

## Springtime convention 2023

**Bürgerräume West in Bebelstraße 22, 70193 Stuttgart**

**01. April 2023 - 10:00 am to 17:30 pm**

Published March 01<sup>st</sup> 2023 | | by Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg

You are cordially invited to join our springtime convention for 2023 on Saturday, April 01<sup>st</sup> in Stuttgart. We have prepared an exciting and varied programme for you.

The main talk will be given by Prof. Dr. Nivedita who will explore whether, and to what extent, people working in solidarity for/with refugees may still follow racist patterns of behaviour. Subsequently, you can join one working group and choose between four topics: empowerment for People of Colour, possibilities regarding rights to stay for refugees, insights into the work of the foreigners' registration offices ("Ausländerbehörden"), and in-depth looks at the situation in Iran as well as decisions of German courts in practice regarding Iranian refugees.

There will be breaks in-between to give everybody the chance to connect and chat. Our members' meeting will follow in the afternoon during which the election for chairperson, vice-chairperson and the board will be held.

Entry to the convention is free, and it is aimed primarily at volunteers working with/for refugees.

Location: Bürgerräume West, Bebelstraße 22, 70193 Stuttgart

The convention will be held within the framework of the project „active for integration“ („Aktiv für Integration“), and is supported by the Ministry for Social, Health, and Integration Affairs through funds from state resources that have been awarded by the state parliament of Baden-Württemberg. Co-funding is provided by the German body of the UN refugee relief and the German Postcode Lottery.

## PROGRAMME

**09:30 am:** Arrivals and registration

**10:00 am:** Welcome address

**10:30 am:** Introduction of the campaign „30 years is enough – abolish the Welfare laws for asylum seekers!“

**10:45 am:** Main talk: „I can't be racist; I've been supporting refugees for 30 years" - right?

Is it possible for people who work with and aid refugees to be or act racist? A vast number of individual activists and volunteers in civil society, but also whole organisations have been asking themselves this question in recent years. The main talk will explore this question from a position of human rights and anti-racism.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Nivedita Prasad (professor for methods of action and gender-specific social work at the Alice Salomon College Berlin)

**12:15 – 13:45 pm:** Lunch, exhibition, and get-together

The refugee council is celebrating 35 years since its foundation. You are invited to amicable drinks during the lunch break – there will be music, food, and the exhibition “Heart without a chamber” by Hasan Malla.

### **13:45 – 15:15 pm: Work groups**

You may choose from these four options:

#### **Work group 1: Empowerment workshop for People of Color**

People of Colour experience racism even in networks characterised by solidarity with refugees. This workshop offers a space to share and connect, and to empower each other. The workshop aims to provide a safe framework in which experiences with racism can be shared. It is, therefore, aimed exclusively at people who have experienced racism themselves.

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Nivedita Prasad (professor for methods of action and gender-specific social work at the Alice Salomon College Berlin).

#### **Work group 2: Moving from „Duldung“ to a residence permit**

Refugees who have received a „duldung“, or suspension of deportation, live life with great uncertainty and in constant fear of being deported. There are some options to acquire residence permits with differing preconditions.

A “Duldung” based on an apprenticeship or employment paves the way towards a residence permit. Residence permits according to §25a und §25b aim to reward sustained and exceptional integration of refugees. A 2023 addition to these is the newly introduced chance right to residence (“Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht”). As a last resort, an application for a case of hardship may lead to the right to stay. In some cases, §25 (5) can be an option.

Maria Kallin, attorney-at-law, will guide you through this maze of potential paths to residence permits. The work group will give an overview of the possibilities. Time will be made for questions from participants and discussion.

Instructor: Maria Kalin (Lawyer, Ulm).

#### **Work group 3: Black Box Ausländerbehörde**

Foreigners’ registration offices („Ausländerbehörden“) are legally tasked with all cases of residency permits, permissions to remain, and suspensions of deportation. They are responsible for checking whether passport obligations have been fulfilled, assessing whether acquiring a passport is impossible, and issuing substitute papers. Furthermore, they are tasked with denying applications for these acts, initiating deportation measures, and declaring residence permits to be invalid after longer stays abroad.

This work group will focus on the work of the “Ausländerbehörden”, their structures, leeway in decision-making, and their agency. There will be enough time for questions and connecting among participants.

Instructor: Dalila Benalia (student, lecturer for administrative law und civil servants – area of expertise: aliens law).

#### **Work group 4: In Iran, they are fighting for their freedom. In Germany, they are fighting for their right to asylum.**

Iranians have been protesting for human rights since autumn of 2022 and are being persecuted for it, with many arrested, raped, tortured, or executed. Women in particular are victimised during their fight for freedom. Farnaz Schaefer will report on the current situation in Iran focusing on the perspective of women and giving background information on both past and present events. Subsequently, the work group will focus on the decision-making in practise by the German ministry for refugees (“BAMF”) and decisions of German courts regarding Iranian refugees. Attorney-at-law, Laura Noethe, will analyse the administrative and judicial assessment of the situation in Iran. There will be space for questions and discussion.

Instructors: Farnaz Schaefer (psychological counsellor and activist, Schwäbisch Hall) and Laura Noethe (Lawyer, Mannheim)

**15:15 – 15:30 pm: Break**

**15:30 – 17:30 Uhr pm: Members’ meeting of the refugee council of Baden-Württemberg e.V.**

All members, supporting members, and anybody else interested is cordially invited to join our meeting. This year, elections for the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and the board, will be held. You can [run for a post](#), too!