

Autumn Conference 2025

This year, our Autumn Conference will take place online as a series of events between November 14 and November 27, 2025. We have put together an exciting and diverse program. In addition to looking back on ten years since the “Summer of Migration”, we will address the situation of queer refugees in Germany, the current challenges along the Mediterranean escape route, and the precarious circumstances of Afghan protection seekers in Pakistan who are waiting to be admitted to Germany.

For people affected by racism, there will also be a ‘safer space’ for sharing experiences and exploring possible strategies for action. You don’t have to attend the entire series – each event can be joined separately, and there will be ample time for discussion and exchange.

The conference is free of charge and intended for people engaged in the fields of refugee support and asylum advocacy.

Our aim is to create a safe and respectful space for everyone involved. Therefore, we kindly ask all participants to read and observe our Code of Conduct when registering and during the events.

PROGRAM

Friday, November 14, 2025 | 7–9 p.m.

Safer Space: A Space for Reflection and Empowerment

Many refugees in Germany experience racism, discrimination, and exclusion. Such experiences can be deeply distressing and (re-)traumatizing. This safer space offers an opportunity to share personal experiences and to find strength and coping strategies through conversation and mutual support.

The safer space will be facilitated by Eben Louw, therapist, coach, and trainer with many years of experience in anti-discrimination work and in counseling victims of racist, right-wing, and antisemitic violence.

Please note: This event is exclusively for people who are personally affected by racism.

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 7–9 p.m.

Afghan Protection Seekers Are Still Waiting – Discussion on the Current Status of the Federal Admission Program

Despite having received approval under Germany’s Federal Admission Program for Afghanistan, around 2,400 Afghan protection seekers remain stranded in Pakistan. Many of them are former local staff or individuals who advocated for women’s rights and equality in Afghanistan, and are therefore at particular risk from the Taliban.

The German government has been slow to fulfill its obligation to issue visas. According to the Federal Foreign Office, approximately 230 people have already been deported back to Afghanistan by Pakistani authorities.

On July 7, 2025, the Berlin Administrative Court (Case No. VG 8 L 290/25 V) confirmed the legally binding nature of the Federal Admission Program and obligated the German government to issue the corresponding visas. Nevertheless, implementation remains stalled.

In this session, we will discuss the current situation and assess recent political and legal developments.

Speakers: *Parwana Amiri*, journalist and activist, and a representative of *move on – menschen.rechte Tübingen e.V.* (invited)

Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 7–9 p.m. **Escape Route Across the Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean route has long been one of the most dangerous escape routes. While civil sea rescue initiatives work to save lives at sea, European governments continue to pursue increasingly restrictive border control and deterrence policies. Italy, for instance, is advancing the externalization of refugee protection, and Greece has temporarily suspended asylum procedures. What does this mean for those fleeing? What dangers do they face on their journey across the sea?

Judith Bütke, journalist and photographer, has been documenting both the stories of people in flight and the work of civil sea rescue operations for many years. Sophia Adolph from *borderline-europe* in Palermo researches policy changes in border regimes and human rights violations at Europe's southern borders.

Speakers: *Judith Bütke*, journalist, and *Sophia Adolph*, *borderline-europe*

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 | 7–9 p.m. **Queer Refugees in Germany**

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ+) individuals are forced to flee their home countries due to violence and persecution. But what happens when they arrive in Germany? What specific needs do LGBTIQ+ refugees have during the asylum process and while building a life in Germany? What challenges do they face? What role do self-organization and empowerment play? And what do LGBTIQ+ refugees expect from volunteers and professionals working in this field?

We will discuss these questions with experts from the LGBTIQ+ migrant self-organization SOFRA (Cologne) and the counseling center for LGBTIQ+ refugees PLUS (Mannheim).

Speakers: Two representatives from *SOFRA – Queer Migrants e.V.* and *Kristin Pelzer, PLUS Rhein-Neckar e.V.*

Thursday, November 27, 2025 | 7–9 p.m.

10 Years of the “Summer of Migration” – Making Invisible Perspectives Visible

Ten years after the so-called “*Summer of Migration*”, the topic continues to be widely discussed in media, politics, and public discourse. Much of the focus, however, is on political decisions, perceived challenges, or impacts on Germany. The voices of those who were directly involved, who crossed borders, offered support, organized, and built networks of solidarity, are often missing from these narratives.

In this online event, we want to shift the focus to these marginalized perspectives. We will speak with people who experienced and shaped the summer of 2015 in various ways: as supporters, activists, organizers, and as those directly or indirectly affected. Their insights and reflections reveal what was possible then - and what continues to resonate today.

In addition to input from our guests, there will be ample opportunity for discussion and participant contributions. Attendees are warmly invited to share their own thoughts, experiences, and questions.

Participants: *Rex Osa, Refugee4Refugees* and long-time activist; *Alma Stankovic, Board Member of Refugee Council Baden-Württemberg* and doctoral researcher on the “*Summer of Migration*”; and others.

All events will be held via Zoom. Login details will be sent no later than the day before each event. Please note: We do not issue certificates of participation for free online events. We kindly ask you to refrain from related inquiries.

The online conference is organized as part of the project “*Active for Social Participation*”, supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, and Integration of Baden-Wuerttemberg with funds approved by the state parliament. It is co-funded by the Deutsche Postcode Lottery.