



Deutsches Institut
für Menschenrechte

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



The title "The Last Illusion" recalls the hopes of migrants seeking a better life in the city. But there they lack opportunities and resources. The dream of a promising future becomes their last illusion.

Alessandro Grassani

Environmental Migrants: The Last Illusion

The effects of climate change are already endangering almost half of humanity. More and more people are losing their livelihoods or even their lives due to extreme weather events. The United Nations International Organization for Migration estimates that there will be 200 million environmental migrants worldwide by 2050. Industrialised countries such as Germany, which have historically been the largest contributors to man-made greenhouse gas emissions and thus to climate change, bear the responsibility to minimise the negative impacts of climate change in other parts of the world as well.

Photographer Alessandro Grassani reports on the impact of climate change on people in some of the most affected regions in his work "Environmental Migrants: The Last Illusion". He contrasts the living conditions of people struggling with the effects of climate change in the countryside with

the no less difficult living conditions of environmental migrants who end up in the growing urban slums in search of refuge. Grassani's work has been awarded numerous prizes and exhibited worldwide.

The annual report shows a selection of his photos taken in Mongolia, Haiti, Kenya and Bangladesh. These countries are among the most affected by environmentally-induced internal migration in the world (see pp. 39-55).

You can read about why the protection of species and ecosystems is indispensable, how important human rights-based climate protection and climate adaptation measures are and why the right to freedom of assembly must be upheld during climate protests on pages 25, 26 and 37.

www.alessandrograssani.com

Foreword

In 2023, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When it was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, the horrors of the Second World War and Nazi crimes were still at the forefront of people's minds. Nations were united by their desire for a world in which the dignity of each and every human being is recognised and protected. The values of the Declaration are still relevant and universal and form the basis of international human rights protection: human dignity, freedom, equality and justice.

As we look to 2022, we look with dismay at Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which violated international law. A year which brought a war of aggression, suffering, destruction and extremely serious human rights violations against the people in Ukraine.

The Institute has been involved in the reception of Ukrainian refugees and is working to ensure that the positive experiences arising from this, in particular the facilitated integration of refugees resulting from the EU's decision to apply the Temporary Protection Directive, are also applied to the reception of other refugees. Within the framework of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, we support the work of the Ukrainian Ombudsman. Thorough documentation of the most serious human rights violations is a prerequisite for holding those responsible accountable (more on this on pages 30-31).

Many other social issues and problems also require human rights responses. In its strategic planning for the years 2019 to 2023, the Institute has identified three central tasks that it will work on as a priority. These include advocating for the equality of all people and strengthening social cohesion; applying human rights to changes in people's livelihoods; strengthening human rights and the rule of law, and protecting civil society freedoms. On the following pages you can find out more about the Institute's work in these areas in 2022.

Despite the great challenges and tasks, the Institute looks to the future with hope. There was pleasing growth in 2022. We are very pleased that the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has entrusted the Institute with the independent observation and monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). The National Rapporteur Mechanisms on gender-based violence and on trafficking in human beings started their work in November. They are intended to contribute to the improved protection of women and girls and persons affected by gender-based violence, as well as to the improved protection of people who experience forced labour and economic exploitation.

The Institute has expertise in various disciplines, especially in law, social sciences, education and economics. Many research topics are dealt with on an interdisciplinary basis. In 2022, the Bundestag increased the Institute's funding, which will enable us to intensify our application-oriented research and start new research projects, which form the basis for our recommendations to policymakers.

This annual report gives you an insight into our diverse work. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Berlin, June 2023

Professor Dr. Beate Rudolf
Director

Michael Windfuhr
Deputy Director

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2022 at a glance

JANUARY

Online handbook on human rights education

On the new website www.kompass-menschenrechte.de, teachers in school and non-school education can find materials on central human rights topics such as protection against discrimination, democracy and peacebuilding as well as inclusion and participation. 57 exercises on human rights can be filtered by topic, duration, group size and search term. Suggestions for further work, background information on key human rights issues as well as videos and web links complete the offer.

FEBRUARY

Combating violence against women in the digital space

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) has been in force since 1 February 2018. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary, the Institute calls on the federal government to focus more on the "digital dimension" of violence against women and girls online. It also advocates for the federal government to follow the concrete recommendations of the expert panel GREVIO in the further implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

MARCH

Protect human rights defenders from Afghanistan

After the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, many people's lives are still in acute danger. The Institute calls on all states involved in the Afghanistan mission to intensify their efforts to bring local forces, human rights defenders and particularly endangered Afghans and their family members to safety. The Institute considers that the basic and human rights obligations to protect these people continue to exist even after the end of military action. In particular, the German government should swiftly implement the humanitarian admission programme for particularly vulnerable Afghans.

APRIL

Institute represented on new ENNHRI Board

Institute Director Beate Rudolf begins her term as a member of the newly elected six-member board of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). The ENNHRI Board is responsible for the governance and representation of the network and drives the implementation of its strategic objectives. Priorities include supporting the National Human Rights Institution of Ukraine, working together for the protection of all refugees in Europe, and upholding the rule of law.

MAY

No state funding for racist education work

The Institute publishes the legal opinion "State funding for racist and right-wing extremist educational work?" which deals with the question of whether the AfD-affiliated Desiderius Erasmus Foundation may be funded by the state. According to the assessment, the foundation is unsuitable as a provider of political education, as it is closely influenced by individuals who can be classified as right-wing extremists. It follows from the guarantee of human dignity and the inherent prohibition of racist discrimination that a foundation that disseminates or relativises racist and right-wing extremist ideas may not receive state funding.

JUNE

Fundamental rights and security laws

Together with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), the Institute organises an expert discussion on 10 June entitled "Fundamental rights-oriented and evidence-based possibilities and challenges of a new internal security policy". Around 60 participants from politics, administration, non-governmental organisations and academia take part in the exchange.

JULY**Minimum standards for emergency accommodation of unhoused people**

The first nationwide statistics on homelessness is published on 14 July. On this occasion, the Institute publishes the study "Designing Emergency Accommodation for the Unhoused in Conformity with Human Rights" and demands obligatory minimum standards for municipal emergency accommodation. According to the study, the task of ensuring humane accommodation and short residence times cannot be performed by the municipalities alone. In the Institute's view, the federal states in particular should become more involved.

AUGUST**Recommendations for a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights**

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are to be implemented by means of a corresponding National Action Plan. The Institute presents a National Baseline Assessment (NBA), which was commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office. The NBA analyses where Germany is in the implementation process and what further steps would make sense under human rights law. It contains recommendations to the federal government for the development of the new National Action Plan. Representatives from politics, business, trade unions and civil society have contributed their perspectives and expertise.

SEPTEMBER**State Report Review on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

On 5 and 6 September 2022 in Geneva, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child reviews how Germany is fulfilling its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. For the State Report Review, the Institute's National CRC Monitoring Mechanism, German children's rights organisations and the Children's Rights Network also submit reports on the situation of children's rights in Germany to the UN Committee.

OCTOBER**Inclusion in the municipalities**

The research project "UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Municipalities" is launched, funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Together with the Centre for Planning and Development of Social Services at the University of Siegen (ZPE), the Institute's National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism investigates the ways in which municipalities throughout Germany are taking action to develop an inclusive community. The aim of the three-year research project is to develop recommendations, tools and services to support municipalities. This is intended to stimulate the systematic implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the municipal level.

NOVEMBER**Strengthening child-friendly justice**

On the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child on 20 November, Claudia Kittel, head of the Institute's National CRC Monitoring Mechanism, calls for better implementation of children's and young people's participation rights in legal proceedings. The federal and state governments should work towards a child-friendly justice system so that children and adolescents are able to experience themselves not only as the objects of care, but also as legal participants in judicial proceedings.

DECEMBER**Human Rights Film Award Ceremony**

On 10 December, International Human Rights Day, the German Human Rights Film Award is presented in Nuremberg for the 13th time. It honours filmmakers who deal with the issue of human rights in an outstanding way. The Institute has been a co-organiser of the competition for many years. Six films are presented at the event; the ARD documentary "Der lange Weg der Sinti und Roma" (The Long Road of the Sinti and Roma) by Adrian Oeser, supported by the Foundation EVZ and the Institute with a research grant, receives the prize in the short film category.

Advocating for equality and strengthening social cohesion

Social inequality, exclusion and anti-human ideologies challenge the recognition of the equal dignity of all people and thus social cohesion. The Institute is committed to an inclusive and discrimination-free society in which everyone can realise their human rights.

Better protecting women from violence

Violence against women and girls is one of the most common human rights violations. In order to prevent it, we need more social attention and support for those affected. The Institute has been advocating for sound protection concepts for a long time. Since 2022, it has also acted as an independent National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence takes many forms: physical and sexual abuse, emotional and psychological cruelty or economic pressure. It occurs in partnerships, in the family context as well as at the workplace, in public or in the digital space. Women and girls from all social classes, age groups and educational biographies are affected. The physical and mental consequences range from traumatisation, social stigmatisation and isolation to life-threatening injuries and death.

