commissioner from Augsburg, and Inge Bell, a board member of TERRE DES FEMMES. Commissioner Simon Häggström gave a vivid account of the implementation of the "Nordic Model" in Sweden. This model decriminalizes women in prostitution, protects them more easily and offers help in getting out. The "clients", however, are criminalized in this model, thus depriving the prostitution market with its violent excesses of its breeding ground. Sandra Norak, a survivor of the "loverboy" method, spoke about the daily violence she experienced as a prostitute at school and cinema screenings. She, too, is calling for a ban on the purchase of sex in Germany, as current legislation is a push factor for human trafficking in Germany. Almost all films in the second thematic focus "Religious Fundamentalisms" were heavily frequented. The emotionally and vividly illuminated film "Nur eine Frau" (Only a Woman), about the famous Berlin "honor" killing of Hatun Sürücü, filled the cinemas at both screenings. The producer Sandra Maischberger was also a guest and explained the making of her film. The Austrian comedy "Womit haben wir das verdient" (How do we deserve this?) provided best entertainment and the opening film "Gott existiert, ihr Name ist Petrunya" (God Exists, her Name is Petrunya), was also well received by the audience. Other audience favorites were three Oscar nominations, the Moroccan feature film "Adam", „Die perfekte Kandidatin“ (The Perfect Candidate) from Saudi Arabia and „Die Sehnsucht der Schwestern Gusmao“ (The Longing of the Gusmao Sisters) from Brazil. Guest producer Milena Garfield also found favor with the Tübingen audience with her film "Savovi-Stitches" about an actual scandal of massive child theft in Serbia.

### **School Screenings**

Also this year, school performances were offered for young audiences. Pupils were able to talk to the sociologist, author and activist Necla Kelek about the film "Nur eine Frau" (Only a Woman), to Sandra Norak about "Ich gehöre ihm - Loverboy" (I belong to Him – Loverboy) and to Chelo Alvarez-Stehle about her personal documentary film

about sexual violence in different countries "Sands of Silence, Waves of Courage". At the final screening, film festival director Irene Jung announced that it might be still possible to watch women's films in the former film festival city in the future. A working group of TERRE DES FEMMES activists, cooperation partners and the cinema museum met and planned a small film series around March 8, 2020.

Sandra Norak, film festival guest for the theme day "For a World Free of Prostitution", was welcomed in Tübingen by film festival director Irene Jung. She attended a school presentation of "Ich gehöre ihm - Loverboy" (I belong to Him – Loverboy) at the cinema museum to join a discussion with the young people afterwards. She explained the psychological consequences of the experiences of violence in brothels and on the street and the multiple traumas that continue to burden the women for years after they got out of sex work. She was accompanied by a camera team that was shooting a documentary about the "loverboy" method.

## Flag campaign

The most important day of action for TERRE DES FEMMES is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which commemorates the murder of three women's rights activists in the Dominican Republic every year on 25 November. TERRE DES FEMMES uses this day to draw attention to the countless acts of violence, prevailing inequality and oppression mechanisms against women worldwide. TDF city and university groups, women's organizations, equal opportunity commissioners, unions, political parties or individuals organized a variety of actions and demonstrated their solidarity with TDF by using the flag "live free - without violence". In 2019, thousands of TDF flags continued to fly in Germany and abroad, accompanied by events, discussions, demos and film screenings. In 2019, the focus of the flag campaign was on the demand for a ban on the purchase of sex. Under the slogan #sexistunbezahlbar (sex is priceless), the TDF national office denounced violence against women in prostitution in a media-effective action in front of the Brandenburg Gate. As speakers, Jessica Espinoza, member of the board, and Dr. Andrea Tivig, TDF consultant, spoke about widespread myths on the subject. Members of the Bundestag in Berlin also supported the campaign across party lines. Local politicians also took part: In Tübingen, after a well-attended event on the topic, the "live freely - without violence" flag traditionally flew in front of the town hall. In Würzburg, Carmen Schiller, the district's equal opportunities commissioner, had organized a day of action. Among others, TDF Managing Director Christa Stolle and District Administrator Eberhard Nuß took part in the flag-raising, who also opened the TDF exhibition "Mit dem Malstift gegen die geraubte Kindheit" ("With the crayon against a stolen childhood"). The Regensburg city group invited to a panel discussion. Board member Inge Bell discussed violence in prostitution with, among others, Huschke Mau, the founder of the network Ella, which is an independent interest group for women in and out of prostitution. Other city groups also addressed their audiences with exhibitions, discussion groups and information tables. The city groups of Berlin, Marburg and Stade publicly showed the ZDF documentary "Bordell Deutschland" (Brothel Germany). While the Bremen city group raised the flag in front of Bremen's Weser Stadium, the Dortmund city group had brought a bus company on board, which ran the flag as an imprint on buses and trains through the city in a way that could not be overlooked. Nationwide, TDF activists organized numerous other events to mark the flag campaign. The Berlin TDF

Documentation Centre was able to trace 180 media-supported actions through press reports alone.

In Rosenheim, at the invitation of the local TDF city group, the former victim Sandra Norak spoke about the brutal business of the red-light trade. Sandra Norak, who was able to report on the practices of the so-called loverboy method from her own experience, explained how young girls are first forced into emotional dependence and later into prostitution.

## **Honor Crimes**

Honor crime means the restriction of the right of self-determination of girls and women as bearers of family honor in patriarchal societies. In these contexts, girls and women embody the honor of the entire family and are held responsible for its loss if they do not accept the narrow rules of conduct. The restoration of this supposed honor ranges from extreme control to forced marriage to "honor" killing.

## **Prevention Work in Schools**

Honor crime affects girls and women of all ages. As part of the TDF girls' campaign #esistnichtallesrosarot (not everything is pink), TERRE DES FEMMES focuses particularly on minors. Prevention work in schools reaches children and young people on as broad a scale as possible.

## **Gender ABC – Workshops in Schools**

The EU education project Gender ABC (2018 - 2020) focuses on equal rights, human and children's rights, gender-specific violence and harmful practices, pedagogically formatted for school classes. It is being implemented on a transnational basis with project partners in Italy, Portugal, Spain, Belgium and Germany. Their representatives met for the second project meeting from 13 to 15 March 2019 at the national office of TDF in Berlin. The aim of the two-year educational program is to sensitize and enlighten pupils aged 6 to 18 and to encourage them to think about equal rights. The aim is to achieve changes in pupils' perceptions of gender-specific prejudices and stereotypical role models. These will be placed in the context of social, religious and cultural norms and critically questioned together. Furthermore, the pupils should learn to stand up for their rights themselves and be informed about counselling centres. At the end of the program, the children and young people present what they have learned to their parents in a creative way (e.g. in the form of a theatre play, a presentation of collages or pictures). In the fall of 2019, the first training sessions for teachers and school social workers were also held at the TDF national headquarters as part of the project. The response from both students and teachers showed how important and necessary educational projects are. Together with its partners and in close consultation with pedagogues, TDF developed six modules for work in primary schools and twelve modules for teaching in secondary schools, which can be downloaded from [www.frauenrechte.de](http://www.frauenrechte.de). A further aim of the program is to create a network between authorities, specialist agencies and schools for fast and effective exchange.



## **School theatre in Baden-Württemberg**

In November 2019, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration in Baden-Württemberg has announced another 20 performances of the interactive school theatre project "Mein Leben. Meine Liebe. Meine Ehre?" (My life. My love. My honor?) until the end of 2020. Three performances (in Balingen, Tübingen and Stuttgart) were realized by the project team (TERRE DES FEMMES, YASEMIN advice centre and the mobile stage "Mensch: Theater!") until December 2019. Further performances will take place in 2020.

## **Early Marriages in Germany**

The adoption of the "Law to Combat Child Marriages" in July 2017 was a milestone in the legal assessment of marriages with minors. Since then, a strict prohibition of marriages before reaching the age of majority at 18 years of age has been in force in Germany, as well as the nullity of a marriage (also concluded abroad) where the parties involved were under 16 years of age. The law has far-reaching consequences, but is not yet applied across the board.

## **Survey on the Early Marriage Act**

As in the previous year, the Department of Honor Crimes conducted a survey among authorities in Germany on the number of marriage annulments since the "Law to Combat Child Marriages" came into force in July 2017. According to this survey, in 2019 (as of September), 813 cases of marriages with minors had been reported nationwide since the law came into force, and in only 10 cases have the marriages actually been annulled. It also became clear that the law is implemented very differently by the individual federal states and that responsibilities remain unclear. In Berlin, only 3 cases of married minors are known, in Bavaria again 367 cases. Employees of authorities and counselling centres sometimes lack sufficient knowledge about the procedural steps in practice. In most federal states, no statistics are collected or processed cases are registered centrally, so a high number of unreported cases can be assumed. In autumn 2019, TDF began preparations for the expert conference "Two Years of Law to Combat Child Marriages" on 16 March 2020 in the Red City Hall in Berlin, which, however, had to be cancelled shortly before because of the Corona crisis.

## **New EU Project CHAIN**

In autumn 2019, TDF was granted funding for the two-year EU project CHAIN - Linking prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early and forced marriage (EFM) in Europe. The project partner countries are Spain, Italy, France and Belgium. The aim is, among other things, to create a chain of intervention for cases of FGM and EFM in Berlin, Milan, Paris and Madrid in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and community trainers who also work directly with communities and community leaders (imams, priests, elders). A campaign targeting the communities (parents on the topic of FGM and young men on the topic of EFM) will be developed together with the project partners.

## Press and Public Relations Work

On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the death of the "honor" murder victim Hatun Sürücü, another commemorative event was held at the memorial stone in Tempelhof-Schöneberg on 7 February 2019. TDF was represented by board member Necla Kelek and several interns who held up signs with the names of current "honor" murder victims. The joint press release of the Berlin Working Group against Forced Marriage was supplemented by the TDF press release, which showed the results of a research on the "honor" murder victims of the previous 12 months. The Berlin Working Group against Forced Marriage, of which TERRE DES FEMMES is a member, has warned anew of the danger of a holiday marriage in an info letter to schools before the summer holidays of 2019. This was followed by increased press inquiries as well as a hearing of TDF in the Berlin House of Representatives on August 19, 2019 on the prevention of forced marriage with many subsequent lobbying discussions.

