

**„NOW!**

**Not without the We“**

**Outlook for 2022**





# Our Group

The members of the self-advocacy group “Now! Not without the We” are refugees with disabilities and the relatives of refugees with disabilities.

Our self-advocacy group is unique! The group comprises people with diverse interests, interesting personalities and many different abilities.

We are open, loud, target-oriented, self-determined and feminist.

Handicap International stands at our side. Our joint objective is better inclusion and participation of refugees with disabilities.

We are looking forward to the next steps!

# Our Plans for 2022



We reached a lot in 2020 and 2021. And we want to achieve more in 2022: We want to consolidate our group, represent ourselves even more strongly and gain more knowledge.

We want to achieve these goals in three steps.



## Meeting, discussing and learning

# 1

So far we meet once a month to

- network
- discuss important issues and
- plan activities

In the last few months we carried out trainings on topics that are of special importance to us. Handicap International will organise more trainings on these topics in 2022. Thus, we can acquire more knowledge, for example, on these questions:

- Which rights do refugees with disabilities have?
- How can we, politicians and authorities achieve the participation of refugees with disabilities?

**The group „Now! Not without the We!“ remains the most important thing in 2022. It is the so-called core of our self-advocacy and empowerment.**

- Which conditions do refugees with disabilities need for successful participation?
- How can I effectively use my story, my experience and my abilities for myself and other refugees with disabilities?
- What makes me strong?
- How can I strengthen myself as a unique person?

The trainings will complete our meetings. We will have a lot of time for discussions. In addition, we will get to know each other better.

## Monthly programme

At the beginning of each month Handicap International sends us a message – the so-called outlook for the month. They give us the date and the topics for the next meeting. In this message we can also read whether there are more activities during that month.

## New members for the group

Our group will be more vibrant the more members it has. So we inform other refugees with disabilities and their relatives about our work as often as we can. We want them to get involved in “Now! Not without the We”

Handicap International supports us in promoting our group.

# 2

## Self-advocacy in politics and administration

Currently, Germany does not sufficiently consider the interests and needs of refugees with disabilities. Often, neither the politicians nor the law-makers, nor the administrative staff, nor the advice centres know the conditions for the successful participation of refugees with disabilities!

So we are asking ourselves:

How can we exercise pressure on politics and authorities so that they will take our interests and needs into account in the future?

Our answer is:

In 2022 we will speak to important ministries and authorities and **tell** them about our situation.

How we are going to proceed:

We will tell the persons in the ministries and authorities our life stories. Moreover, we will **report** about our experiences and difficulties with the German social support system. We will portray our living situations and our daily routines.

**Disability aid and refugee aid do not work well enough together! This is why refugees with disabilities often do not have such good access to important participation services.**



We will **ask questions**

- that are important to us and
- that nobody has answered yet.

We will **describe** the barriers which impede our access to support and to life in Germany.

In these talks we will be the advocates of all refugees with disabilities.

## The role of Handicap International

Handicap International supports our plans by organizing non public talks with organises non-public talks with important persons working in ministries and authorities. In these talks we can describe our most important concerns, for example access to

- social support;
- work and employment;
- language courses;
- social inclusion and participation.

After the talks we will inform the public about the results together with Handicap International.

Furthermore, Handicap International will mobilise more organisations that want to support us. Together we will urgently call on politics and administration to safeguard our rights and to fulfil our interests and needs.

Empowerment Now!

# 3

## Learning from other self-advocacy groups

We have often asked ourselves:

How do we want to develop our group?

We know:

We want to advocate our interests and rights successfully in the future and want to grow with our tasks.

These questions are important to us:

- Which activities will we use to be seen in politics, administration and society?
- How can we become more known among refugees with disabilities?
- How can we bring together different interests and ideas of our members in our group?
- How can we organise everything to achieve our goals as successfully as possible?

## Ideas and possible answers for our group

There are various self-advocacy groups for very different people in Germany, some of them have been active for a long time.

There are self-advocacy groups for refugees and for people with disabilities. We can ask them for advice and they will answer our questions. Handicap International can also help us here. In 2022, the association will show us best practice examples for self-advocacy in Germany. Some self-advocacy groups work in the field of refugees, others in the field of disabilities.

We will meet – hopefully in person – with selected self-advocacy groups to

- get to know each other and
- have an exchange, but also
- to learn from their experience.

Together with Handicap International we will then reflect and decide what we want to adopt for our group.

We are looking forward to our self-advocacy group's journey to participation and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in Germany!

# 7 Golden Rules for our cooperation in 2022



## 7 Golden Rules for our cooperation in 2022

1. We treat each other respectfully.
2. Our commitments are binding, we can rely on each other.
3. Our meetings will take place regularly – whether online or in person.
4. We communicate clearly.
5. We regularly discuss our experiences.
6. In our working meetings, we will discuss issues we have decided on before.
7. We accept that each member has their own needs and that we all have different needs.

# Our goals



- Inclusion and participation in all areas of public life;
- accessibility;
- knowing our rights and finding orientation;
- getting information about support and finding advice;
- becoming a bigger group;
- meetings with stakeholders: politicians, administrative staff, experts;
- more exchange and getting to know more perspectives;
- networking with other organisations;
- gaining and sharing knowledge about participation, inclusion and empowerment;
- raising awareness of our interests and needs among the public;
- strengthening women and girls;
- building bridges between us and the people in Germany.

In 2022 we want to continue working strongly together to achieve all these goals.

# Join us!

You fit in with us and you are interested in our work? Then come and join us!

“NOW! Not without the We”