Even though the causes of violence against women are diverse and complex, stereotypical gender roles based on relations of superiority and subordination between the sexes play a major role. "Men commit violence against women because their perceived male ownership has been violated or because they have learned violence as a 'male' form of action in conflicts or to assert their will," explains Müşerref Tanrıverdi, Head of the Institute's National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence since 2023. Therefore, promoting gender equality and respecting women's rights and autonomy can help create a culture of non-violence. "In order to prevent gender-based violence and realise the rights of those affected, we need a change in social awareness and more support for those affected," says Tanrıverdi.

The most comprehensive human rights treaty against gender-based violence to date is the so-called Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe ("Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence"). In Germany, it entered into force on 1 February 2018 and obliges the state, among other things, to strengthen counselling and protection for victims and to raise awareness

among the population, especially among boys and men, of all forms of violence and to prosecute them effectively. In the area of domestic violence or intimate partner violence, the Convention also explicitly obliges the States Parties to protect boys and men.

Institute establishes National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender based violence

An important step in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention was the establishment of the National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence at the Institute, as provided for by the Convention. It began its work in November 2022. "On the basis of data and evidence-based monitoring, we formulate practice-oriented recommendations for policymakers and administrative authorities so that they can take more effective action against gender-based violence," Tanrıverdi explains. The victims as rights holders are at the centre of the work of the reporting office. The goal is to improve access to spatial and legal protection for women and girls and to enable diverse forms of support. In 2024, the National Rapporteur Mechanism will publish its first periodic report on gender-based violence in Germany.

[Further information](#)

Gender-based violence reporting point on the Institute's website

German Institute for Human Rights (2022): General concept for two Monitoring Mechanisms on gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings. Berlin

Case law database "ius gender&violence" (www.dimr.de/iusgendergewalt)

Inclusive schooling for all

In Germany, more than half of the pupils with special educational needs go to special schools. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Germany is obliged to ensure that children and young people with and without disabilities learn together. The creation of an inclusive school system is a joint task of the federal and state governments.

Many children and young people with disabilities are denied access to an inclusive school system - the beginning of lifelong chains of exclusion: young people with disabilities often leave school without a recognised qualification and switch to segregated forms of education. They then have fewer opportunities on the general labour market, which can lead to unemployment and poverty in the medium and long term. Or they earn less than the minimum wage in so-called workshops for people with disabilities.

"All children and young people with disabilities must be taught inclusively at general education schools, and special schools must be phased out," demands Beate Rudolf, Director of the Institute. "Research shows that a comprehensive inclusive school system is good for all children - with and without disabilities." But 14 years after the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities came into force, Germany is still a long way from an inclusive school system.

School reform: strengthening federal responsibility

An overall strategy for inclusive education and closer cooperation between the federal government and the federal states is therefore one of the central demands that the Institute addressed to the Bundestag in its Human Rights Report 2021/2022: the federal states must reform the existing school systems in such a way that all children and young people with and without disabilities receive optimal support and no one is excluded because of a physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment. The special school system must be merged into an inclusive school system.

"The responsibility of the federal states for education must not lead to the federal government shirking its overall responsibility for inclusive education in Germany. The federal government and the Länder have a joint obligation here. In a federally-organised state, they are responsible for ensuring that the human right to inclusive education becomes a reality for all children," Beate Rudolf emphasises.

Among other things, the Institute recommends amendments to the Basic Law: The federal government should be given additional responsibility for certain elements of an inclusive school system that lie outside the "pedagogical core area" - for which the Länder are responsible. The creation of an inclusive school system with nationwide standards should be defined as a joint task of the Federation and the Länder. The Institute also recommends a state treaty between the Federation and the Länder. This "Pact for Inclusion" should enable supportive measures for pupils with disabilities - such as assistance, school accompaniment, aids or therapeutic support.

"Inclusive education is the cornerstone of an inclusive society," says Susann Kroworsch, Institute Expert for Inclusive Education. "For children with and without disabilities, living and learning together is the best basis for mutual respect and appreciation of diversity."

Further information

Kroworsch, Susann (2023): Inclusive school education. Why the federal government and the Länder should take joint responsibility. Berlin: German Institute for Human Rights (also available in plain language)

Identifying and prosecuting racist crimes

Racist and anti-Semitic crimes are not prosecuted consistently enough in Germany. What needs to change so that people who have experienced racism do not only have access to their rights on paper? In a model project, the Institute developed recommendations for action.

Racist or anti-Semitic attacks are committed almost daily in Germany. According to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, 10,501 crimes were "motivated by group-related prejudices" (so-called hate crime) in 2021. Counselling centres register significantly more cases, because many crimes are not reported as those affected have no confidence in an investigation: Police officers who refuse to report a racially motivated crime or trivialise it; police investigations in which interpreters are not called in despite language barriers; judges who assume that insults or physical violence committed by the victim escalated

the situation: all this is experienced again and again by victims of racism and anti-Semitism in Germany.

"The consistent prosecution of racist and anti-Semitic crimes and better protection of victims requires an increased focus on racism within the judiciary and the police," demands Beatrice Cobbinah, researcher and policy adviser at the Institute. In a model project, the Institute is investigating how to promote the discussion of racism and anti-Semitism until December 2022.

"Racism, anti-Semitism, right-wing extremism: strengthening law enforcement and victim protection"

What needs to change in order to ensure that racist, anti-Semitic and right-wing extremist acts are punished more consistently and effectively than before? How can the perspectives of people affected by racist and anti-Semitic acts be better taken into account and how can the debate on racism and anti-Semitism be advanced, especially in the criminal justice system and the investigating authorities?

These questions were addressed in a model project that the Institute conducted from 2020 to 2022 in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection and the federal states of Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein and Saxony. The Institute organised discussion between the public prosecutor's office, the police, the courts, institutions, and the public

prosecutor's office, victim support groups, representatives of the plaintiffs and civil society counselling centres.

Together with the judicial administrations and the participants from the field, the Institute developed strategies for action for the establishment and expansion of cooperation structures - such as round tables on relevant crimes, contact persons in the public prosecutor's office, police and courts for victims of such crimes - as well as for the further development of structures in victim protection, for example central contact points, victim advisors, and psychosocial process support.

The project built on the findings of the previous project "Racism and Human Rights - Strengthening Criminal Justice", in which the Institute developed training formats for criminal justice staff from 2017 to 2018.

There is no legal definition of racial discrimination

Numerous discussions with counselling centres and members of the police and judiciary have shown that many employees in the police and judiciary do not have the perspective of those affected in mind. "There is a need for more understanding and knowledge about the effects of prejudice-related violence on victims. Only then, for example, can retraumatisation of the victims during criminal proceedings be avoided," says Cobbinah.

So far, there are no uniform standards for the protection of victims in investigative and criminal proceedings. Victim protection measures such as audio-visual recording of interrogations or psychosocial process support - now common in the area of sexualised and domestic violence - are not used in court proceedings on prejudice-motivated violence. "Improvements for those affected could be achieved relatively quickly through such measures," Cobbinah is certain.

Furthermore, there is a need for a legal definition of racism or racial discrimination. "The topic has not been sufficiently dealt with in case law and legal commentaries. This repeatedly leads to uncertainties in the application of the relevant norms of the penal code," explains Chandra-Milena Danielzik, who implemented the model project together with Cobbinah.

Structural changes needed in the everyday working of administrative authorities

At the end of the project, the Institute published concrete recommendations for action, including the establishment of independent police complaints offices as well as contact points and contact persons at the police and judiciary, such as prosecutor's offices with specific areas of expertise. It recommends regular training and further education for police and judicial staff as well as an institutionalised exchange between counselling centres, civil society actors, law enforcement and judicial authorities. In order to initiate structural changes in the everyday workings of the authorities, there is also a need for a clear political will at the federal and state level to specifically promote the confrontation with institutional racism in investigative authorities and the judiciary.

Discrimination-critical human rights education for the police

The protection against and prosecution of racist and anti-Semitic crimes is a task of the police. Often, however, the police themselves act in a racist manner - for example, when police officers stop and search people solely on the basis of their physical appearance (racial profiling) or when they give less credence to the statements of people perceived as migrants during an interrogation.

Professional policing must take into account the perspectives of all those involved and must not reproduce (unconscious) racist as well as other discriminatory attitudes.

In 2022, the Institute, in cooperation with police training providers, designed formats for discrimination-critical human rights education

in the context of police training and further training in Berlin, Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia. Unfortunately, two training courses could not be held due to low registration numbers.

In addition to designing the educational formats, the Institute organised a networking meeting for external trainers who offer further education in the field of racism for police officers. The topic will be continued in 2023.

Further information

Sandra Reitz/Ruth Billen (2022): Human Rights Education Critical of Racism for the Police: Requirements, Difficulties and Prospects. In: Zeitschrift für Menschenrechte 16 (2), pp. 74-96.

Live-in care: Hard work, little protection

Several hundred thousand migrant workers provide care for people in need in private households in Germany. These so-called live-in carers often work almost around the clock and have few opportunities to assert their rights. Legal regulation is urgently needed to improve their precarious situation.

According to current estimates, between 300,000 and 700,000 people in Germany, mostly women from Eastern Europe, work as so-called 24-hour care workers, also known as live-in carers. They care for elderly people, with whom they live in a household. As a rule, they work in Germany for two to three months and then return to their country of origin for several weeks.