### Workshop Gender ABC in the Berlin Nord Elementary School

Since August 2019, TDF has been working with two experienced teachers in Berlin schools, working creatively with the classes on topics such as equal rights, children's rights and gender-specific violence. Role-plays, which help the pupils to put themselves in the other gender's shoes or to imitate stereotypical behavior, are then analyzed together. There were many lively discussions in the 6th grade of the Nord Elementary School, which was visited by the project on 21 and 22 August 2019.

### TERRE DES FEMMES demands:

- Nationwide sensitization of public authority employees, teachers, school social workers and police forces (e.g. through compulsory further training courses)
- Financial security and the expansion of existing specialized counselling services and protection facilities.
- Specific emergency places in protection facilities to enable uncomplicated and rapid reception of affected persons.
- Closing the gaps in criminal law: religious and social forced marriages must also be punishable under § 237StGB.
- A prohibition of religious pre-marriage also for adults as well as criminal prosecution of any offence. Religious marriages are not controlled by the state and therefore encourage forced marriages.
- An updated nationwide study on the extent and forms of forced marriage and early marriage in Germany.
- The preparation of guidelines for better implementation of the "Law to Combat Child Marriages" and training for employees of authorities and counselling centres.

## **Domestic and Sexualized Violence**

Violence against women often takes place in the partnership or family and occurs in all walks of life. Thus, the home itself becomes a dangerous place. Since many of those affected remain silent out of shame and fear, only a few cases are reported - yet the number of recorded acts remains alarmingly high. The criminal statistics evaluation on partnership violence of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) has reported rising case numbers in some areas for the year 2018. According to the BKA statistics, a total of 140,755 persons (previous year: 138,893) became victims of attempted and completed violence in 2018. These include murder and manslaughter, assault, rape and sexualized assault - 81.3% of the victims are women. In 2018, 122 women were also killed by partnership violence. This means that every third day in Germany, a woman dies at the hands of her relationship partner.

### **Femicide Action**

To protest against the murder of women, TERRE DES FEMMES demonstrated on November 13, 2019 in Berlin together with Prof. Kristina Wolff, the initiator of the petition #saveXX, the campaign platform change.org, politicians and other supporters. In a spectacular action in front of the Brandenburg Gate (cover picture of this annual report) the demonstrators with red painted hands, signs and candles demanded an end to the femicide. This most extreme form of partnership violence must not be seen as an individual family tragedy. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines femicide as all killing crimes against women motivated by hierarchical gender relations. In order to ensure protection against gender-specific violence, it is important to recognize this as a structural problem.

### **Campaign "Strengthen Girls Now!"**

The two-year campaign "Jetzt Mädchen stärken! #esistnichtallesrosarot" (Strengthen Girls Now! Not everything is pink) focuses on girls' rights and their protection across all departments. Domestic and sexualized violence also affects children and the youth. Their special need for protection and the necessity of non-verbally recognizing neglect and family violence prompted TDF to submit a petition to the Federal Ministry of Health.

### **"U-Examinations - Absolutely Mandatory!"**

With the petition "U-Untersuchungen - Unbedingt Pflicht!" (U-Examinations - Absolutely Mandatory!), TERRE DES FEMMES collected signatures in order to put emphasis on the demand for the introduction of nationwide obligatory preventive medical checkups for children and adolescents up to the age of 18, their financing by the health insurance companies and a uniform evaluation of the results. On 29.10.2019, TDF handed over more than 75,000 signatures to the Federal Ministry of Health. TERRE DES FEMMES is convinced that compulsory preventive medical checkups can help to detect and prevent cases of neglect, maltreatment and sexual abuse such as genital mutilation of girls at an early stage. There are currently fourteen examinations for children up to the age of 17. However, health insurance companies only cover the costs of preventive medical checkups up to the age of 14, which are

only legally binding in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Hesse. In all other federal states, the procedure is voluntary. Evaluations of cases in which children have died due to neglect and maltreatment show that in most cases the parents have not taken advantage of the preventive medical checkups. The federal government must make sufficient financial resources available for the further education and training of pediatricians and adolescents with regard to risks to the well-being of children. Heiko Rottmann (head of the sub-department "Communicable and non-communicable diseases, health security"), head of division Dr. Thomas Stracke and speaker Simone Strecker were impressed by the petition, exchanged views with the TERRE DES FEMMES speakers on the topic of child protection and put the petition demands on the agenda at the Federal Ministry of Health. At the end of 2019, the Berlin Senate announced a corresponding law on mandatory preventive medical checkups for children.

### **Awareness Week #jedeVierte**

From 1 to 7 April 2019, TERRE DES FEMMES organized a successful awareness week on the subject of domestic violence on its social media channels Instagram and Facebook. The action focused on the frightening but real everyday life of many women. Under the hashtag #jedeVierte (every fourth), affected women were given the opportunity to talk about their experiences. At the same time, it was possible to create awareness for the topic. TDF employees, board members and public figures also took part in the campaign. Romy Stangl, TDF employee and activist with ONE BILLION RISING München e.V. and the initiative "Signs of Hope" - against domestic violence, encouraged women affected by domestic violence and encouraged them to raise their voices. "Together we are strong and together we can make a difference", she explained.

### **Parliamentary Breakfast**

TERRE DES FEMMES criticizes the lack of implementation of the Istanbul Convention, the "Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence", which became operative in 2018. Although funds have been allocated for the construction and renovation of women's shelters and the establishment of a monitoring centre, an independent coordination body is still lacking. In addition, research, including meaningful data collection, and a new action plan to combat violence against women must be promoted. Other articles of the Istanbul Convention have not been implemented either! For this reason, the Working Group on Women's Rights and LGBTI\* of the Forum Menschenrechte (Human Rights Forum), chaired by TDF, invited to a parliamentary breakfast in the Bundestag on 17 October 2019. At three thematic tables, among others, Cornelia Möhring (Die Linke), Silvia Breher (CDU/CSU), Leni Breymaier (SPD), Ulle Schauws (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) and Josephine Ortleb (SPD) discussed the demands for financing women's shelters, the establishment of a monitoring centre and the special needs of refugee women.

## Ban on "Upskirting"

TERRE DES FEMMES supports the demands of the petition "Verbietet #Upskirting in Deutschland!" (Prohibit Upskirting in Germany!), which was started by Ida Marie Sassenberg and Hanna Seidel. "Upskirting" means secretly taking pictures and filming under the skirts of women, which is a recurring phenomenon in the mobile phone age. TDF welcomes the public discussion of this important topic and calls on the Ministry of Justice to finally become active. After 89,000 signatures have already been collected in summer 2019, Federal Minister of Justice Lambrecht wants to amend the penal code accordingly. The federal cabinet has passed a bill to that effect, but the Bundestag still has to approve it. This shows once again how protests and petitions can set a political process in motion and sensitize society.

In the summer of 2019, TERRE DES FEMMES released the film "What Girls Want - Girls Talk about Quota, Fears, Role Models and Their Future" in collaboration with filmmaker Clara Trischler. The film project shows how schoolgirls perceive the world and imagine their future. They talk about their experiences and stories in which they have experienced and observed gender inequality themselves. The film will be used as specialist material in schools and in youth facilities. One of the demands made by the schoolgirls on politicians is that much more and better information and education about violence and offers of help must be provided. The film can be viewed on the TDF YouTube channel.

### **TERRE DES FEMMES demands:**

- Nationwide obligatory U-examinations for children up to the age of 18, their cost coverage by all health insurance companies, a nationwide uniform evaluation, as well as the financing of further training for pediatricians.
- The expansion of prevention work suitable for young people, also in schools.
- A secure and nationwide financing of women's shelters and women's counselling centres.
- The nationwide establishment of so-called victim protection clinics, where anonymous forensics can be carried out and evidence can be stored for up to 20 years.
- A new action plan on violence against women.
- Legal entitlement to help in cases of violence - Germany must ensure that adequate help is available to all women, including a legal entitlement to psychosocial process support.
- Regular and nationwide sensitization (e.g. through compulsory further training) of authorities, judges and police.

## Trafficking in women and prostitution

Trafficking in women and prostitution violate the human rights of girls and women. Their plight is often exploited to make a lot of profit for others. Exploitative conditions, physical and emotional coercion and violence characterize both problem areas, which TDF addresses in its Trafficking in Women and Prostitution Department.

### Trafficking in Women

"Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation" are recorded as criminal offences by the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) and their number is published in the Federal Situation Report. In 2019, 430 victims of human trafficking were registered, a slight decrease compared to 2018 (488 victims). Unfortunately, this is not an indication that the criminal business of human trafficking is actually declining, as the report only shows successfully completed investigations. The dark field of undiscovered crimes is likely to be many times higher. Human trafficking is a control crime that must be actively pursued with many human resources in order to find the perpetrators and victims. Nevertheless, the BKA's Federal Situation Report on Human Trafficking is the only reliable source of information on the countries of origin of the perpetrators and victims and their age structure. According to the BKA, 96% of those affected by human trafficking are women. This is why TERRE DES FEMMES speaks of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Almost half of those affected are under 21 years of age (47.5%), the average age is 23 years. Germans, with 18.4% of victims, are the main country of origin of trafficked persons for sexual exploitation covered by the report. Among the under-age victims of commercial sexual exploitation, as many as 68% of those affected are German. Otherwise, the figures for affected women from Bulgaria (15.3%) and Romania (14.7%) are similarly high compared to previous years. However, there was a significant increase from the countries Hungary (13.5 %) and Nigeria (14 %). The number of affected women from Nigeria rose remarkably strongly, almost doubling to 61.

