

„NOW!

Not without the We“

Self-advocacy organisation
of refugees with disabilities
and their relatives



NO to barriers, YES to inclusion

Refugees with disabilities face barriers every day. But barriers exclude people because they restrict their participation. The self-advocacy organisation „NOW! Not without the We“ wants to put an end to barriers.

Refugees with disabilities are often discriminated against. People think that they don't have strengths and skills. „NOW! Not without the We“ wants to change that. We want to be taken seriously by politicians, authorities and offices as well as by society as a whole.

„NOW! Not without the We“ fights for the inclusion of refugees with disabilities. They need to belong to Germany. Moreover, they must be able to lead self-determined and dignified lives. This is the goal of „NOW! Not without the We“.



Language is a barrier

A barrier is an obstacle. Language can be a barrier if you cannot speak it. Refugees with disabilities first have to learn German to be able to participate in society. But, for example, there are not enough language courses for people with visual impairments. Up until today, there are no language courses for persons with cognitive impairments. The language stands as a barrier between them and society.

We work for an inclusive society

„NOW! Not without the We“ is the self-advocacy organisation of refugees with disabilities. We are refugees ourselves and we have a disability. Since our arrival in Germany we have been facing barriers. But in our group we find solidarity and understanding. We mutually strengthen each other and work together for an inclusive society.

We ensure that refugees with disabilities and their families can live better lives in Germany.



What do refugees with disabilities wish for their lives in Germany?

They want to participate in society. They want to work, they need inclusive education and support, they want to go to a concert or a café, make friends and help their neighbours. In short: refugees with disabilities want equal opportunities. This is what „NOW! Not without the We“ advocates.

Our demands and our commitment

We demand equal opportunities and want to prevent discrimination. In particular, we demand the empowerment of girls and women because they often have a higher risk of not being taken into consideration in society.

We speak with friends, neighbours and other organisations, but also with politicians and authorities about the interests and needs of refugees with disabilities and their families.

We advocate

- accessibility and mobility
- the access to information and
- the access to support, for example in the fields of health, education and work.

We advocate an independent life!

What is self-advocacy?



A self-advocacy organisation is a group of people with the same interests and rights. They know their situation best themselves and can therefore best fight for their interests and rights. They represent their interests and rights in politics, administration and society. Their goal is to improve their situation.

Self-advocacy: Self-advocacy works for common interests, for example, to improve the situation of people with disabilities.

Our goals

- Equal participation and a self-determined life
- Strengthening of co-determination
- Reducing prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination
- Strengthening of knowledge about our rights



Our commitment

- We demand inclusion and accessibility, for example with regard to language learning, medical support, housing, education and work.
- We contribute our knowledge, our perspectives, our demands and our interests to society, politics and administration.
- In talks we bring together people with and without disabilities, refugees and local people.
- We present the problems of refugees with disabilities in workshops and seminars, in talks with politicians or in video clips and podcasts.
- We attend seminars about our rights and share this information with other refugees with disabilities and their families.
- For example, in seminars we learn how to demand our rights.
- We talk to social and political players and tell them what we are interested in and what we need.
- We network with support organisations for people with disabilities and for refugees and exchange information and experience.
- We give talks and present our interests and our work.

We work together

We attend group meetings and workshops at least once a month. Most times, they take place via Zoom because we all live in different places and because of the Corona pandemic. Sometimes we meet personally, for example in Berlin and Cologne. Then Handicap International pays for the travelling costs. All meetings are low in barriers and take place in several languages. In the time in between (Zoom) meetings, we often talk to each other and exchange information.

During our meetings, we talk about issues that are important to us. In addition, we carry out projects in which the co-determination, participation and inclusion of refugees with disabilities are strengthened. Our cooperation is based on respect and understanding. We are learning from each other and with each other!



About us

We are from different countries, speak different languages, have different biographies and have all lived in Germany for many years – many of us since 2014 or 2015. We all have skills, strengths, knowledge and experience. We are diverse. Our diversity makes us strong!



Glossary



Accessibility: Each area of life is accessible without help by others. For example, you should be able to reach any place without problems, all buildings and information must be freely accessible, every person should be able to use any website. Inclusion is not possible without accessibility!

Inclusion: Every person is part of society and should be able to participate in social life. No person must be discriminated against because of their origin or their disability. A person should be accepted the way they are. This is what inclusion is for.

Social participation: Every person has the right to take part in society in the way they want. They may live according to their wishes and for example participate in working life, education, culture and politics.

Self-determination: Every person, with or without disability and independent from their origin, can decide how they want to live their life and what they want to do with it. For example: What do I want to learn? Where do I want to live?

This flyer is also available in:

[Deutsch](#) ↗ [Kurmandschi](#) ↗ [عربی](#) ↗ [فارسی](#) ↗



Machen Sie mit!

Do you want to become part of „NOW! Not without the We“? We would like to encourage more refugees with disabilities and their families to get involved in our group

The self-advocacy group „NOW! Not without the We“ is coordinated by Handicap International in the framework of the project „Empowerment Now“. For more information and contact details, please visit our [project website](#).



Empowerment Now
is funded by



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Migration, Flüchtlinge und
Integration