"So-called 24-hour care is a hard, sometimes inhumane job that takes place predominantly in a legal grey area".

Claudia Engelmann, Deputy Head of the Domestic/European Human Rights Policy Department

"So-called 24-hour care is hard, sometimes inhumane work that takes place predominantly in a legal grey area," is how Claudia Engelmann, Deputy Head of the Department of Human Rights Policy Germany/Europe, sums up the situation of live-ins. In 2022, in cooperation with Minor (Projektkontor für Bildung und Forschung), the Institute published the study "Hard work, little protection. Eastern European workers in domestic care in Germany". The study is based on interviews with experts from counselling practice. Using detailed case studies, the study highlights the core problems in 24-hour care and possible solutions.

Unclear work profile, uncertain status

The live-in carers' everyday working life is characterised by excessive working hours, too few rest breaks and social isolation. In relation to the hours they work, their earnings are usually far below the minimum wage. They are often expected to do the shopping, washing or other household chores in addition to providing care. The lack of separation between living and working areas is highly problematic from a human rights perspective: the women concerned are often subject to the whims of their employers, and sometimes also to physical and sexual violence.

It is difficult for many live-in carers to defend themselves against exploitation and assault: their placement agencies often withhold important documents from them, and they usually lack knowledge about the legal regulations in Germany or do not know where to find a counselling centre. Language barriers, a lack of trust in authorities and institutions, and fear of employers or contract partners are further factors that make access to justice difficult.

As workers in Germany, caregivers are entitled to remuneration at least equal to the legal minimum wage, to breaks and rest periods, and to a safe and healthy working environment. Germany is also bound by the human rights obligations under the UN Social Covenant, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and the revised European Social Charter.

Clear legal regulations are overdue

A central reason for the precarious working conditions of live-ins are the inadequately regulated employment models. In addition to irregular and illegal employment, there are a large number of illegal or at least non-transparent employment contracts. In the majority of cases, placement agencies in other EU countries and in Germany send live-ins to private households in Germany. Often the care workers do not receive any written documents and are not sufficiently informed about the contents of the contract. Many do not know that they are working as (pseudo) self-employed persons, which means that no social contributions are paid for them. Others have no information about whether they are covered by health insurance in Germany and what rights they have as workers.

Clear legal regulations are overdue

So far, German law lacks regulations that explicitly refer to live-in carers and that can guarantee their legal protection. "It is the task of the state to guarantee the human rights of those affected, for example by providing protection against exploitative working conditions and effective access to legal protection," says Claudia Engelmann.

In its coalition agreement, the federal government announced that it would create "a legally secure basis for 24-hour care in the family environment". "For live-in care in particular, employment relationships must be legally defined," demands Claudia Engelmann.

"The aim must be to facilitate access to regular employment and to assign a clear job profile to 24-hour care. In addition, we need binding quality standards for placement agencies, as well as effective complaint procedures and comprehensive multilingual counselling services for live-in workers".

In order to make 24-hour care legally secure and humane, and at the same time not to overburden families financially, new approaches to home care must be taken: Live-in care can only function in an employment relationship and in a mix

Areas of action within the EU

Germany should also advocate for legally compliant live-in care at the European and international level. The analysis "Ending Live-in Care Workers' Labour Exploitation in the European Union" was published in October 2021, also in cooperation with Minor (Projektkontor für Bildung und Forschung). It translates the key findings of the Germany study into English. In addition, it identifies areas in which the EU member states should take action. In order to strengthen the normative protection framework, the states (Germany, but also the countries of origin or originating countries of the workers) should consistently implement the relevant EU directives, support EU initiatives in the area of business and human rights and on the minimum wage, and ratify the relevant ILO conventions. Placement agencies should be made more accountable through coordinated measures and stricter requirements, for example on their informational obligations, proof of health insurance, minimum standards in private households and complaints mechanisms.

of care involving several caregivers, outpatient care services and relatives. "In view of the ageing society and the increasing shortage of skilled workers in the care sector, a basic and human rights-compliant design of live-in care is overdue," concludes Claudia Engelmann.

Further information

Greta Schabram/Nora Freitag (2022): Hard work, little protection. Eastern European workers in domestic care in Germany. Berlin: German Institute for Human Rights.

Lê Phan-Warnke/Nora Freitag (2021): Ending Live-in care Workers' Labour Exploitation in the European Union. Lessons from Germany. Berlin: German Institute for Human Rights

Major sporting events should take place only with respect for human rights

The Olympic Games in Beijing, the World Cup in Qatar - the year 2022 offered some highlights in international professional sport. However, the focus was not only on dream goals and new records, but also on the precarious human rights situation in the host countries.

In 2022, several major sporting events took place in countries where human rights are systematically violated. It is not a new phenomenon that international professional sports events are also held in countries known for human rights violations. Examples range from the 1936 Summer Olympics in Nazi Germany to the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

What has changed in recent years, however, is the broad public debate about it: "Human rights violations are no longer met with tacit acceptance," says Melanie Wündsche, Institute expert in the field of business and human rights. Before the World Cup in Qatar, even FIFA officials, national associations and players publicly criticised the extensive lack of rights for migrant workers and the restriction of LGBTIQ* rights.

Implementation of reforms is a long time coming

Can major sporting events trigger a rethink on the topic of human rights? Melanie Wündsche is sceptical. It is true that Qatar announced important labour law reforms after the awarding of the Games in 2010. The United Nations Human Rights Committee acknowledged this, but in 2022 it had to admit that the implementation of these reforms was still a long way off. This applies, for example, to the working and living conditions of the many migrant workers, including domestic workers and employees in the hotel and construction industries. In order for the initiated reforms to lead to sustainable

improvements in the human rights situation, public pressure must not let up after the end of the event, Wündsche emphasises.

Human rights standards should also be incorporated into the process of **awarding** a major event. In 2017, FIFA took a step in the right direction by adopting a human rights guideline and applying it for the first time when awarding the 2026 World Cup. "Major sporting events are not just about football. The German government should work to ensure that the awarding and hosting of all major international sporting events is strictly linked to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights," said Wündsche. The fact that many federations are now aware of their responsibility and want to implement the UN Guiding Principles is to be welcomed. The German Olympic Sports Confederation, for example, founded a Human Rights Advisory Council in 2022 - of which the Institute's Deputy Director, Michael Windfuhr, is a member - and plans to develop a Human Rights Policy in 2023.

Germany can show how it is done

Germany can play a pioneering role next year when it hosts the 2024 European Men's Football Championship. In close dialogue with the DFB, UEFA and the host cities, the German government can work to ensure that the European Championship is held in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles and in a sustainable way. "This is the ideal opportunity for Germany to show that sport and human rights can go hand in hand," says Wündsche.

Trafficking in human beings: The business of exploitation

Trafficking in human beings is a serious violation of human rights - and a sad reality for many children and adults in Germany. They have hardly any chance of asserting their rights. The Institute has long been committed to providing prevention and support services for persons subject to human trafficking, and since 2022 has also acted as an independent National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings.

Reliable figures on trafficking in human beings are hard to come by. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) currently speaks of 25 to 27 million persons subject to trafficking worldwide. According to the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), there were a total of 510 criminal investigations into trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany in 2021. However, the BKA assumes that there is a large number of unreported cases.

"Trafficking in human beings is a serious violation of human dignity," says Naile Tanış, Head of the Institute's National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings since 2023. According to the BKA, the victims of trafficking in human beings - mostly women who are brought to Germany from abroad and exploited here - come mainly from Eastern and Southeastern Europe or Asia. Once in Germany, the perpetrators make economic profit from these people's work. According to the BKA, there are also many people with German citizenship among the victims.

Women, men and children are massively restricted in their self-determination, and their rights are often seriously violated. Whether in sexual services, in domestic care, in the catering industry, on construction sites or while begging: The perpetrators take advantage of people's distress, deliberately put them in a situation of coercion, threaten them or use violence. The victims have hardly any chance of enforcing their legal claims, such as wages and compensation, against the perpetrators.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive commit Germany to prosecuting trafficking and supporting victims. Since November 2022, the Institute's newly established National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings has been reviewing the implementation of the legal requirements.

Persons subject to trafficking in human beings, and victims of exploitation have a wide range of rights. However, lack of language, local and legal knowledge makes it difficult for them to get help and enforce their rights. "In the fight against trafficking in human beings, protection, counselling and support as well as the enforcement of the rights of victims must be a priority," Tanış emphasises. Important measures for those affected include: a residence title regardless of their willingness to testify against the perpetrator/s, protected accommodation, specialised counselling services and material support.

The National Rapporteur Mechanism will support data holders in collecting meaningful data on the situation of the victims of trafficking. It will identify the need for legal changes, formulate recommendations for action for policy-makers and administrations, and contribute to the work of the police and judiciary in protecting and supporting the victims of trafficking. The National Rapporteur Mechanism will publish its first periodic report in 2024.

"The best protection against violence is self-determination"

People with disabilities have the right to a life free of violence. However, they are often affected by violence in residential facilities and workshops. The Institute has formulated recommendations on how people with disabilities can be better protected.