### GRETA Warns Against Loverboy Method

On 20 June 2019, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) published the second evaluation report on Germany's efforts in the fight against human trafficking. GRETA warns that girls and young women in Germany are increasingly at risk of becoming victims of trafficking by so-called loverboys. TERRE DES FEMMES contributed to the recommendations of this report by meeting with GRETA experts. According to the Federal Criminal Police Office, in 2018 one in six victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation in Germany were brought into prostitution by the so-called loverboy method. Loverboys are men who emotionally bind girls to themselves through a simulated love affair and isolate them from their social environment in order to force them into prostitution through this dependency. Contact is usually established via the Internet. The perpetrators mainly use social networks, advertising portals and chat rooms in online games. TERRE DES FEMMES has been dealing with this special form of trafficking in girls for years and provides information about the method in schools and through various channels. As part of the two-year girls' protection campaign #esistnichtallesrosarot (not everything

is pink), TDF developed a flyer on the loverboy method in 2018, which is used as educational material in schools and counselling centres.

## **Prostitution**

For TERRE DES FEMMES, prostitution is the expression of a fundamental imbalance of power between the sexes, which suggests the permanent availability of women and is contrary to human dignity. TDF is therefore calling for a ban on the purchase of sex – in Germany and internationally. Not the regulation of prostitution, but the fight against its causes must be the focus of social debate and political decision-making. Not the prostitutes, but the sex buyers, pimps and brothel operators must be targeted by the legislation. At the same time, exit programs for prostitutes must be financed. TERRE DES FEMMES has developed two materials in 2019 that are aimed at the general public. In August, the 32-page TDF brochure *#sexistunbezahlbar* (sex is priceless) was published, which deals in detail with arguments and contexts on the subject of prostitution. The "Calendar for a World without Prostitution", published in November, was realized by TERRE DES FEMMES in cooperation with the organization SISTERS e.V. It focuses on prejudices and half-knowledge about prostitution. Both materials can be purchased from the TDF-Shop.

## **Flag Campaign: #sexistunbezahlbar**

On November 25, 2019, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, TERRE DES FEMMES organized a sensational protest action in front of the Brandenburg Gate with the main topic "*#sexistunbezahlbar* - Für eine Welt ohne Prostitution (sex is priceless – for a world without prostitution). Male cardboard figures symbolized with common sex-buyer quotes the inhuman and misogynous attitude of sex-buyers and thus illustrated the high level of violence that often accompanies prostitution. TERRE DES FEMMES fights to make it clear, by outlawing and criminalizing sex buyers, that prostitution is not compatible with equality. In their speeches, TDF speaker Dr. Andrea Tivig and TDF board member Jessica Espinoza explained the abolitionist model (ban on the purchase of sex and help for sex workers to get out) which is already being implemented in some European countries, such as Sweden. The European Parliament has already voted with a clear majority for the Europe-wide introduction of the ban on the purchase of sex as early as 2014. TDF has also been demanding since August 2014 that the ban be implemented in Germany, which the European Parliament is demanding for all EU countries.

## **Networking**

TDF networks with civil society organizations at national and international level in order to achieve a change in societal awareness on a broad level. The World Congress of CAP International, SOLWODI e. V. and Armut und Gesundheit e.V. took place in Mainz at the Johannes Gutenberg University from 2nd to 4th April 2019. As a result of the congress, which was held under the motto "Neither sex nor work", the Mainz Declaration was signed - with the demand for the introduction of a ban on the purchase of sex in Germany. TERRE DES FEMMES was represented by many women and helped shape the strategy workshop.

On 5 and 6 December 2019, the second bi-annual meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings took place in Brussels. From several politicians on the podium came clear signals that prostitution must be tackled at European level by introducing a ban on the purchase of sex.

### **"Brussels' Call" Movement**

On 16 October 2019, a conference was held in Brussels at the European Parliament on the subject of prostitution, organized as part of the "Brussels' Call". The "Brussels' Call" movement brings together non-governmental organizations from all over Europe to lobby for the ban on the purchase of sex to be introduced throughout Europe. TDF was involved in the Steering Committee of the conference in the conception of the content of the conference and with several TDF women on site in Brussels. Representatives of around 80 feminist and abolitionist organizations gathered in the European Parliament to pass on their political demands directly to the newly elected EU parliamentarians.

### TERRE DES FEMMES demands:

- A permanent residence permit for victims of trafficking in women, regardless of their testimony in court.
- The comprehensive examination and recognition of trafficking in women as a gender-specific reason for persecution in asylum proceedings.
- The right psychosocial process support at no charge for all victims of trafficking in women.
- The introduction of a ban on sex purchase and reduction of the demand for sex for sale.
- The prohibition of profit-making by third parties in prostitution, but until then a stricter inspection of prostitution sites and the observance of clear minimum standards for working conditions and safety of prostitutes.
- A study with statistically sound figures on prostitution in Germany.
- The nationwide establishment of specialized counselling centres, shelters and drop-out programs with stable funding.

## **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a grave human rights violation and an irreparable cut in the physical and mental health of girls and women. In many countries it is carried out on the basis of traditions or handed-down myths. The intervention can be life-threatening and have far-reaching consequences for the person affected. The damaging worldwide practice has its origins in patriarchal structures and is also practiced in Europe. According to UNICEF estimates (2016), more than 200 million girls and women are affected worldwide.



## **FGM in Germany**

In Germany, too, there are girls and women who have experienced female genital mutilation or are at risk of it. In the absence of exact data, TDF has been using extrapolations since 1998 to document its own statistics on FGM in Germany. The method of analysis and the figures by country of origin can be viewed on the TDF homepage, broken down by federal state. The figures show a steady increase in the number of girls at risk. At a press conference in October 2019, TDF presented the latest figures, according to which there are currently 70,218 girls and women affected by female genital mutilation in Germany. This represents an increase of eight percent compared to the previous year. 17,691 girls living in Germany are threatened by FGM - 14 percent more than in 2018. The figures clearly show the need for nationwide information work, comprehensive legal protection and targeted prevention measures. Medical and educational staff in particular need to be trained and sensitized so that the threat of genital mutilation is recognized early enough and protective measures can take effect. Support for those affected and information campaigns on the dangers and effects of FGM in the communities are further important building blocks for overcoming FGM.

### **Campaign "My body - Unharmed and Self-Determined"**

Together with the cooperation partners MOGiS e. V. - Eine Stimme für Betroffene (A Voice for Those Affected) and project 100% MENSCH gUG, TERRE DES FEMMES initiated the campaign "My body - Unharmed and Self-Determined" for the right of all children to physical integrity. The campaign started on the occasion of the World Day of Genital Self-Determination on May 7, 2019 with a press conference and subsequent panel discussion. As experts, Charlotte Weil (speaker on FGM, TERRE DES FEMMES), Victor Schiering (MOGiS e.V.), Holger Edmaier (Projekt 100% MENSCH), Katharina Vater (InTra-Beratung at Projekt 100% MENSCH) and Seyran Ateş (lawyer and founder of the Ibn-Rushd-Goethe-Mosque) discussed with press and audience.

Interventions on the genitals that are not medically necessary violate the child's right to physical integrity and attack the dignity of the child as a person and individual. This includes not only female genital mutilation, but also foreskin amputations of the male genital ("circumcision") and compulsory genital operations on intersex children. These operations are contrary to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The campaign "My body - Unharmed and Self-Determined" therefore advocates genital self-determination and against any medically unnecessary interventions on the genitals of children. Education and sensitization should bring the discussion about this into society in order to raise awareness of this human right to integrity. Together with its cooperation partners, TDF is calling for a legal ban to comprehensively protect all children from genital mutilation - regardless of genital or gender. The campaign has numerous supporters from civil society and celebrities. An important supporter and co-initiator of the campaign is the imam, lawyer and women's rights activist Seyran Ateş. As part of the campaign, she invited to a panel discussion on 19 October 2019 in the liberal Ibn Rushd-Goethe Mosque, which she founded, entitled "The right to decide about one's own genitals is a human right". The aim of the discussion was a social exchange on genital mutilation of girls, boys and intersex children and its effects on

trans\* persons. The diverse panel and the extraordinary location of the event made the discussion a unique event for both the panelists and the guests. Other planned activities include lobbying discussions with politicians, public events and the development of materials to educate and raise awareness. The campaign is supported by Aktion Hilfe für Kinder, LUSH Germany and the marketing agency GREY.

## **EU Project Let's CHANGE**

After the successful start of the transnational EU project Let's CHANGE in October 2018, the CHANGE agents and trainers recruited and trained by TDF were active in their communities. Let's CHANGE is an international follow-up project which, like its two predecessor projects CHANGE and CHANGE Plus, is being carried out in several European countries and will be financed by the EU for two years. TDF is coordinating the project and working together with Plan International from Hamburg, the Dutch organization FSAN and the French NGO Equipop. The aim is to create a network of trained multipliers who can initiate cultural change in communities of immigrants in Germany and bring about a turning away from FGM. To this end, so-called CHANGE Agents are being trained, who themselves come from countries of origin with a high prevalence of FGM. The CHANGE Agents use so-called "behavior change activities" to influence their own communities and perform important educational work. In 2019, numerous learning and exchange opportunities, activities of multipliers and trainers in communities and professional circles as well as exciting project meetings took place. A six-month training course on topics such as gender and human rights, the health consequences of FGM, the legal situation, FGM and religion prepared the CHANGE Agents optimally for their work in their communities. Multipliers from Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Cameroon, Senegal, Sudan, Oman and Indonesia provided information on the topic at film evenings, barbecues and in shelters for refugees. The project has been recognized as an example of best practice by the European Commission, among others.

