

„NOW!
Nicht ohne das Wir“

**OUR ACHIEVEMENTS!
2020/2021**

„Now! Nicht ohne das Wir“ (Not without the We)



We are refugees with disabilities or relatives of refugees with disabilities. We are working for the inclusion of refugees with disabilities. Our objective is that we and other refugees with disabilities can lead self-determined and dignified lives.

We live in Germany. Some of us live on our own, others with their families. Most of us live far away from other refugees with disabilities.

Together we founded the self-advocacy group „Now! Nicht ohne das Wir“.

THIS IS WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

Self-advocacy: Our group

We founded a group and have become self-advocates. Handicap International has helped us in doing so.

The members of the group

- listen to each other;
- help each other and
- advocate their interests in politics, with authorities and in society.

Our group has been meeting regularly since June 2020. At the end of 2021 we had met ten times online. We call these online meetings „monthly meetings“. In addition, we also met three times in person, twice in Berlin and once in Cologne. These personal encounters are really great and cannot be replaced by anything else.

At our meetings
we gather ideas for our
future and plan
activities for our group.

Talking about the past, planning the future

In our monthly meetings we talk about our situation and our needs. Moreover, we are developing ideas as to how we can self-advocate our rights and interests. Handicap International is part of it and supports us.

In the mean time, we have developed a vision and an action plan for our group.

We talk a lot about our stories, our flight, our experiences with inclusion and exclusion and our worries and wishes for the future.



This is very important for many of us:

Talking about our-selves makes us stronger.

A name with a lot of significance

A short while ago we gave our group a name:

„Now! Nicht Ohne das Wir“

This name shows that we identify with the group. It means for us: our community and our work for our interests and rights encourages us. It also gives us energy for our work in self-advocacy.

Good support

Handicap International has supported and accompanied us on our way. This is why we are self-advocates today!

The Handicap International team

- has brought us together;
- has organised our activities and
- has supported us in our work as self-advocates.

The team has always been the first contact for our group.

Learning together in our group

We have learnt a lot about very important topics.

Trainings

In three trainings we learnt a lot about our rights as persons with disabilities in Germany and about the German support system.

Group trainings

We cooperated in three group trainings. They were about

- awareness of stress and trauma;
- intercultural competences;
- biographical resource work.

We learnt something very important: our experiences and abilities are a valuable resource!

Group supervision

We participated in three supervision sessions for our group. Here we discuss what we need as a group to work well together.



THIS IS WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

Our activities in 2020/2021

First, we made contact with important persons. These persons work in the field of support for refugees and support for persons with disabilities.

Therefore, we told them about our situation and represented our interests and rights to them.

We also wanted to achieve that society, politics and the authorities are aware of us.

What have we done here so far?

1. Meetings

- Meetings with experts and persons in politics

2. Exchange with

- the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration;
- the inclusion Circle Regensburg;
- the Expert Forum 'Migration and Disability' of the Berlin Regional Association of the Workers' Welfare Association;
- the project „Anders aber gleich“ („Different but equal“) of the Hamburg Regional Association of the Parity Welfare Association;
- the Music Association of North Rhine-Westphalia about cultural and inclusive diversity in music.



3. Presentations

- at the digital expert day „We are Family“
- at the Awareness Day of a student working group of Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich

4. Networking with two organisations working for diversity and inclusion:

- Sozialhelden (Berlin)
- Menschen treffen Menschen Köln e. V.

5. Trainings and seminars

- as experts in our own case for professionals (together with Handicap International);
- cooperation in five trainings organised by Handicap International for persons working in the field of refugees and disabilities.

6. Further activities

- participation in a seminar in the field of Disability Studies at the Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin;
- contribution to the 60th anniversary of the Deutsches Blindenhilfswerk (German Relief Fund for the Blind).



A highlight was our participation in a big policy online event with 350 participants. It addressed the important question „Inklusion: eine Frage des Aufenthaltstitels? Geflüchtete Menschen mit Behinderung zwischen Asyl- und Teilhaberecht“ (Inclusion – a question of residents permits? Refugees with disabilities between asylum law and participation law).

THIS IS WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

Self-advocacy in the media

We have spoken to newspapers and TV stations and have written articles. Through this we wanted to describe the situation of refugees with disabilities for the German public. Moreover, we wanted to self-advocate our rights and interests.

- [Interview with Aktion Mensch](#)
- [Report on Kobinet](#)
- [Interview with Magazin Momo](#)
- [Article on Amal Hamburg](#)
- [Article on Abwab](#)

We also wrote [profiles](#) for our website. Some of us present themselves and tell their stories briefly and in simple language.



hi handicap international

أنا أشارك
- أنا موجود!

التمكين الآن:
بناء هيكليات الاعتماد على الذات للاجئين من ذوي
الاحتياجات الخاصة وأهاليهم

الأساس
الانتعاش من ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة و الذين لديهم تجربة لجوء
معرضون بشكل خاص لخطر الاقصاء و التهميش في كل أنحاء العالم وفي
ألمانيا أيضا. و لهذا فإن مشاركتهم الاجتماعية والسياسية محدودة و بشدة.

المصورة: كاترينا توز

المصورة: كاترينا توز

المصورة: كاترينا توز

المصورة: كاترينا توز

المصور: محمد أبو شوكر

المصورة: كاترينا توز

We are all unique and impressive individuals with our own stories.

Together we are strong!

We also produced videos and podcasts that are easy to understand. They can be watched by everyone on the Internet:

- [Video clip about inclusion: Inklusion bedeutet für mich ...!](#)
- [Video clip about self-advocacy: NOW! Nicht Ohne das Wir - Selbstvertretung von Geflüchteten mit Behinderung](#)
- [Video clip about an individual story: Experiences of a group member](#)
- [Episode 27 of the Worldwide Tribe Podcast: From Syria to Germany by Wheelchair, with Nujeen Mustafa and Marwa Mbayed](#)

We have collaborated on a project flyer. In it we describe our cooperation between the group and the project Empowerment Now of Handicap International. The flyer is available in several languages:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Kurmanji](#)
- [English](#)
- [German](#)

THIS IS WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

We have met challenges

The first meeting of our group took place during the first Corona wave in 2020. Our exchange and our work have been continuously restricted since then.

We have built a self-advocacy group of refugees with disabilities during a pandemic. None of us knew the others before. That was not easy!

But all members believed in the group - almost without personal contact. We got to know each other online. Finally, we were able to meet in person.

So we have grown together as a group within a short time.

We are all refugees with disabilities – and individual personalities. We have different interests, needs and views. At the same time we have many similar or the same experiences, ideas and goals.



So we have embarked on a journey to become a group. We have discussed a lot with each other and are developing continuously. After all, we want to meet the ideas of all group members.

There are different ideas in our group about our activities. This is just like with other groups and initiatives advocating their rights and interests. Therefore, we have decided to carry out working meetings on certain topics next year.

Conclusion

We have already come very far in the first phase. This was a very exciting phase. We have already achieved a lot together and jointly with Handicap International.

Our group is vibrant!

We can be proud!

„Now! Nicht ohne das Wir“

Thanks to the working meetings, we will be able to stand up for our personal interests and rights even better in the future - individually and together at the same time.