How many people live in special institutions and how many of them are affected by violence?

Britta Schlegel: In Germany, about 200,000 people with disabilities live in residential facilities for the disabled. About 330,000 people are employed in workshops. Many people with disabilities spend their entire lives in special institutions. This has little to do with inclusion.

Incidents of violence in residential facilities or workshops are not recorded by the authorities. However, studies commissioned by the federal government show that the risk of experiencing violence is very high. For example, 58% of women with intellectual disabilities living in special forms of housing reported physical violence, 68% had experienced psychological violence and 21% sexualised violence. A follow-up study is currently underway that also includes men and boys with disabilities.

Why are people with disabilities in residential facilities and workshops particularly affected by violence?

First of all, it should be noted that the concept of violence used in the above-mentioned studies and human rights treaties is quite broad and includes insults, psychological pressure, physical and sexual violence, but also coercive decisions on birth control and parenthood as well as unlawful measures that deprive people of their liberty. Often, the structural conditions lead to violence. In many residential facilities, for example, there is a strong dependence on nursing and care staff, and everyday life is almost always structured by others. In addition, privacy and people's private lives are not sufficiently protected; there are no lockable rooms or gender-sensitive care, for example.

Where are the biggest gaps in the protection against violence?

Unfortunately, awareness of how important protection against violence in institutions is and what it encompasses is still low amongst the parties involved – these being, for example, welfare associations, funding agencies and home supervisory authorities. The topic is discussed more intensively by policymakers and in the practice of integration assistance than it was ten years ago. In the meantime, there are also committed institutions that have developed successful prevention concepts. However, we do not know how many of them actually work preventively or whether concepts for the protection against violence only exist on paper. The topic has not yet become a priority or a permanent task in the broader community. At least, since 2021, there has finally been an obligation in the German Social Code, according to which institutions must take measures to prevent violence. This important legislative step will hopefully lead to improvements in the long term. In addition, residents and workshop employees know too little about their rights. In many cases, this prevents people with disabilities from defending themselves against assault and from making a complaint. As such, they must be involved in prevention work.

How do institutions and authorities react when an incident has occurred?

As far as intervention after an experience of violence is concerned, there is often a lack of information about procedures and support structures. Many people with disabilities are unaware of counselling and drop-in centres such as women's shelters. In addition, there are not enough women's shelters in Germany.

The existing points of contact are usually neither barrier-free nor suited to the special needs of the target group. Police, public prosecutors and judges often know nothing or too little about the situation of people with disabilities. As a result, there is a lack of understanding and sensitivity for those affected in criminal proceedings, and communication and spatial barriers are not overcome.

Another protection gap: In most federal states, the protection against violence in institutions is not yet effectively monitored by the authorities.

What are the Institute's central demands?

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges Germany to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse. Various state actors are responsible for its implementation. In 2022, the Institute, together with the Federal Commissioner for Disabled Persons, developed recommendations for policy and practice to protect against violence in institutions. Among other things, we have formulated the need for legislative improvements to section 37a of Book IX of the German Social Code, called for the strengthening of the self-determination and co-determination of residents and workshop employees, but also proposed measures for better access to justice and for effective monitoring of the protection against violence.

What is the next step in the protection against violence?

All forms of violence against people with disabilities are prohibited by fundamental and human rights. We call on the federal government to discuss in detail the realisation of protection against violence across all competences. This should include the state governments as well as social service providers, institutions and self-advocacy organisations of persons with disabilities such as home councils, women's representatives and networks of women with disabilities. Last but not least, we expect an answer to the still open question of effective monitoring by the authorities. The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also called on the federal government to do this during the last state review of Germany, to develop an effective overall strategy for the protection against violence. This is another why the Institute will continue to monitor the issue intensively.

In general, the best protection against violence is when people with disabilities can live self-determined lives. We must put all our energy into building an inclusive society.

Recommendations for policy and practice

Together with the Federal Disability Commissioner, the Institute published recommendations for action for better protection against violence in integration assistance structures in May 2022.

They are addressed to different parties who bear responsibility in the field of violence protection: the federal government, the state governments, social assistance agencies that finance services for persons with disabilities, institutions providing assistance for persons with disabilities and their professionals. The supervisory, law enforcement and judicial authorities also have a duty.

The paper includes 40 recommendations in the areas of "Violence Protection Concepts", "Participation and Empowerment", "Intervention and Victim Protection" and "Independent Monitoring of Violence Protection". In order to be accessible to as many people as possible, it has been translated into easy-to-use language and German sign language.

Federal Disability Commissioner/German Institute for Human Rights (2022): Protection from violence in institutions for people with disabilities - recommendations for action for policy and practice, Berlin

The person

Dr. Britta Schlegel is a sociologist and has been working at the Institute since 2014. Her main areas of work include protection against violence, women with disabilities and human rights data collection. She has headed the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism alongside Dr. Leander Palleit since August 2020.

Birth certificates: The key to many rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees every newborn the right to a birth certificate. However, many children born in Germany do not receive this certificate - because their parents are refugees who cannot prove their identity. The Institute's website provides information on all aspects of birth registration.

Article 7 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) obliges states to issue a birth certificate to every child immediately after birth. Despite this clear legal requirement, there are still children born in Germany who do not receive a birth certificate or only with a long delay after their birth. This applies in particular to children whose parents cannot prove their identity with the necessary documents, for example because they are refugees.

At the registry office, a certified register printout is often issued to the children concerned in this case. This is an official document that can be presented, for example, when applying for social benefits such as child benefit. In later life, however, a birth certificate is important, for example when applying for German citizenship or for marriage. The certified register printout must therefore only be a temporary solution.

"A birth certificate is the central document that proves a person's existence," says Claudia Kittel, Head of the Institute's National CRC Monitoring Mechanism. "It authorises a person to assert his or her rights against a state. Since 2021 and within the framework of the project "Papers from the start," the Institute has been developing the website recht-auf-geburtsurkunde.de - supported by an advisory board of experts, including the Federal Association of German Registrars, the human rights organisation [jumen](http://jumen.de), the Berlin

office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and experts from the field of refugee law.

The project was funded by the CMS Foundation and is aimed in particular at registrars and social workers. The former are required to check the identity of the parents or mothers before issuing a birth certificate; the latter work in accommodation for refugees, advise parents and accompany them to administrative offices and authorities. At the centre of the website project is a compilation of frequently asked questions that address typical practical problems for both target groups in connection with birth registration. The website is available in German, English and Arabic.

In 2022, the project was expanded by way of a further project grant from the CMS Foundation to include a tailor-made web service for affected parents. To this end, the Institute determined the needs of the target group in advance and conducted interviews with refugees. A guide for parents uses simple diagrams to show each stage of birth registration. Short audio files in German, English and Arabic supplement the illustrations and explain to parents what they have to do in order for their newborn to receive a birth certificate.

Further information

www.rechtaufgeburtsurkunde.de

Every life has the same value: The problem of triage

In times of crisis, intensive care capacities may become limited. But everyone is entitled to the same chances of life-saving treatment. This dilemma can only be solved by applying human rights standards.

Is every life really worth the same? With limited resources, who receives intensive care and who doesn't? What criteria do doctors use to make decisions? These were the questions asked during the corona pandemic, especially by people with disabilities and older people. These groups feared being abandoned in triage situations.

At the end of 2021, the Federal Constitutional Court called on the legislature to take "immediate" precautions to protect people with disabilities in the event of triage situations. The Bundestag then passed an amendment to the Infection Protection Act in December 2022 - but without adequately involving self-advocacy organisations and discussing fundamental issues.

In the run-up to the amendment of the law, the Institute dealt intensively with the constitutional and human rights requirements that must be attached to a triage decision. "The parliament has shown a haste in the legislative process that does not do justice to the profoundly ethical dimension of a triage regulation. A broad debate in parliament and society, a concerted effort to come to a good regulation would have been absolutely necessary," criticised Institute Director Beate Rudolf.

Preventing discrimination, not just reducing it

According to the law, only the criterion of the "current and short-term probability of survival" should be decisive for the allocation of life-saving measures. However, Leander Palleit, head of the Institute's National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism, does not consider the provisions for discrimination

protection in the law to be sufficient: "The criterion of 'current and short-term likelihood of survival' carries the risk that, in practice, unconscious biases are unintentionally applied to decision-making". This is because people with disabilities and older people in particular are subject to the risk that their sometimes diverse and complex medical conditions will lead to hasty or even incorrect conclusions and will be taken into account in the assessment of their likelihood of survival.

Do not legitimise the evaluation of human life by law

From a human rights perspective, it is particularly problematic that the criterion of survival probability now laid down in the law weighs people's lives against each other. This is incompatible with the principle of the equal value of all human life and human dignity. "This crosses an immovable line drawn by German Basic Law and human rights. Because with this regulation, individual human lives are assigned different values," Beate Rudolf stresses. Human dignity, however, forbids the state to legitimise a gradation or evaluation of human life. "Rather, the Basic Law affirms that every life is of equal value".