## **CHANGE Trainers**

The multipliers who have been active as CHANGE Agents in Berlin can upskill themselves as CHANGE trainers within the Let's CHANGE project. On the one hand, they will support newly trained CHANGE Agents with their experience as mentors and assist them in their educational work and in carrying out new behavior change activities. There is a great need for counselling and support in dealing with cases of threatened or already occurred female genital mutilation in the medical, educational and social fields. As the topic is heavily tabooed, CHANGE trainers are enormously important contact persons for professionals who work for girls and women who are affected or at risk. In 2019, trained CHANGE trainers conducted several training sessions on the topic of Female Genital Mutilation for various social and medical professionals in different cities. In total, 32 committed CHANGE Agents are recruited and trained throughout the EU, 152 behavior change activities are carried out in the diaspora communities, 24 former CHANGE Agents are trained as CHANGE Trainers and 72 further training courses are carried out for professionals. The result of Let's CHANGE is a professional EU-wide network of FGM experts from affected diaspora communities. The project contributes to advancing the EU-wide fight against FGM at the local level

through awareness-raising work in the diaspora and at the same time disseminating it through international cooperation.

#### **Exhibition "Breaking Blades" on FGM**

"Breaking Blades" - an exhibition on the subject of FGM that is both artistic and informative at the same time - started on 4 November 2019 in Berlin. For one year, photographer Antje Pohsegger interviewed people from affected communities about their experiences with FGM. Together with the expressive images, these interviews give viewers a very direct insight. TDF was involved in the project by creating the information boards and through its cooperation with CHANGE agents. On 14.11.2019 TDF invited to a panel discussion in the context of the exhibition. The panel included TDF speaker Dr. Idah Nabateregga, CHANGE agents Sekou Kaba and Binta Fatty, director Ulrike Zimmermann and Dr. Lissa Masumbuku. Initiator Antje Pohsegger took over the moderation.

### **Men Standing Up for Gender Equality**

A great success and new approach in the work to overcome FGM was the approval of the project "Men Standing Up for Gender Equality" by the European Commission in 2019. The project is coordinated by the migrant association Lessan e.V. in Hamburg, implemented by TDF in Berlin and by the migrant organization Femmes Entraide et Autonomie in Paris. The project identifies female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage as forms of gender-specific violence. The aim is to raise awareness of these practices within migrant communities and in shelters for refugees in order to overcome them in the long term. The project is aimed exclusively at men who are trained as multipliers.

### **Training of CHANGE Mediators**

The three partner organizations are training 30 male members from migrant communities in the three cities as so-called CHANGE mediators within the framework of an eight-month training program. During the training, topics such as gender roles and stereotypes, images of masculinity, power structures and gender-specific violence with a focus on female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage are dealt with, jointly reflected upon and discussed. After successful completion of the training, the CHANGE mediators will educate and sensitize people in their communities and in shelters for refugees on these topics. In addition, specialists who work with refugees will be trained on gender-specific violence as part of advanced training courses to qualify them as contact persons for these issues.

### **Great Interest in Recruitment**

The kick-off meeting, at which the project consortium came together for the first time to plan the following two years together, took place on 5 and 6 September 2019 in Hamburg. Shortly afterwards, the recruitment of CHANGE mediators started in Berlin and met with great interest. 32 men from different communities applied for the training, of which the project managers selected 12 men, whose training started in January 2020. These are representatives of different communities, both from countries in the Near and Middle East (Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey) and from East and West Africa (Sudan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gambia).

### **TERRE DES FEMMES demands:**

- A nationwide letter of protection against female genital mutilation. This should not only protect the children from holiday circumcision abroad, but also take the parents away from the social pressure in their home country and thus break the intergenerational chain of traumatization caused by genital mutilation.
- A national action plan to combat FGM in Germany, involving NGOs and representatives of the affected communities.
- Nationwide, specialized counselling centres and psychosocial support services for affected and endangered persons. Cultural and language mediators must be integrated into these counselling services.
- Professional groups that frequently come into contact with girls and women who are threatened or affected should receive detailed knowledge about FGM in their vocational training. Both long-term consequences and sensitive handling should be taught.

### **TERRE DES FEMMES lives from your donation!**

Girls and women want to live **equally, self-determined and free**. What should have been a matter of course in 2020 is unfortunately still not reality for many. The current corona pandemic is even aggravating the inequality between the sexes. Women are more likely to work in jobs that are much lower paid and where they are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 - for example in the care and health sectors.

In this crisis, girls and women are more exposed to domestic and sexualized violence due to social contact restrictions. We must also fear that girls are increasingly being married against their will and are forced to leave school permanently. This minimizes their chance of a self-determined life.

Unequal power structures lead to unequal educational opportunities, gender-specific violence, forced marriages, early pregnancies, genital mutilation, and also to women being underrepresented in politics and business.

In Germany alone, 65,000 girls and women are affected by genital mutilation, and around 15,500 girls are at risk.

In order to fundamentally improve this situation, we focus our work on empowering girls - because strong girls later become strong women who can lead an equal, self-determined and free life. Our campaign **My body - Unharmful and Self-Determined** sets a clear signal against genital mutilation, our girls' campaign **#esistnichtallesrosarot** (not everything is pink) includes educational work on loveboys. Last but not least, our petition **U-Untersuchungen - Unbedingt Pflicht!** (U-investigations - Absolutely Mandatory!) achieved obligatory medical check-ups in order to detect violence against girls at an early stage.

A complete success!

Not only in Germany TERRE DES FEMMES stands up for girls and women. We also support self-help projects in the **rest of the world**. Many of the activities focus on **empowerment through education**, others fight against female genital mutilation, honor crimes or trafficking in women and prostitution. Counselling those affected by violence and supporting shelters are also part of our **international fight against violence against girls and women**.

With your help, TERRE DES FEMMES can continue this important work in the future. Your **donation** helps TERRE DES FEMMES to **continue** to support girls and women and to fundamentally change the conditions that prevent many girls and women from living equal lives. On behalf of TERRE DES FEMMES I thank you

Christa Stolle

Member of the board and managing director of TERRE DES FEMMES

## Our Goals

TERRE DES FEMMES was founded in 1981 to strengthen the rights of girls and women worldwide to live free from violence. As a non-profit organization, we work to change the awareness of society as a whole by influencing political decisions, informing the general public and carrying out educational and preventive work in schools and diaspora communities. We see the cause of women's rights violations in patriarchal, traditional structures that disadvantage and discriminate against women and girls worldwide. TERRE DES FEMMES is politically independent, strictly secular and takes a firm stand for the rights of girls and women. In our work, we rely on international networking, comprehensive information, targeted public campaigns and actions, and support for individual projects abroad, for example in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Mali, Nicaragua and India. Women's rights are universal human rights and affect more than half of the world's population.

## Our Work

TERRE DES FEMMES organizes and carries out nationwide campaigns e.g. against "honor" crimes, genital mutilation, domestic and sexualized violence, trafficking in women and prostitution etc. Staff members give lectures on the causes, create teaching material for schools, initiate signature campaigns, write articles for the homepage etc. Through these activities, TERRE DES FEMMES has developed a role as an expert on many topics, which is also valued by political parties, associations and the federal government. Besides our lobby and public relations work, cooperation with affected diaspora communities is particularly important. Together with activists from African and Asian countries living in Germany, TERRE DES FEMMES implements educational and training projects against female genital mutilation. Our project Let's CHANGE, which aims to abolish Female Genital Mutilation in the EU, directly targets the affected communities. In this way, multipliers are trained to work towards overcoming this harmful practice in their communities and thus contribute to a long-term change of heart. The goal of our school projects is to sensitize students to gender-specific violence - especially female genital mutilation and forced marriage. In Germany and four EU partner countries, the transnational EU project Gender ABC specifically aims to educate children and young people about their rights. Two interactive plays for schools developed by TERRE DES FEMMES are intended to practice conflict resolution in a playful way and to raise the issue of forced marriage and "honor" crimes.

## Your Support

TERRE DES FEMMES is a non-profit association and is mainly financed by donations. Grants and membership fees, with which we deal responsibly and sustainably. Every donation to TERRE DES FEMMES contributes to strengthening the equality of women and men worldwide. Help us to prevent violence against girls and women, to educate about inequality and to strengthen women's rights worldwide. Together we are strongest! Donate now. Every contribution is a contribution to a more loving world. Thank you very much. For more information visit us at [www.frauenrechte.de](http://www.frauenrechte.de) or call us:

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## Sexual and Reproductive Rights

TERRE DES FEMMES stands up for the right to sexual and reproductive self-determination and therefore demands the abolition of §§ 218 and 219 and thus the decriminalization of women who decide to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

### TDF in the Alliance for Sexual Self-Determination

The Alliance for Sexual Self-Determination (Bündnis für sexuelle Selbstbestimmung) is made up of various feminist and general political groups, associations, parties and advisory bodies. TDF has been a member since its foundation in 2012. The alliance opposes the criminalization and moral and social ostracism of abortion, which is being sought by Christian fundamentalist groups, among others. The right to individual sexuality and self-determined family planning without paternalism and discrimination are declared goals. TERRE DES FEMMES took part in several actions of the alliance in 2019. For example, on 26 January 2019 at the rally for the deletion of § 219 a in Berlin. On September 17th, a film screening with subsequent discussion took place at the TDF federal office in cooperation with the Alliance. The French documentary film "Pro Life - Opponents of Abortion on the Advance" shows the methods used by anti-abortion activists to try to push through their ideas.

### Action Day and Awareness Week

From September 16 to 21, 2019, TERRE DES FEMMES launched an awareness week on the topic of abortion on Instagram and Facebook and provided the followers with interesting facts about the reproductive rights of women in Germany in various contributions and a quiz. The Awareness Week raised awareness of the issue and called for the decriminalization of intervention and the right to freedom of information. The day of action "Living and loving without paternalism - sexual self-determination is a human right" took place on September 21, organized by the Alliance for Sexual Self-Determination with the participation of TDF. The situation in Germany was also discussed. TDF board member Godula Kosack reminded in her speech of the time when abortions were subject to a complete ban. Then, as now, a ban on abortions posed a threat to the health and lives of women. Women must have the right to make independent decisions about their bodies and their lives. Sexual and reproductive health is considered a human right, including the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy and to receive information about abortion.

