

DRAW the Line: Training and empowering immigrant women to prevent sexual violence and harassment

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NEW TRAINING STARTED BASED ON THE FEEDBACK AND EXPERIENCES OF PREVIOUS CYCLES

AT DATE, the second cycles of training are running and will be completed by the end of December 2017 in all the six partner organizations.

The used methods and means took the multipliers' feedback into account. Especially the possibility to talk about experiences in a protected space is important and for many of them the first time ever. Without fear of condemnation or consequences, they were allowed and to able describe their perceptions and exchange ideas, strengthen each other and get the feeling of not being alone.

NETWORKING

Networking with other organizations additionally is an important aspect in bringing the theme forward.



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In December 2017, the team of Draw the line has organized a networking-meeting with other organisations being active in this field.

It was opened with the words: "Let's talk about ... a discourse on sex education work with men versus women with a migrant background".

Ingrid Lackner introduced the Staff Unit against Abuse and Violence and the various sexual education and violence prevention projects of the organisation "Adventure Love" (Abenteuer Liebe). Jörg Kapeller reported about the beginning of the work with boys and girls with a

migration-background that are in 'adventure love' - in a pilot project with the St. Andrä School for the Ashoka initiative, which combines various contents in the integration area under the title "Ideegration". Jörg Kapeller continued to report on the experiences of his - integrated in the German course - sex education work and experience from diversity training.

- As a proven method Jörg calls "bridle the horse from behind". Patriarchal thought patterns of people of different origins only boosted, in order to then play off each other. There is a great deal of adaptive pressure on sexuality, for example, a social worker who finances brothel visitation of a young man out of pocket.

As important experiences he describes:

- Refugees) experience the Austrian environment often as hostile.
- Insecurity, isolation and loneliness complicate the personality-building work
- "Heart Education Needs Heart Opening"
- It is a difference whether the trainer has a basic knowledge of countries and religion of the refugees or not.
- According to the metaphor of Bishop Lackner, trainers should be "a beacon" instead of patronizing
- There is great interest in "how things are going in Austria" and gratitude for informal stories

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This Bulletin was written by OMEGA as coordinator of the Draw the Line-consortium.