The Institute therefore advocated for a review of the law by the Federal Constitutional Court, either through constitutional complaints by those affected, at the request of a federal state government or by a quarter of the members of the Bundestag by way of abstract review. This way, a federal law can be examined for its compatibility with fundamental and human rights.

Applying human rights to changes in people's livelihoods

Climate change, the decline in biodiversity and digitalisation are having a massive impact on our lives. The Institute aims to contribute towards shaping the associated social and political transformation processes in a human rights-oriented way.

Digitalisation: Taking older people into account

Networking, participation and help: the opportunities of digitalisation for older people are obvious - in theory at least. In practice, however, many older people are excluded from the digital services offered by public authorities, banks and social services. The Institute therefore calls for comprehensive education and support services.

Older people who cannot navigate the digital world, or are unable to do so safely, encounter difficulties in almost all areas of life: Booking tickets for cultural and leisure events, getting timetable information or using delivery services – these are examples of functions which are near impossible to perform without a mobile phone or computer. The same is true for information about social activities and assistance in communities. Tax matters, banking transactions and some contracts can often no longer be concluded on paper, or only at additional cost. In some areas of life, people without internet access are even restricted in exercising their human rights - for example, in their right to health, when vaccination or doctor's appointments can only be booked online.

"Digital services should be available and affordable for all."

Claudia Mahler, expert on the rights of older people

The situation is particularly precarious for older people on low incomes

"Many older people, such as older women and older people with disabilities, have not benefited from the digitalisation push of recent years. The situation is particularly precarious for older people on low incomes who cannot afford a smartphone, computer or internet connection," says Claudia Mahler, Institute expert on the rights of older people and, since 2020, also the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons.

Although the demographic of older people is growing steadily, their needs are not sufficiently perceived and taken into account in politics and society. There is little awareness in politics that this invisibility can lead to structural discrimination. Older people are not sufficiently taken into account in the federal government's current digitalisation strategy, nor in the Third Equality Report, which is dedicated to the topic of digitalisation. The concerns of older people also hardly play a role in the National Education Report 2022.

The Institute therefore called in 2022 for the introduction of digital services - especially in the area of public administration - not to eliminate analogue alternatives without replacement, especially if no support services are available for the use of digital forms. This applies, for example, to the booking of appointments with public authorities and warnings in cases of emergency or disaster.

Furthermore, the Institute recommends involving older people in the development of digital services so that their needs are considered from the outset and digital services are designed to be simple and barrier-free. "Digital services and technologies should be easy to use, as self-explanatory and secure as possible. And they should be available and affordable for everyone," says Mahler. There is a need for comprehensive and low-threshold education and support services for the acquisition of digital skills. In addition, access to digital devices and free internet access should become a matter of course in old people's and nursing homes.

The disappearance of biodiversity threatens human rights

The disappearance of species is threatening ecosystems worldwide and thus also the livelihoods of humans. The protection of species and ecosystems is essential in order to safeguard human rights, especially to food, health and clean water.

Biodiversity is disappearing at an unprecedented rate. The World Biodiversity Council (IPBES) reported in 2019 that about one million animal and plant species were threatened with extinction, many of them within the next few decades. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the loss of species and stable ecosystems - along with climate catastrophe and environmental pollution - is one of the three mutually reinforcing planetary crises. All people worldwide are affected, but especially indigenous peoples and local communities.

In 2022, the Institute initiated research to examine more closely the relationship between biodiversity and the exercise of human rights.

Food security requires biodiversity People's lives depend on biodiversity and intact ecosystems: They need water and food, both in sufficient quantity and quality. Biodiversity as one of the foundations for the functioning of ecosystems is indispensable for securing the human rights to food and clean drinking water, as well as the right to health and ultimately the right to life.

The genetic diversity of nature is of central importance for agriculture, for example: if a crop species is susceptible to pests or pathogens or cannot adapt to changing climatic conditions, more resistant species can be used to prevent crop failures. A shrinking genetic diversity of plants and animal species therefore threatens food security.

However, measures to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems must also be based on human rights. For example, the rights of indigenous groups and local communities are often threatened when strict conservation measures are adopted for parts of their settlement areas, resulting in serious changes to their way of life or even resettlement.

Instruments at international level

The close link between biodiversity and human rights is increasingly being addressed by UN bodies. At the international level, there is increasing discussion about the human rights obligations that arise for states from the threat to the natural basis of life. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was recognised politically by the Human Rights Council in October 2021 and by the UN General Assembly in July 2022. The Institute had submitted a statement prior to this.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the central international legal instrument for the protection of biological diversity and its sustainable use. In December 2022, at their 15th joint conference, COP15, in Montreal, the parties agreed on four long-term targets by 2050 and 23 concrete targets by 2030 to halt the loss of biodiversity. At least 30% of the world's land and marine area is to be protected. The Institute monitored the COP15 negotiations in Montreal and will continue to address the issue of biodiversity in 2023.

Climate policy from a human rights perspective

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. They cost human lives, lead to crop losses, damage health and destroy infrastructure. In order to protect its population from the impacts of climate change, Germany must implement appropriate climate protection and adaptation measures.

The message of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in March 2023 was more than clear: a radical and immediate reduction of climate-damaging greenhouse gases is needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 43% by 2030. The parties to the Paris Climate Agreement, including Germany, agreed on the 1.5-degree target in 2015. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in order to achieve this goal, climate protection ambitions must be significantly increased. Failure to do so will have a significant impact on people and nature in all regions of the world: more heat waves, droughts, heavy rainfall events and floods.

The devastating floods in the west and southwest of Germany in July 2021 painfully demonstrated how urgent and necessary it is for Germany to adapt to the consequences of climate change. In November 2021, the UN Human Rights Committee criticised Germany for failing to provide information on precautionary measures to protect the population from the negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters. The Committee recommends that Germany adopt a precautionary approach.

From a human rights perspective, policy must give special consideration to certain population groups: How do we protect the elderly, children or homeless people during heat waves? How can the supply of drinking water to private households be ensured during periods of extreme drought, regardless of where they live or their income? Will people with disabilities be taken into account in disaster protection?

To ensure that climate adaptation measures do not lead to human rights violations, the human rights impact assessment must be considered from the very beginning. Preparedness and adaptation can only be successful if those affected are appropriately involved in the development of measures. Germany has a human rights obligation to do this.

The state must take precautionary measures

In its Human Rights Report 2021/2022, the Institute called on the federal government to launch a "precautionary adaptation strategy" and the planned federal climate adaptation law as soon as possible and to ensure a human rights-based climate adaptation policy, in detail:

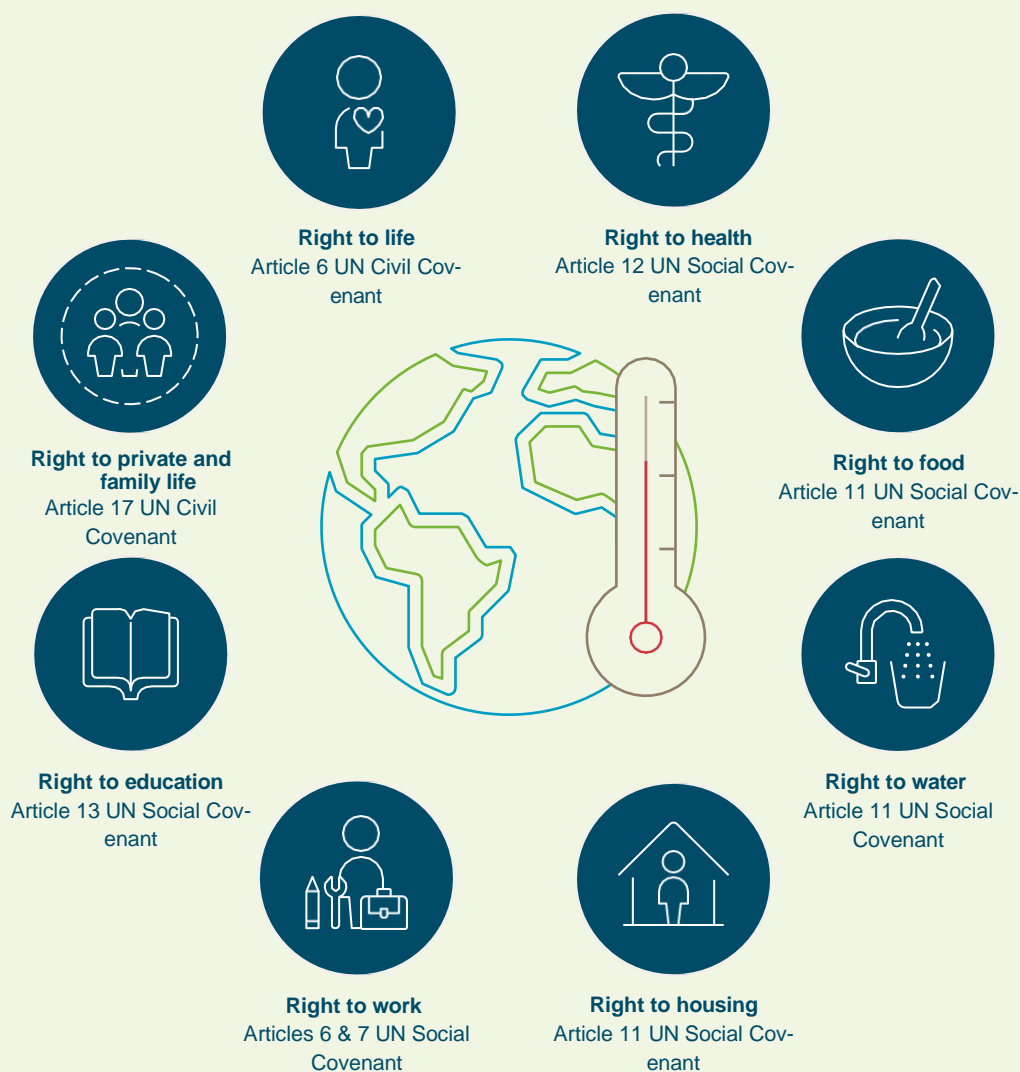
- Concrete, measurable and binding climate adaptation targets for relevant sectors such as housing, water and health, as well as regular reporting to the German Bundestag on progress and deficits in their implementation.
- Nationwide data collection on the effects of climate change on different population groups, for example older people, children and young people, homeless people and people with disabilities. It must be possible to identify the location in which the data was collected. The data should inform state and federal parliaments about the need for and scope of climate adaptation measures and thus provide a solid data basis for the debate on climate adaptation.