#### **TERRE DES FEMMES demands:**

- The deletion of sections 218 and 219 of the penal code and section 12 of the pregnancy conflict law.
- Permission for doctors to point out the possibility of abortion and to inform about methods.
- Free, qualified and voluntary counselling services in case of unwanted pregnancy as well as close and comprehensive care as a basic medical service.
- Free contraceptives and free distribution of the emergency contraceptive pill.
- The promotion of scientists researching into better methods and treatment options for abortions. The topic must also be part of the training of doctors and nurses.

## **Equal Rights and Integration**

The Equal Rights and Integration Department is committed to the protection and rights of refugee girls and women. The integration of female refugees and migrants into German society is of immense importance. Many of the girls and women come from patriarchal societies, which is why there is a particularly great need for education. With special programs, TERRE DES FEMMES supports them in exercising their rights and participation.

### **Petition "HAVE THE HEAD FREE!"**

With the petition "DEN KOPF FREI HABEN!" (Have the Head Free!), launched in 2018, TDF has set its sights on equal rights and opportunities for underage girls. TERRE DES FEMMES demands a legal regulation/prohibition of the veiling of girls under 18 years of age, especially in kindergartens and schools. The so-called child veil is not a harmless religious covering of the head. It represents a gender-specific discrimination and a health hazard which restricts social participation and conditions girls at a very early age. Public schools must allow equal development for all minors and, as neutral places, avoid religious and ideological symbolism and promote democratic thinking. With the petition "DEN KOPF FREI HABEN!", TERRE DES FEMMES has been collecting signatures for a legal ban on the children's veil since July 2018. They are to be handed over to the Federal Ministry of Justice in mid 2020.

### **Press Conference on the "Children's Veil"**

Legal clarity was the topic of the press conference organized by TERRE DES FEMMES on the petition "DEN KOPF FREI HABEN!" on 29 August 2019 at the Federal Press Office in Berlin. An expert opinion on constitutional law by Prof. Martin Nettesheim, commissioned by TDF, certified the constitutional conformity of a ban on the so-called children's veil. The expert opinion represents the first constitutional debate on the subject. TDF thus assumed an important pioneering role in the discourse on equal development opportunities for all schoolgirls. In addition, Dr. Necla Kelek, member of the board of directors, presented the results of a survey of more than 250 educators launched by TDF, which clearly pointed out the negative consequences of early veiling. Dr. Lale Akgün, former member of the Bundestag of the SPD, also stressed the great relevance of a legal regulation on the "children's veil" in order to strengthen girls from patriarchal families.

### **Education and Action**

In order to provide broad information about the petition and to solicit support, TDF took part in several meetings with representatives of official bodies. For example, at the faction meeting of the school committee in Reinickendorf town hall, which advised the senate on the ban, at the federal anti-discrimination office and the German Teachers' Association, which assured its support. The campaign #NoHijabDay #FreeFromHijab protested against the "World Hijab Day", which encourages women to wear a veil and demands acceptance for it, on February 1, 2019. TDF supports this counter movement of courageous women who have decided against veiling.



## **Sponsor Program CONNECT**

With the sponsor program CONNECT, TDF brought together refugee women with volunteer women from Berlin for over three years. Through weekly meetings, the sponsors supported refugees from over 20 countries in their daily lives, helping them to lead a self-determined, free and integrated life in Germany. TDF accompanied the tandems, organized training for new sponsors as well as regular leisure activities, exchange and networking meetings.

### **Successful Project Extended**

At the beginning of 2019, the project, which was awarded the PHINEO Seal of Approval in October 2018, was extended by Aktion Mensch for seven months until the end of 2019. TDF arranged a total of 74 sponsorships during the project period from June 2016 to December 2019. The tandems can look back on numerous successes: improved German language skills, new mobility (e.g. learning to ride a bicycle), jobs, moving to private homes, successful searches for daycare and school places, but also help with custody issues and awareness of independence as a woman in Germany.

### **Trauma Training for Sponsors**

On 20 October 2019, TDF and the sponsors held a training course on "Trauma-sensitive handling of refugee women" at the TDF national headquarters. The sponsors were familiarized with the possible causes of trauma in the country of origin, on the escape route and/or in the host country. The focus was particularly on the relationship between the sponsors and their tandem partners and how traumatic experiences can be avoided. In addition to tips for sponsorship and how to deal with trauma symptoms, speaker Cathy Kopp, social education worker and herself a CONNECT sponsor, also spoke about the limits of voluntary work. To conclude the project, TDF organized a closing ceremony at the end of November, which was attended by numerous women. One particular success of CONNECT is certainly the fact that many friendships have developed and in most cases the conclusion of the project is not synonymous with farewell.

#### **CONNECT-Tandems in the High Ropes Course**

In August 2019, participants of the CONNECT sponsorship project met in Berlin at the High Ropes Course Jungfernheide. Together they wanted to prove courage and have fun on this summer day. Teamwork helped: encouraging each other, looking after each other, waiting for each other. Step by step, the women became more confident and dared to do more. Self-confidence increased, as did the fun factor.



## No to Polygamy

In May 2019, the federal government published a bill to amend the Nationality Act. This met with massive criticism, as a discussed ban on multiple marriages for naturalizations was not included in the law. TERRE DES FEMMES also joined the criticism. Although polygamy is generally prohibited in Germany, the law allows exceptions: only the contracting of a multiple marriage in Germany is punishable, but not its continuation, if it was previously contracted abroad. Marriages that are not contracted in Germany by civil registry, but by imams, remain unaffected by the ban.

## Position Paper on Polygamy

TERRE DES FEMMES commented with a position paper on polygamy in Germany. For TDF, the toleration of multiple marriages is in various respects not compatible with the principle of equality in Germany. According to Sharia law, only men are allowed to live polygamously, women generally have no say in the matter and often have a different family status within the family. Some of these women were already married as girls. Thus, polygamy promotes parallel societies, as it often denies the women concerned the rights to which they are entitled. This also has a negative effect on the development of the children. TERRE DES FEMMES demands that the Civil Status Act be amended again so that the civil marriage must precede the religious one, as was the case until 2009. Thus, every clergyman would be obliged to check whether a state-concluded marriage already exists which excludes multiple marriages.

### **TERRE DES FEMMES demands:**

- A ban on polygamy, including multiple marriages previously contracted abroad.
- A legal regulation on the so-called child veil in all public educational institutions up to the age of 18.
- A secular and democratic school system, without any religious or ideological symbols.
- A policy that gives higher priority to Article 3 para. 2 GG (Enforcement of equal rights for women and men) than to Article 4 para. 2 GG (The undisturbed practice of religion).
- An integrative, value-based subject "ethics" at all public schools as a compulsory subject instead of denominationally bound religious instruction.
- A legal prohibition of full veiling in public.
- No accommodation of girls and women in anchorage centres. After fleeing, usually for months, girls and women need a safe place where they can move freely.

## **International Cooperation**

TERRE DES FEMMES has been cooperating with women's initiatives and organizations in other countries since its beginnings. Patriarchal structures and harmful traditional practices keep girls and women worldwide from equal participation and self-determined life. TDF is committed to the long-term empowerment of girls and women and the reduction of structural violence. The International Cooperation Department supports partner organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In the future, short-term support for threatened women's rights activists and movements is also to be more strongly institutionalized. The worldwide rise of religious fundamentalist and antifeminist movements makes a rapid response to repressions indispensable.

### **YAKA-KOOP, Turkey**

Founded in 2002 as the first women's rights organization in Van, East Anatolia, YAKA-KOOP is committed to protecting women and girls from violence and early marriage. For YAKA-KOOP education is the basis for a self-determined life. They support girls on their way to education by providing information during home visits, but also through painting competitions in schools. They also make use of their excellent network: service providers in the wedding industry such as hairdressers and caterers joined their campaign against early marriages. When early marriage is imminent, YAKA-KOOP shows parents alternatives and has saved over 1,500 girls from this fate since 2014. YAKA-KOOP provides legal and psychological counselling to girls and women who have suffered violence. In this way the organization provides very concrete support and strengthens the position of those affected. In addition, the organization, as a joint plaintiff, is calling for fair criminal trials - about 50 times since 2014, with success. The cooperation, which has existed since 2014, will end in summer 2020.

### **Lakia Women's Association, Israel/Palestine**

The cooperative, which has been in existence since 1998, is one of the few in the State of Israel that supports the self-initiative of Bedouin women and girls in the village of Lakia and the surrounding so-called illegal settlements. These settlements are still not recognized by the State of Israel. Access to infrastructure, education and health care is often difficult. In a politically, socially and economically difficult situation, girls and women are given access to education, so that today many go to school and study. The sewing workshop and the mobile library guarantee that even older women and girls from remote villages develop perspectives for their future. Anti-violence training has led to a sustainable improvement in the position of women in Bedouin society. The support, which has existed since 2003, will end in summer 2020.

### **Roma Union Burgas/Project FLORIKA, Bulgaria**

The FLORIKA project supports girls of the Roma minority from the Bulgarian city of Burgas aged between 9 and 15 years. Due to poverty, social and family neglect, they are particularly at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. The aim is to enable the girls to complete their schooling through educational offers and to protect them from forced prostitution or early marriage through courses on leisure activities and

strengthening their self-confidence. In the ten years since the project began, more than 450 girls and their families have been reached and informed about early marriage, prostitution and human trafficking. Almost all girls have been saved from a life in prostitution and have been able to learn a profession that now enables them to earn their own income. The cooperation, which has existed since 2012, will end in the summer of 2020.

