



© Photographer: Catharina Tews



© Photographer: Catharina Tews



© Photographer: Catharina Tews



© Photographer: Catharina Tews



© Photographer: Mohammad Abo Shukur



© Photographer: Catharina Tews



Don't decide for me any more – I can decide for myself!

Empowerment Now:
Building self-advocacy structures for refugees
with disabilities and their relatives

Background information

Refugees with disabilities are exposed to a high risk of exclusion. Worldwide – but also in Germany. So their social and political participation is very limited.

Philosophy of the self-advocates

“Only Those Who Have no Dreams & Goals are Handicapped”

Anas | self-advocate

“Where there is a will, there is a way.”

Mohammad | self-advocate

What is Empowerment Now about?



In the project “Empowerment Now” we support the self-advocacy of refugees with disabilities and their relatives.

We work together for the rights and interests of refugees with disabilities.

We advocate that the concerns of refugees with disabilities are taken into account by the system – from accommodation, barrier-free access to language courses, to inclusion into the labour market.

To this purpose we organise regional and nationwide network meetings and workshops – both digital and in person. In the course of the meetings we jointly develop projects to strengthen self-determination and co-determination.

Our meetings are accessible to all. If required interpreting for different languages can be organised.

What exactly is self-advocacy?



Self-advocates take their interests and concerns into their own hands. They do not only represent themselves as a person, but also the rights and interests of other refugees with disabilities.

Philosophy of the self-advocates

“Together we can
work miracles.”

Farida | self-advocate

“Impossible,
but Possible”

Catherine | self-advocate

Our activities



Representation of interests

Self-advocates are trained in seminars and workshops so that as experts for their own concerns they can represent their interests regionally and throughout Germany.



Cooperation in trainings

Self-advocates can cooperate as trainers and speakers in trainings and coachings for experts and volunteers working in disabled people's organisations and refugee organisations.

Transferring knowledge and experience

Self-advocates can cooperate in trainings to support refugees with disabilities and their relatives in applying for necessary support and benefits.

Who can participate?



Refugees with disabilities and their relatives.

There are regional groups in Berlin/Hamburg and Cologne/Bonn. If possible during the pandemic, we meet face-to-face.

We work together digitally throughout the whole of Germany.

Contact



Nivin Almousa Almaksour
Handicap International e. V.
Contact person
Empowerment Now

If you have any questions about the project, please contact us.

Crossroads project | Flucht. Migration. Behinderung.
Berliner Str. 44

10713 Berlin
+49 (0)30 28043928

n.almaksour@hi.org

Please visit our project website:
www.hi-deutschland-projekte.de/crossroads/

This flyer is also available in:

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

About Crossroads

Crossroads | Flucht. Migration. Behinderung. is a model project by Handicap International. The goal of the project is to build basic structures with a Germany-wide effect across three fields of action: Networking and representation of interests (Advocacy), training and coaching (Capacity Building) and, as a third field of action, the self-advocacy of refugees with disabilities (Empowerment).

Handicap International

Handicap International (HI – Humanity & Inclusion) is a non-profit organisation for emergency relief and development cooperation. We aspire to help create a world of solidarity and inclusion. We are tirelessly improving the living conditions of people with disabilities and support those who are most vulnerable. We also fight for a world without land mines and cluster munitions and against bombing raids on the civil population. HI was co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.



Empowerment Now is funded by