- Regularly informing particularly vulnerable groups of the population about the climate risks they face and the measures they can take to protect themselves.
- Participation of those potentially affected in the development and implementation of measures, for example in the form of climate councils at local, state and federal level.
- Low-threshold access to redress and effective remedies should climate adaptation measures affect or violate human rights.
- A human rights risk and impact assessment of climate adaptation measures to identify negative impacts at an early stage.

Further information

German Institute for Human Rights (2022): Development of the Human Rights Situation in Germany July 2021-June 2022. Report to the German Bundestag pursuant to Section 2 (5) Act on the Status and Tasks of the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMRG). Berlin, pp. 59-73

These human rights are particularly affected by climate change



Strengthening human rights and the rule of law, protecting civil society freedoms

Rule of law institutions and democratic procedures are being challenged worldwide. The Institute advocates for a functioning human rights protection system, rule of law institutions and civil society freedoms.

"Without human rights there is no lasting peace"

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is bringing suffering, destruction and massive human rights violations to the country. How can human rights still come to bear in this situation? How can those responsible for human rights violations be held accountable and what does the war mean for the human rights situation in Germany? Interview with Institute Director Beate Rudolf.

Since 24 February 2022, the Russian war of aggression has kept the people of Ukraine and the world on tenterhooks. Can human rights find any application at all in a war zone?

Beate Rudolf: Human rights also apply in war. They are modified by international humanitarian law, which in turn makes them clear: Attacks on the civilian population are prohibited, as are torture, sexualised violence, arbitrary executions and forced disappearances. Prisoners of war must be treated humanely. Furthermore, nuclear power plants must not be attacked and cultural and religious sites must be protected. Violations of these fundamental rules are war crimes and must be punished. The responsible state must make reparations for human rights violations and all other violations of international law.

How can those responsible be held accountable?

Rudolf: The courts of any state or the International Criminal Court in The Hague can hold soldiers and those politically and militarily responsible for war crimes accountable under international criminal law. The European Court of Human Rights can rule on human rights violations committed on Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation until 16 September 2022, six months after Russia's membership in the Council of Europe ended. In doing so, the Court may also determine compensation. In May 2023, the states of the Council of Europe created a damage register as the first component of the international compensation mechanism recommended by the UN General Assembly for all damage

caused by the Russian war of aggression and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin in mid-March 2023 concerning the accusation of abduction of Ukrainian children. How important is this arrest warrant?

Rudolf: The punishment of the most serious human rights violations is a common concern of the global community. It is about justice for the victims and the defence of the foundations of peaceful coexistence. Without human rights there can be no lasting peace. The arrest warrant makes it clear that Putin has placed himself outside the international legal order and must answer for this. No state that is a party to the Statute of the International Criminal Court may allow him to enter the country.

It is equally important that other actors investigate and document violations of human rights and international humanitarian law: the Independent International Commission of Inquiry established by the UN Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ukrainian agencies including the National Human Rights Institution of Ukraine, Ukrainian and international non-governmental organisations and numerous states, including Germany. All these findings can be used in criminal proceedings, by the European Court of Human Rights and in decisions on Russia's obligation to pay compensation.

What should be done besides investigating those responsible and documenting the damage?

Rudolf: International criminal prosecution is an important instrument to affirm the validity of the law in cases of the most serious human rights violations. After all, the political situation in Russia may change more quickly than can be foreseen at present. At the same time, it is now important to mitigate the consequences of the war for the people of Ukraine. In particular, after the liberation of Russian-occupied territories, the victims of torture, sexualised war violence and abduction must be supported. People in the war zones need medical and psychological care, food and clothing, and they need hope. The civil society organisations and initiatives in Ukraine, which are doing excellent work, need moral and material support. This applies in particular to those who, even and especially in the war zones, are working to promote the observance of human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law in Ukraine. Therefore, Germany and the world must not turn their attention away from the immense human suffering in Ukraine. This is another reason why the crimes committed must be made visible.

What role can national human rights organisations like the German Institute for Human Rights play?

Rudolf: Within the framework of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), we jointly support and strengthen the Ukrainian ombudsman institution so that it can do its important work in documenting the most serious human rights violations, supporting those affected, exchanging prisoners and abductees and promoting respect for human rights in their own country. Representatives of ENNHRI have repeatedly visited Kyiv for this purpose. ENNHRI also makes it possible for the National Human Rights Institutions of neighbouring and particularly burdened states to exchange information on good practice in the reception of refugees.

You've already touched on the subject: Many people from Ukraine have no choice but to flee from the war to other countries. Who is protecting their human rights?

Rudolf: The people fleeing Ukraine have a right to protection and security abroad. Germany has made a particularly large contribution to this so far, as have Moldova and Poland. In the meantime, many municipalities and private initiatives have reached their limits. A clear political commitment is therefore needed to remain in solidarity as a state and to back this up with the necessary financial resources. Let us not forget: Ukraine is defending itself against a war of aggression that is taking place in opposition to human rights. Putin is speculating that the willingness of democratic states to take in refugees and to absorb the consequences of the energy crisis will collapse, and with it support for Ukraine. Politicians must not fall into this trap. They must not give up the human rights of other refugees and thus fundamental European values because of the burden of refugees from Ukraine. The shocking reports of the most serious human rights violations under Russian occupation make it clear that the war against Ukraine is also a war against human rights. Those who want peace must defend human rights - in Ukraine and in this country!

Further information

"Those responsible for war crimes must be held accountable" - Press release 20.6.2022

About

Prof. Dr Beate Rudolf has been Director of the Institute since 2010. She has been a member of the Board of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions since 2022. From 2016 to 2019, she was Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

European asylum system

Anyone seeking protection in the EU from persecution, war or human rights violations has the right to a fair and individual asylum procedure. However, this right is severely restricted at the EU's external borders. The Institute advocates for a reform of the European asylum system in line with human rights.

According to the EU Asylum Agency, around 966,000 people applied for asylum in the EU in 2022, 215,000 of them in Germany. Most applicants came from Syria (around 132,000) and Afghanistan (around 129,000).

When in the summer of 2021 more and more people seeking protection reached the borders of Poland, Latvia and Lithuania via Belarus, the EU Commission drafted a so-called instrumentalisation regulation that was intended for adoption in 2022. It would have made it possible to deny protection seekers entry into the EU and to conduct the asylum procedure directly at the border. During the procedure, they could have been detained for up to four months - with no exceptions for minors or families.

Under pressure from civil society - the Institute also criticised the project - the EU member states paused the plans for the time being. "Instead of allowing the gradual erosion of European protection standards, the focus should be on effectively combating violence and lawlessness at the EU's external borders and granting protection seekers the rights to which they are entitled," says Anna Suerhoff, Institute expert on asylum and refugees. The Institute calls for the expansion of safe access routes to the EU and a solidarity-based distribution mechanism that regulates the admission of protection seekers in a binding manner.

The EU's handling of protection seekers from Ukraine shows that there is another way: after the start of Russia's war of aggression on the country, which violated international law, the EU decided in March 2022 to apply the Temporary Protection Directive. According to this directive, Ukrainian war refugees receive a temporary right of residence in the EU without having to struggle with bureaucratic red tape.

By February 2023, more than one million Ukrainians had come to Germany. The EU proved that it is very capable of supporting large numbers of people quickly and in a spirit of solidarity, giving them access to the labour market, education, medical care or integration measures right from the start.

"This procedure should serve as a best practice example for the care of other persons in need of protection," demands Nele Allenberg, head of the Institute's department for human rights policy in Germany/Europe. Because the Dublin Regulation did not apply, protection seekers from Ukraine could choose which Member State they wanted to be admitted to. The EU should evaluate the effects of such a distribution on integration opportunities and examine whether it has a positive impact.