## **Further TDF Project Cooperation**

In cooperation with its partner organizations Bangr Nooma in Burkina Faso and AIM in Sierra Leone, TDF is pressing ahead with protection against female genital mutilation. In addition to effective educational work via radio, with the help of multipliers and in village communities, TDF promotes contact points for girls and women in need in both countries: in Burkina Faso a centre for the protection against violence, in Sierra Leone a shelter for girls. The women's shelters set up by the TDF partner organization APDF in Mali in Bamako, Mopti and - brand new - in the Gao crisis region offer protection against violence, emergency shelter and counselling for around 500 women every year. In Cameroon, the TDF partner organization AAFMHL is committed to girls' education and the prevention of early marriages. Scholarships enable girls to attend school and later to train or study. Empowerment through education also plays a major role at the Neswan Social Association in Afghanistan: the women's centre in Herat offers a wide range of services from literacy to mobile phone repair. The TDF partner organizations BHUMIKA Women's Collective in India and Asociación Proyecto MIRIAM in Nicaragua have declared war on domestic and sexualized violence. Both offer legal and psychological counselling to women affected by violence. In India, the police and judiciary are also being trained in dealing with cases of violence against women. In Nicaragua, women can also take part in vocational training and are supported in setting up a small business.

## **Development and Successes**

Two IC projects supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) were successfully advanced in 2019: The aim of the project, which has been running in Burkina Faso since 2017, is to sensitize the population of the capital Ouagadougou and 15 surrounding villages to gender-specific violence. For example, despite a legal ban, 76 percent of the female population is affected by genital mutilation. In addition, the TDF partner organization Bangr Nooma has set up a violence protection centre. Affected girls and women are given accommodation and advice there at short notice. Bangr Nooma produces radio programs, among other things, to raise awareness. In 2019, around 100 girls and women were protected from violence and their personal situation improved. The project, which has been running in Nicaragua since 2018, supports 750 girls and women in Managua and Estelí in ending violent relationships and building a self-determined life. The TDF partner organization MIRIAM not only offers them legal and psychological advice, the women can also learn a profession and are supported in setting up their own businesses. The country has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Latin America - sexualized violence is one of the main causes. There is a complete ban on abortion throughout the country, even if the woman's life is at risk.

### **Sierra Leone: Project trip in November 2019**

In 2019, IC speaker Birgitta Hahn visited the TDF partner organization Amazonian Initiative Movement (AIM) in Sierra Leone, West Africa. In 2019, AIM organized the first nationwide "ritual without cutting" with over 70 participants in the district of Port Loko. All components of the introduction of girls into adult life by the Women's Secret Society are maintained - with the exception of female genital mutilation (FGM). For Sierra Leone, this alternative initiation ritual is a new approach that should serve as a model for the entire country. A highlight was the visit to the girls' shelter, which was built in 2012 with the help of an inheritance and offers protection, counselling and the opportunity for up to 25 girls to attend school. In Sierra Leone, 90 percent of girls and women are still affected by FGM. No law protects them from it. AIM is doing everything possible to end FGM. Conversations and interviews that Birgitta Hahn has conducted with circumcisers, heads and students can be found on the TDF website.

### **TERRE DES FEMMES demands:**

- An increase in institutional funding to promote women's rights organizations and feminist project work in the global South.
- The promotion of measures to combat structural violence against girls and women and to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights of women.
- In all bilateral and multilateral negotiations of German Development Cooperation, gender justice must be promoted and a zero-tolerance policy towards violations of women's rights must be demanded. Financing commitments should, for example, be made conditional on a ban on female genital mutilation.
- German diplomacy and external representation must work towards the actual implementation of and compliance with women's rights, and the protection of women's rights activists and organizations must be prioritized.
- The provision of resources to strengthen the implementation of multilateral agreements such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Consistent implementation of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and special attention and provision of resources to implement Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and self-determination for all women and girls".

## **Communication**

As a political women's rights organization, TERRE DES FEMMES develops pioneering positions, gets involved in social debates and initiates discussions. TDF's communications department facilitates this participation through press and public relations work on all channels of the print and social media. It is also the contact point for press enquiries, arranging interviews and for the internal coordination of press releases. The company's own events are accompanied by the media and made public. The internal communication is also an important institution to integrate the discussions of the members in the daily work of the office. City and university groups work regionally, while working groups work on specific topics in order to make TDF topics heard in society. Last but not least, the TDF Documentation Centre offers a knowledge base through online research and well-prepared archive material.

## **Press and Public Relations Work**

Journalists, politicians and representatives from science, associations or organizations appreciate the expertise of TERRE DES FEMMES as a women's political institution. In 2019, a total of 166 press enquiries were made to TERRE DES FEMMES. The strongest demand was for information on female genital mutilation (30 enquiries). TDF has been working for years in the European context within the EU-funded CHANGE projects on female genital mutilation (FGM). The media interest can thus also be interpreted as a result of the high-profile work on FGM - a success for the work of the CHANGE agents and trainers (see also pages 14-16). 25 inquiries to TERRE DES FEMMES concerned domestic violence and femicides. TERRE DES FEMMES demands that murders of women should not be relativized as so-called relationship crimes. In 2019, the Department of Honor Crimes provided information on a total of 20 press enquiries. These were mainly enquiries about forced marriage and the effects of the law on early marriage passed in 2017. On 29 August 2019, TERRE DES FEMMES held the press conference "HAVE THE HEAD FREE!" on the constitutional conformity of the ban of the veil for children (see also pages 18-19), which was recorded as a video and is available on the TDF website. The media interest in TERRE DES FEMMES' demand for a ban of the veil for minors in public educational institutions such as schools and kindergartens was very high, especially because TERRE DES FEMMES presented an expert opinion on the compatibility of such a ban with the German constitution at the press conference. More than 40 articles on the topic and the expert opinion on constitutional conformity were published afterwards and on the day after the conference. On 10 October, TERRE DES FEMMES invited the press to a press breakfast at the Europahaus in Berlin. The new annual statistics on FGM in Germany, which are compiled and published by TDF, were presented. The statistics show that the number of girls and women affected by FGM has risen by 8 percent compared to the previous year, to around 70,218 in Germany. In addition, more than 17,600 girls are at risk of being circumcised. Many of the numerous journalists took the opportunity to interview CHANGE agents present.

## **Online Media and Social Media**

The most important online medium for TERRE DES FEMMES is the TDF homepage [www.frauenrechte.de](http://www.frauenrechte.de). At first glance, it offers the latest news, reports on activities and informs readers about the individual topics with background information, teaching materials, literature tips and many useful links. The press archive, with press photos and the documentation centre are also available on the website. From here, readers are redirected to other TDF web portals, including the specialist portal on forced marriage, stopp-childmarriage, United to End FGM and the FrauenWelten film festival. The homepage is also available in a compressed version in English - an internal area with protocols is available for TDF members. On Facebook, TERRE DES FEMMES was able to attract 3,070 followers. At the end of 2019, the number of Facebook fans was 26,176. The post with the most attention was a critical contribution in mid-March to the exhibition at Frankfurt's Museum for Applied Arts, which showed "Contemporary Muslim Fashion" and thus trivialized the wearing of a veil as a fashion accessory. A post in September, which presented the "Have the Head Free" campaign, was also among the three contributions with the most clicks. YouTube, Twitter and Instagram also saw strong growth across the board in 2019. Contributions to the campaign for

the protection of girls, the flag campaign and the abolition of paragraph 219a were particularly successful.

## **TDF Documentation Centre**

The TDF Documentation Centre is the information pool within the national headquarter. It is where press articles, campaign material and information on TDF key topics are sorted, archived and made accessible. A large part of the holdings can now be looked up on META-katalog.eu. META is the joint internet platform of i.d.a., the umbrella organization of German-language women's/lesbian archives, libraries and documentation centres. Three essays on the topics "Women's Rights - Human Rights", "Honor Crimes" and "FGM" are also included in the Digital German Women's Archive, which reflects the broad spectrum of the German women's movement.

## **Campaigns and Events**

In 2019, TDF also initiated its own campaigns or took part in campaigns and events on the subject of women's rights. The high-profile campaigns developed by the national office were also supported by many active members, city and university groups, other initiatives or interested individuals. The following selection shows some examples.

### **Campaign for the European Elections**

In April 2019, TDF launched the campaign "Europe from the Perspective of Women" for the European elections. Under the slogan "How many stars does Europe deserve?", the campaign addressed three key issues: Parity, prostitution and violence against women. The election programs of candidates and parties were examined to see to what extent they addressed these issues. The campaign used the symbolic EU flag with its twelve stars as a rating system. In this way, voters could see at a glance where there is still need for action within the European Union in the area of women's rights and where some progress has already been made. The campaign was developed in cooperation with the advertising agency McCann Worldgroup, which is responsible for the idea and implementation. It can still be accessed at [www.europa.frauenrechte.de](http://www.europa.frauenrechte.de).

#### **March 8th Demonstration in Berlin**

Consistent protection of girls was demanded by TDF women during their participation in the central demonstration for women's rights on 8 March in Berlin. In doing so, they reaffirmed the demand for compulsory preventive medical check-ups for all minors up to the age of 18 and made it clear once again that the ban on the veil for children and underage youths demanded by TDF is necessary to combat the further exclusion and unequal treatment of girls. At the same time, the activists campaigned for the protection of girls from prostitution, e.g. through manipulation by loverboys, and called for "STOP Trafficking in Girls" through a legal ban on the purchase of sex. They also campaigned for the deletion of paragraphs 218 and 219 of the Penal Code and against the criminalization of doctors who inform about and perform abortions.

## **Public Theme Evening "What Girls Want"**

TERRE DES FEMMES, in cooperation with the German Child Protection Association, invited to the public theme evening "Girls in the 21st century in Germany - understanding, protecting, strengthening" on 24 May 2019. Over 200 participants accepted the invitation to the "Embassy for Children" in the Hotel Rossi in Berlin. TDF board member Godula Kosack of TERRE DES FEMMES opened the event and announced the film "What Girls Want - Girls Talk about Quota, Fears, Role Models and Their Future", which was produced by TERRE DES FEMMES. The film lets five girls between 15 and 17 years of age from different places in Germany speak and shows how they see our society in terms of female role models, women's rights and equal rights. Two of the protagonists were present and explained their wishes and views on girls' rights in Germany. The subsequent panel discussion, which was moderated by Shelly Kupferberg, featured Christa Stolle, Managing Director of TDF, Ekin Deligöz, member of the Bundestag for Die Grünen and board member for the German Child Protection Association, Julia Wöllenstein, teacher and author, and pediatrician Dr. med. Nida Afsar. They discussed the developments, opportunities and dangers girls face in Germany and concluded by jointly pleading for "clear rules and a broad social commitment to equal rights".

## **Award of the "Angry Cactus 2019"**

TERRE DES FEMMES defines salacious commercials and advertising with voyeuristic images as indirect sexualized violence. For this reason, TDF supports complainants who have seen misogynist advertisements in Germany. The nominations for the negative award "Der Zornige Kaktus" (The Angry Cactus), which has been awarded by TDF since 2015, will be selected from among the suggestions. From all submissions, the pipe and sewer cleaning company Schwanzer from Ampfingen (Bavaria) was chosen as "winner" in 2019 by means of an online survey. Under the heading "We always get through!", the advertising image shows a scantily dressed young woman sitting in a pipe. The viewer's gaze is directed to her crotch, a connection with the product is not recognizable. The company in question was informed about the award of the "Angry Cactus" and the associated complaint to the German Advertising Council. TERRE DES FEMMES also had craftswomen speak in a video: They all commented on the dubious advertising and called on fellow craftsmen and -women to refrain from sexist advertising. First success: since 01.01.2019 a ban on misogynist advertising on city billboards has been in force in Berlin. The capital thus follows cities like Munich and Bremen. TDF welcomes this first step in the right direction and continues to advocate a nationwide ban on misogynist advertising.

### **Charity Art Auction for TERRE DES FEMMES**

On 19 October 2019, the third charity art auction in the history of TDF took place at the Berlinische Galerie, Berlin ([www.kunstauktion-tdf.de](http://www.kunstauktion-tdf.de)). TDF Managing Director Christa Stolle opened the evening in a stimulating conversation with TDF Ambassador Joy Denalane, and made it clear how important the commitment to the consistent implementation of women's rights and equality remains. "Domestic violence, early marriage and female genital mutilation are not as far away as we think," explained Christa Stolle, thanking the 49 well-known artists who had made their works available, as well as curator Barbara Green for her support in placing the artists in the public eye. Joëlle Romba, director of Sotheby's Berlin, took over the subsequent auction. In total, the auctioned works of art generated proceeds of around 110,000 €.

## **ONE BILLION RISING**

On February 14, organized dance demos under the motto ONE BILLION RISING protest against violence against women worldwide. In Germany, too, numerous women and men took part in the action in many cities. In Berlin, the TERRE DES FEMMES office was represented in front of the Brandenburg Gate with a group of interns and full-time staff and provided information about the TDF topics and current petitions. TERRE DES FEMMES city and university groups in Würzburg, Stuttgart, Konstanz, Nuremberg and other cities participated in their own cities and supported the ONE BILLION RISING day of action with dancing.

### **Association Communication**

The TERRE DES FEMMES association was able to record a further increase in the base at the end of 2019. The number of members was 2,261 (2018: 2,187), the number of sponsors was 2,905 (2018: 2,620). Some of the members are actively involved in a group of cities or universities that work on TERRE DES FEMMES topics and provide information about them in their regions. In 2019 there were 28 city and university groups in Germany and one city group in Vienna. Five working groups are working in depth on individual priority topics. The committed and active members meet once or twice a year and provide important input for the work of the content units in the national office with their discussions and statements. The annual member's assembly is the highest organ of the association. All members of the association with voting rights come together here to determine future strategies, topics and goals and to exchange views. The 2019 Members' Assembly took place from 25 to 26 May in the "Embassy for Children" in the Hotel Rossi in Berlin. Among other things, the members discussed the rejection of the legalization of surrogacy and the establishment of a working group on women's rights and transgender issues.

### **TDF Activity Day**

In mid-February 2019, the TDF Action Day took place in Frankfurt. The meeting of committed active members from city, university or working groups and TDF board members made it possible to exchange experiences and get to know and meet members from the different regions. Similar challenges and experiences were exchanged and already developed material was shared. Participants were able to take part in a communication training course led by Inge Bell and Necla Kelek: "Arguing successfully in discussions with cultural relativists" and a business game developed by TDF consultant Lilith Schardt: "Civil courage versus professionalized help system: Where are the limits of volunteering?"



## **TERRE DES FEMMES FOUNDATION**

TERRE DES FEMMES lives from donations and membership fees, which finance its daily work. In order to be somewhat more independent of fluctuating donations, the TERRE DES FEMMES FOUNDATION was founded in 2004. Nine initial donors laid the foundation stone with a total of 135,000 € to support the association TERRE DES FEMMES with this foundation. By now, the TERRE DES FEMMES FOUNDATION is supported by 31 founders and has foundation assets of 986,000 €. In addition, there are loans amounting to 30,000 € - adding up to a total of 1,016,000 €. In 2019, two new donors and a total of four additional endowments were acquired. The assets of the foundation are invested in Euro pension funds at the Bank for Social Economy, in the cooperative "Schule macht Energie eG" in Tübingen as well as in cooperative shares and equity funds of GLS Bank and in the Fair World Fund. The yields flow statutorily into the financial support of the TERRE DES FEMMES registered association. Since 2005 the donation gained incomes at a value of 79.830,29€.

### **Bodies and Support**

Place of business, board and administration of the foundation are identical with the corresponding organs of the association TERRE DES FEMMES e. V. The board decides in coordination with the annual meeting of the foundation sponsors on possible focal points of promotion within the association, which benefit from the donations from the foundation's proceeds. At the last internal meeting of the sponsors in 2016, it was decided not to look for a thematic focus of support for the time being, but to make funds available for the search for a property of our own. The background to this is that the premises of the national head office have reached the limits of their capacity and the rent will increase sharply in the coming years. The investment in a property of one's own, into which both the foundation and the association with its full-time staff could move, would thus be a reasonable investment of the foundation's capital. To publicize the project, the flyer "TERRE DES FEMMES is looking for its own property" was produced and distributed. In addition, several articles on the project have been published on the TERRE DES FEMMES homepage and in the social media. The search was supported by two architectural offices, and the application was also listed with various estate agents.

### **Sponsors' Meeting**

Foundation sponsors are invited once a year to discuss the development of the foundation and the association. In 2019, three sponsors met together with Managing Director Christa Stolle, Honorary Chairwoman and TDF founder Ingrid Staehle and TDF board member Jessica Espinoza at the national head office in Berlin on 19 October. After an update on the developments of the foundation and the association to date, current considerations and possibilities of acquiring real estate or a building project were presented. The extent to which the acquisition or construction of an office building could mobilize potential donors was also discussed. Various possibilities for increased public relations work for the TERRE DES FEMMES FOUNDATION were considered. For example, the creation of an own foundation homepage was discussed or a clearer highlighting of the foundation on the TERRE DES FEMMES website. On the

evening of the Foundation Day, the charity art auction in support of TDF took place, to which the sponsors were invited and were happy to participate.

## **TERRE DES FEMMES City and University Groups**

Women throughout Germany and Austria are involved in TERRE DES FEMMES in city and university groups. In 2019, there were 25 city groups in Germany, one in Vienna and three university groups in Constance, Mainz and Göttingen. The organized women contribute significantly to the discussion of TDF topics at the local level. With numerous activities, the city and university groups draw attention to the violation of women's rights, e.g. during the flag campaign, around International Women's Day on 8 March or on the International Day of "Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation" on 6 February, and protest against it with attention-grabbing campaigns and informative events. Here are some examples: The city group Dortmund organized a panel discussion on the occasion of 25 November 2019 as well as a number of other actions on the subject of prostitution. City group coordinator Simone Kleinert was interviewed by WDR about this. On 6 March 2019, the Bremen city group organized the panel discussion "Prince Charming or Pimp?" with Bärbel Kannemann, who, as a retired detective chief superintendent, founded the association "No Loverboys". In November, they spoke with Manfred Paulus and Sandra Norak about the billion-dollar prostitution business. Around 8 March, the Bielefeld city group invited to FrauenFilmTage (Women's Movie Days) for the 16th time. As always, the selected films, some of which also dealt with the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, were very popular. The first Austrian TDF city group Vienna demonstrated for women's rights on March 8, 2019 and organized a high-profile event on various TDF topics on October 17, 2019. City and university groups can be founded by TDF members and are supported by TDF in their active work for the goals of the association.

## **TERRE DES FEMMES Working Groups**

Once or twice a year, TERRE DES FEMMES members meet in five thematic working groups. They take a critical look at social developments and trends and discuss feminist positions within their thematic areas. The focus of TDF's political work is on identifying positions and priorities. Attached to the TDF departments, the working group members provide valuable impulses and support the work of the women on the board with position papers and statements. The working groups, which are open to all members, are an important basis for the political development of TERRE DES FEMMES.

The **Working Group Women's Rights and Religion** works against all forms of discrimination, persecution and oppression of girls and women within the framework of religions. At its meeting in Berlin on 23-24 September 2019, the working group discussed, among other things, the extent to which religious ideas and dogmas could potentially influence German courts and how this could be prevented. In addition, the possibilities of supporting the TDF petition "DEN KOPF FREI HABEN!" (Have the Head Free) were discussed and a demand for a law "Right to sexual integrity" was formulated.

The **working group Women's Rights and Prostitution** met in Berlin from 30-31 March 2019 and 5-6 October 2019. It deals with the topic of human trafficking and the violation of human rights through prostitution. The most important topics are a change in criminal law along the lines of the Nordic Model. This aims at a ban on the purchase of sex, free punishment and support for those affected by means of functioning exit programs. On the agenda of the working group meetings were, among other things, the exchange with the Berlin association Neustart, which offers low-threshold exit programs for prostitutes, as well as the planning to participate in a SOLWODI congress and the planning of the flag campaign 2019 on the subject of prostitution under the motto #sexistunbezahlbar (sex is priceless).