Opportunity Residence Act

There are many people in Germany living with a temporary residential status ("Duldungsstatus"), sometimes for decades. The insecure living situation and restrictions such as work bans and residence requirements make it difficult for these people to integrate and obtain a regular residence permit. The Opportunity Residence Act, which was introduced by the Bundestag in 2022, is intended to change this: Anyone who has lived in Germany for five years by the deadline of 31 October 2022 and has not committed a crime will now have 18 months to fulfil the requirements for a residence permit. The Institute welcomed the new law as a step in the right direction.

"The realisation of human rights is not a straightforward path"

When the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, people all over the world hoped for the realisation of freedom, equality and justice. Michael Windfuhr and Claudia Mahler talk about achievements in international human rights protection and current challenges.

Claudia Mahler, Michael Windfuhr, in addition to your work at the Institute, you are responsible for the protection of human rights at UN level. Does the system of international human rights protection stand up to the current challenges?

Michael Windfuhr: Digitalisation, climate change, the pandemic - the list of challenges is long. The guidelines and structures of international human rights protection can help to find human rights-based answers to these challenges. Climate change, for example, will have a massive impact on the realisation of many human rights in the future, such as the right to health, housing, food and water. The design of state measures must be oriented towards human rights so that the human dignity of all people can be protected.

Claudia Mahler: I observe a great reluctance on the part of many European states to expand protection for human rights. It is important that the advocates of human rights do not sit by and leave the field to those who are no longer convinced of human rights. In addition, there is the difficult financial situation of the United Nations and especially of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. They are supposed to have an eye on the implementation of all human rights worldwide, but they are completely inadequately funded for this huge task.

What progress has been made in human rights over the last 75 years, where do you see setbacks?

Windfuhr: When I started working on human rights, oppression in Eastern Europe was the big issue. Human rights were the frame of reference that motivated many resistance movements. Nobody thought at the time that anything would change so quickly. Progress was also made in the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. In the meantime, the realisation has become widespread that globalisation without sufficient social design can endanger democracy. However, there are always setbacks, for example when democratic states cooperate with dictatorships, tolerate human rights violations and do not comply with human rights law. The realisation of human rights is not a straightforward path.

Mahler: Even though human rights are now recognised worldwide, things are being called into question again today that we thought had been overcome long ago. For example, there are countries that do not support UN resolutions if the word gender appears in them. On other human rights issues, too, UN diplomats struggle to find the lowest common denominator in every formulation.

The Human Rights Council has 47 members, and currently also includes China, Cuba and Eritrea. These countries are not exactly known for their human rights protection, but are supposed to be advancing the implementation of human rights. How credible are the international bodies and procedures for human rights protection?

Windfuhr: The members of the Human Rights Council are elected according to regional proportionality, which is why it also includes states that are not friends of human rights. In the first two decades, there were progressive majorities in the Human Rights Council, but today it has become much more difficult to pass resolutions. Nevertheless, the Council is an important body for winning political majorities for certain issues. Human rights do not fall from the sky just because there are UN conventions; they have to be fought for again and again. The procedures of the so-called treaty bodies, which monitor the implementation of human rights conventions by the signatory states, are the only procedures in the UN system in which states can be examined by independent experts and held accountable.

Mahler: In the Human Rights Council - in the 'so-called Universal Periodic Review - the 'implementation of human rights in the states is regularly put to the test. There is no review by independent experts, but the states review each other; every state wants to receive a positive report. Of course it is questionable when countries like Saudi Arabia demand better implementation of women's rights in Germany. Nevertheless, it is important to have procedures that bring states into dialogue about the implementation of human rights. The parallel reports of civil society and national human rights institutions are very important as a corrective to the state reports.

What role does civil society play in international human rights protection?

Mahler: It is an important source of information for the review of the human rights situation in the states. Their reports and assessments provide a counterweight to the mostly positively formulated state reports. Many non-governmental organisations around the world also use the international procedures of human rights protection for their work at national level by referring to the UN recommendations in their countries.

Windfuhr: In addition to national and international human rights institutions, there are now institutionalised civil society organisations such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch, alongside local human rights groups and new movements such as Fridays for Future. This mix is encouraging, even if the scope of civil society organisations is currently being restricted in many countries.

Claudia Mahler, the UN Human Rights Council appointed you the "Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons" in 2020. What are your tasks? Firstly, I prepare two thematic reports each year with recommendations on how the human rights of older people can be better protected and implemented. Currently, I am working on violence against older people and am examining the impact of national climate protection or climate adaptation measures on the rights of older people. One report is being discussed in the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the other in the UN General Assembly in New York.

I also visit two countries every year and learn about the situation there. I contact official representatives and also meet civil society organisations, visit good or bad practice examples and speak directly with older people. My tasks also include dealing with individual complaints or structural complaints about the rights of older people.

For years, there have been efforts to create a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Could it contribute to a better implementation of the human rights of older people?

Older people are invisible in the existing human rights treaties: they are hardly considered in the UN Civil Covenant, and even the UN Convention on Women's Rights does not mention older women. A separate human rights treaty would substantiate the rights of older people and could bring them into the focus of policymakers. This is similar to what the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has done for the rights of persons with disabilities since its entry into force.

Where does the process currently stand?

For twelve years, an international working group of the UN General Assembly, the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, has been discussing the gaps in current human rights protection for older people and how they could be closed. At present, however, there is no political will to clearly identify the gaps in protection and to adopt a separate convention. Many states in South and Central America are campaigning for this, but many European states are hesitating. Germany, too, is not yet openly in favour of a separate human rights convention.

Mr Windfuhr, as one of 18 experts, you are reviewing how the States Parties to the UN Social Covenant implement the human rights requirements. What happens during such a review?

In addition to the official state reports, we receive reports from national human rights institutions or civil society organisations. On the basis of these reports, we conduct a "critical dialogue" with the state representatives and then draft "concluding observations". In these we point out difficulties in the implementation of human rights and make suggestions on how human rights can be better protected and what measures the states should implement over the following two years.

The Committee also prepares so-called General Comments on individual rights or issues. What is this for?

The General Comments are an interpretive aid, designed to substantiate the human rights requirements and give indications on what states should consider when implementing them. We are currently working on a General Comment on sustainable development. Previously, we adopted a General Comment on land, which focused particularly on the right to housing, forced evictions and resettlement.

Since when have economic, social and cultural rights gained importance?

An important impulse for this came from the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, which reaffirmed the universality of Human

Rights. In the meantime, it has been recognised that human dignity can only be defended if all human rights are implemented. In Germany, all social rights are enforceable, from pensions to tenant protection to health care. It is important that access to these rights is possible without discrimination.

What is needed to ensure that human rights can be better implemented in the future?

Mahler: International human rights protection must evolve and respond to changing realities. Digitalisation, climate change, ageing societies - none of this was an issue when the UN Civil and Social Covenants were adopted in 1966. I would also like to see European states focus less on the shortcomings of the UN system and relativising the recommendations of human rights bodies, and instead stand up for human rights with a loud and united voice.

Windfuhr: We should reflect on the achievements of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The dignity of every human being is inviolable and every human being has the same rights. Human rights are the basis of peaceful coexistence in a society. Even after 75 years, the Declaration still has great appeal; it is an important point of reference for protest movements such as the current one in Iran. The values and rights enshrined in the Declaration should serve as a guide for states, but also for every individual.

About

Michael Windfuhr has been Deputy Director of the Institute since 2011. He has been a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights since 2016.

Dr. Claudia Mahler has been an Institute expert on economic, social and cultural rights since 2010 and team leader on the rights of older persons since 2023. Since 2020, she has also been the UN Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons.

The rule of law must be defensible

Civil servants are guarantors of the rule of law. If they make racist statements, this must not remain without consequences. Otherwise, trust in the rule of law will be damaged.

Extreme right hate speech in chat groups, racist statements made by civil servants, judges who are members of the conspiracist "Reichsbürger" movement: Time and again, the racist positions of certain civil servants or judges have become public. In embodying these values, they turn against the fundamental guarantees of the free democratic basic order as defined in German Basic Law.

"The rule of law must not tolerate civil servants who hold racist or right-wing extremist positions. It must confront them resolutely - also with the means of disciplinary law," emphasises Hendrik Cremer, Institute expert on the right to protection from racism. Otherwise, the authorities, police and judiciary not only risk losing credibility, but bit by bit, the rule of law puts its own existence at risk.

In March 2022, the Institute published the study "Racist and right-wing extremist positioning in the service of the state?" The analysis makes clear that the indispensable foundations of human rights are anchored in Article 1 (1) of the Basic Law as an integral part of the free democratic basic order. Respect for human dignity is a constituent element of the free democratic constitutional state. Anyone who opposes the principle of equal human dignity and the legal equality of every individual may not become or remain a civil servant. This also applies to judges and soldiers in the armed forces.

Use the possibilities of service and disciplinary law

Civil servants have the right to be politically active and to express their opinions on political

issues. But: They are also obliged to commit to the free democratic basic order as defined in the Basic Law and to stand up for it, i.e. to counteract racism and right-wing extremism. Standing up for the free democratic basic order - the constitutional duty of loyalty - is a central duty for all officials, soldiers and judges. Violations of this duty are therefore particularly serious.

"The responsible authorities must be able to dismiss civil servants, judges and soldiers who hold racist positions and who oppose the guarantees enshrined in Article 1(1) of the Basic Law," Cremer affirms.