The **Working Group Female Genital Mutilation** accompanies the work of the two projects on FGM in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone supported by TDF. In addition, the working group members are concerned with the protection of girls and women threatened or affected by FGM in Germany. For example, they discussed ways of disseminating the TDF petition "U-Untersuchungen - Unbedingt Pflicht" (U-investigations - Absolutely Mandatory) and discussed questions to the European election candidates regarding their plans to combat FGM. TERRE DES FEMMES also rejects male circumcision and intimate surgery. The latter was intensively discussed at the working group meeting 2019 and it was decided to prepare a position paper.

The **Working Group Domestic and Sexualized Violence** researches, among other things, on the topic of prevention work on domestic and sexualized violence in youth facilities and schools. At their meeting from 26-27 January 2019, the working group members compared different European prevention models. While in many countries action plans have been drawn up, in Sweden there is already an obligation in schools to carry out prevention work as part of sex education lessons. In Germany, this obligation exists in some federal states and a specialist portal, but prevention is missing from the curriculum. The working group demands the removal of taboos and the integration of the topic into other school subjects.

The **Working Group on Forced Marriage and Honor Crimes** is primarily working on forms of violence that restrict the rights of girls and women to freedom through a special concept of honor. The focus is on early marriage and on informing the authorities about the new "law to combat child marriages".

## **Finances: Revenues**

The income of TERRE DES FEMMES consists mainly of donations as well as support and membership fees, grants for specific projects and sales proceeds.

## **Donations and Contributions**

Voluntary contributions such as donations, sponsorship and membership fees account for over 60% of TDF's income. Fortunately, the income from donations could be increased again in 2019. More than 6,500 individuals and companies have made individual or regular donations to TDF, making this growth possible. Among them are the artists who have donated the proceeds of their sales, which were generated at the

TDF charity art auction, to TDF. Likewise, more members were once again won over, so that the income from membership fees has continued to rise. These funds and membership fees form the financial basis of the association and guarantee that TERRE DES FEMMES is able to work independently and impartially for women's rights.

### Donations for TDF Cooperation Projects Abroad

The cooperation with various projects abroad was successfully continued in 2019, even though at €151,316, slightly less donations were forwarded than in the previous year (2018: €163,582). As in previous years, most funds went to Mali (€ 59,177), to projects against genital mutilation in Burkina Faso (€ 19,005) and Sierra Leone (€ 14,500), and to a project for girls and women affected by violence in Nicaragua (€ 19,666).

### Grants and Forwarding of Grants

TDF does not receive continuous grants, but has to reapply for funds for various projects. In 2019, more grants could again be obtained directly for the work of TDF. In addition to the three EU projects (Let's CHANGE, Gender ABC, Men Standing Up for Gender Equality), TERRE DES FEMMES has received funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the State Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration in Baden-Württemberg, Aktion Mensch and the Lotto Foundation Berlin as well as various other foundations and associations, such as Sternstunden e.V.

### Proceeds and Other Income

TDF generates revenues, for example, by selling articles for the flag campaign, information and teaching materials and books. TDF was able to increase these revenues slightly in 2019. In addition, TDF has received various inheritances and allowances in money, as well as a dividend distribution from the TERRE DES FEMMES FOUNDATION to the association.

<b>TDF Revenues in €</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2019 Jan-Dec</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2018 Jan-Dec</b>
<b>Donations</b>		
Donations & support contributions	1,337,261.28	1,256,919.56
Donations for cooperation projects abroad	151,315.84	163,581.77
<b>Grants</b>		
Grants from EU, federal and state ministries, foundations and funding institutions	363,929.94	302,156.97
Grants to be passed on to project partners	101,144.57	596,008.75
Grants for the TDF Film Festival	88,200.00	74,000.00
<b>Member contributions</b>	284,437.45	274,543.76
<b>Proceeds</b>		
Sales revenue (materials, flyers, books, etc.)	53,230.26	54,952.71
Revenue from events, campaigns, other	40,598.30	31,106.92
<b>Money placed on TDF</b>	15,301.00	21,310.00
<b>Inheritances</b>	86,000.00	0.00
<b>Other revenue (groups of towns, foundation, etc.)</b>	103,800.56	17,452.57
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>2,625,219.20</b>	<b>2,792,033.01</b>

More graphics can be found in the original German annual report.

## **Finances: Expenses**

The expenses incurred for the work of TERRE DES FEMMES e. V. were subdivided into the areas of content work, as well as administrative and fundraising costs. In 2019, 79.2% of the total expenditure went directly into the work of TERRE DES FEMMES. The individual area of content, which received the most funds in 2019, is the area of international cooperation. This also includes funds that were transferred directly to our project partners abroad as well as grant funds that TDF acquired in Germany for work abroad and which were also transferred directly. Expenditure in the area of female genital mutilation includes not only the expenses for the work in the department, but also the expenses for the EU project "Let's CHANGE" as well as proportionate costs for the EU projects "Gender ABC" and "Men Standing Up for Gender Equality", which also fall under the area of honor crimes. Expenditure in the area of women's rights in general also includes work on all topics that are not assigned to a separate unit (e.g. reproductive rights or misogynist advertising). For the first time, the item "film festival" includes not only the costs of the festival already held in Tübingen, but also the costs of preparing for the film festival in Berlin.

### **Administrative and Infrastructure Expenditure**

In order to be able to carry out the substantive work efficiently and sustainably, expenditure in the administrative area, such as in the field of accounting and financial control, is necessary and important. In 2019, the share of administrative costs increased slightly and amounted to 14.3% of expenditure. This was partly due to the fact that parts of the TDF office had to be relocated due to renovation work in the building where TDF has rented its offices.

### **Fundraising Expenses**

Expenditure in the area of fundraising is necessary to raise sufficient funds to ensure the long-term continuation of the work. In addition to the salary costs for employees in this area, the expenses include payments for advertising materials, donation mailings and the donation service and amount to a total of 6.5% of the total expenditure. Expenditure in the administrative and fundraising areas is unavoidable in order to enable efficient work. TDF tries to keep these as low as possible. In 2019, these amounted to 20.8 % in total, which is well below the limit of 30 % defined by the DZI for justifiable advertising and administrative expenses and falls into the category of "reasonable costs". For cost reasons, TDF has not yet applied for a donation seal of approval, e.g. from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI), but is following the DZI guidelines when breaking down its expenditure. TDF also participates in the "Initiative Transparent Civil Society".

<b>TDF Expenses in €</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2019 Jan-Dec</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2018 Jan-Dec</b>
<b>Expenses content work</b> International Cooperation incl. forwarded donations & grants to partner projects (252.460,41 €)	524.432,84	466.328,47
<b>Genital Mutilation</b>	364.581,41	650.680,79
<b>Women's rights in general, documentation centre, public relations</b>	253.652,68	315.575,33
<b>Film festival FrauenWelten (2019 in Tübingen and preparation vor 2020 in Berlin)</b>	252.924,61	145.638,73
<b>Equality and Integration</b>	208.530,54	257.880,18
<b>Honor Crimes</b>	172.971,11	159.148,32
<b>Counselling centre</b>	119.367,47	215.683,16
<b>Trafficking in women and prostitution</b>	78.226,37	75.021,16
<b>Domestic and sexualized violence</b>	60.395,95	37.936,92
<b>City group work</b>	45.026,04	20.610,19
<b>Fundraising Costs</b> Expenses for donation service, fundraising actions, foundation, etc.	169.618,45	168.030,90
<b>Administrative and Infrastructure Expenses</b> Expenses for management, board of directors, accounting, member administration, etc.	376.422,68	296.734,20
<b>Total amount</b>	<b>2.626.150,15</b>	<b>2.809.268,35</b>

More graphics can be found in the original German annual report.

## **Finances: Balance sheet and profit and loss account**

TERRE DES FEMMES e. V. has been preparing an annual balance sheet since 2007. After preparing the financial statements, TDF has a voluntary external audit carried out in addition to the voluntary cash audit by association members. For the year 2019 this was again carried out by the auditing company Dr. Krause & Partner GmbH. In the audit certificate of the final report, this company comes to the following conclusion: "In accordance with §322 III 1 HGB, we declare that our audit has not led to any objections to the correctness of the annual financial statements. All income and expenses for the year 2019 are also shown in the following income statement. In 2019 the year ended with a nearly balanced budget with the minimal deficit of € 930.94. This confirms the positive development of the last years.

The detailed balance sheet and account of profit and loss can be found in the original German annual report.

### **Salaries at TERRE DES FEMMES**

TDF wants to pay its employees a fair salary for their work, but TDF is nevertheless committed to the careful handling of funds. For this reason, salaries are based on the collective wage agreement for the public sector (TVöD). For a full-time position, an administrative employee without a managerial function receives between €33,000 gross and €49,000 gross per year, an assistant approx. € 40,000 and a consultant between €44,000 and €58,000 gross. TDF has a managing director and three heads of department, who earn an average of €66,000 gross per full-time position. In addition, the statutory employer's contributions of approx. 22% must be paid. Depending on the economic situation of the association, the one-off annual special payment provided for in the TVöD is paid out to the employees. In 2019, TDF has not paid out any special payment.

An organigram of TERRE DES FEMMES can be found in the original German annual report.

*The fundamental equality of man and woman  
is the only way  
that can lead to human unity.*

Flora Tristan (1803–1844)

## **Imprint**

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EthikBank

IBAN: DE88 8309 4495 0003 1160 00

BIC: GENODEF1ETK

**Compilation:** Sandra Stopper, Christa Stolle

**Layout:** styleabyte.de – Tina Dähn, Münster

**Print:** MM büro-marketing, Berlin

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/user/terredesfemmes](http://www.youtube.com/user/terredesfemmes)

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