If it becomes apparent that a civil servant is not fulfilling his or her constitutional duty of loyalty, disciplinary measures must be taken. This also applies to civil servants who support positions of political parties that are not banned, such as the AfD, which aim to eliminate the guarantee of human dignity. Such disciplinary proceedings must always be conducted on a case-by-case basis, and may also lead to an acquittal.

In order for civil servants to fulfil their role as guarantors of the rule of law, measures are also required to raise their awareness of their obligation to profess and stand up for the free democratic basic order. Candidates and civil servants must be made aware that the obligation to stand up for the free democratic basic order in view of the guarantees enshrined in Article 1 (1) of the Basic Law goes hand in hand with an attitude that must be practised in the exercise of their office and beyond. The rule of law depends on this to preserve its existence.

Climate protests: Is the state reacting appropriately?

Young people in particular are demonstrating vehemently for better climate protection. In doing so, they are exercising their right to freedom of assembly. If the state reacts to this with sanctions, the principle of proportionality must be respected.

Climate activists bring their concerns to the public with various forms of action: they block traffic routes, organise protest camps, occupy buildings or public areas and deliberately enter into conflicts with the authorities. More and more often, they are accused of extremism or even of "climate terrorism" (the "non-word of the year 2022") because of these actions, and their protest is denied legitimacy. Which reactions of the state to the different forms of protest are appropriate and proportionate in terms of human rights, and which are not?

Long preventive detention is disproportionate

In autumn 2022, the Munich District Court ordered the preventive detention of climate activists in 33 cases. This type of detention is intended to avert danger and is provided for in all police laws of the Länder. In Bavaria, however, it is particularly strict, and preventive detention can last up to 30 days and be extended for the same period of time again. This long period of time has met with fierce criticism in the legal community; especially in the context of the climate protests, many consider it to be disproportionate.

Research: "Young Climate Activists and the State's Obligation to Create a Supportive Environment" in the summer semester of 2022. The starting point for the research project was a submission by the Institute to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association for his report on the role of freedom of assembly in the global protests for more climate justice in September 2021.

In this debate, the Institute has pointed out that such a practice threatens to undermine the right to freedom of assembly. Eric Töpfer, senior

researcher and policy adviser at the Institute, explains: "Deprivation of liberty is the state's sharpest sword in a constitutional state. When dealing with protesters, this instrument should only be used with extreme restraint."

In order for climate activists to be able to exercise their rights to freedom of assembly and association, they need a "safe and enabling environment", as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights puts it. This is the only way they can raise their concerns without fear of reprisals. In cooperation with the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, the Institute supported the seminar "Human Rights

"Preventive detention should only be used with extreme restraint."

Eric Töpfer, Senior Researcher and Policy Adviser

Master's students in Sociology and Peace and Conflict Studies investigated how activists in Germany justify their climate protests and how they experience the reactions of authorities. They conducted interviews with experts and people from the climate movement to identify aspects of a "supportive environment". Staff members of the Institute provided input on central legal and human rights issues and supported the students with professional expertise. Two working groups from the seminar, which had concentrated on conflicts between authorities and climate activists, presented their results in a workshop discussion with Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention, in March 2023.

Environmental Migrants: The Last Illusion

143 million people will be forced into internal migration due to climate change by the year 2050, according to a forecast by the World Bank.

The project "Environmental Migrants: The Last Illusion" by photographer Alessandro Grassani tells the story of climate-induced migrants moving from rural areas to cities. Because of extreme cold, floods or drought, herders, farmers and fishermen have had to abandon their traditional way of life and leave their homes. Mongolia, Haiti, Kenya and Bangladesh are particularly affected by climate-induced internal migration. In four chapters, Grassani contrasts the difficult living conditions of the people in the countryside with the no less difficult ones of the environmental migrants in the growing slums of the cities.

The title "The Last Illusion" recalls the hopes of migrants seeking a better life in the city. Once there, they lack opportunities and resources. The dream of a promising future becomes their last illusion.

www.alessandrograssani.com

Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar

The Mongolian winter has become colder and snowier, with temperatures as low as -50 degrees Celsius. According to the UN, more than 8 million cows died in Mongolia in the winter of 2010. About 20,000 herders were forced to move to the capital Ulaanbaatar. They have spent their lives moving their yurts from pasture to pasture, following the seasons. Now they have to cope in a completely unfamiliar urban environment.

Environmental migration has increased the number of unemployed in Mongolia, exacerbating poverty and pushing people into precarious living conditions. From 2008 to 2018, the population of Ulaanbaatar doubled, according to the Mongolian Bureau of Statistics. In a country three times the size of France, almost half the population lives in the capital.

Alessandro Grassani has documented families in Ulaanbaatar who have fled from remote regions of Mongolia to the capital. After harsh winters have decimated their herds and deprived the families of their livelihoods, they now live in the city's largest slum. In the countryside, Grassani followed the Tsamba family's daily struggle against climate change.

Page 41:

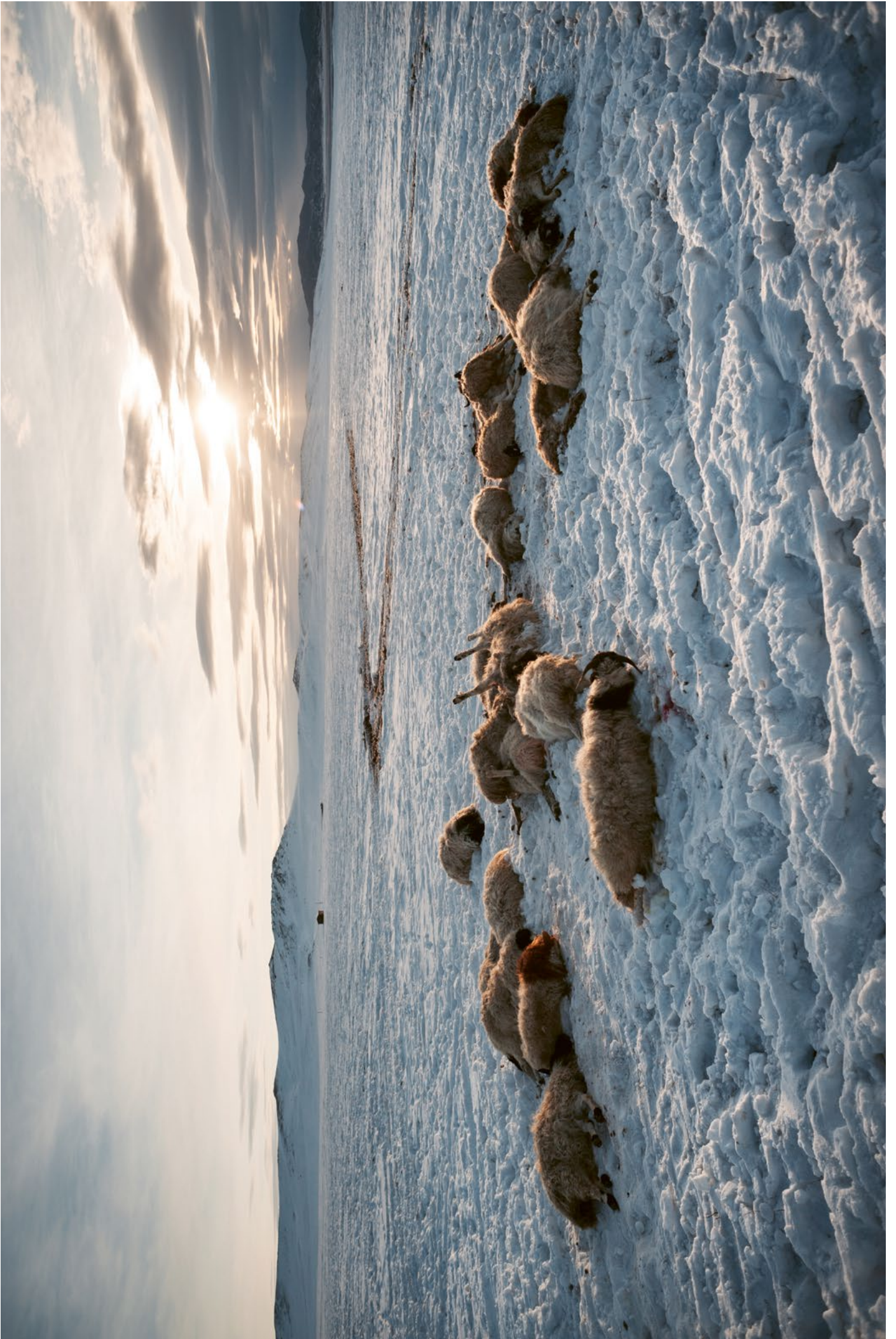
Mongolia, Arkhangai province. The Tsamba family lost almost 20 sheep on two cold winter days. In the Mongolian province of Arkhangai, the family lives on the edge of subsistence. In the previous three winters, 1,000 of the family's animals had already died from the extreme cold, half of their once 2,000-strong flock of sheep. Thousands of shepherds have no choice but to move towards Ulaanbaatar in search of warmer pastures.

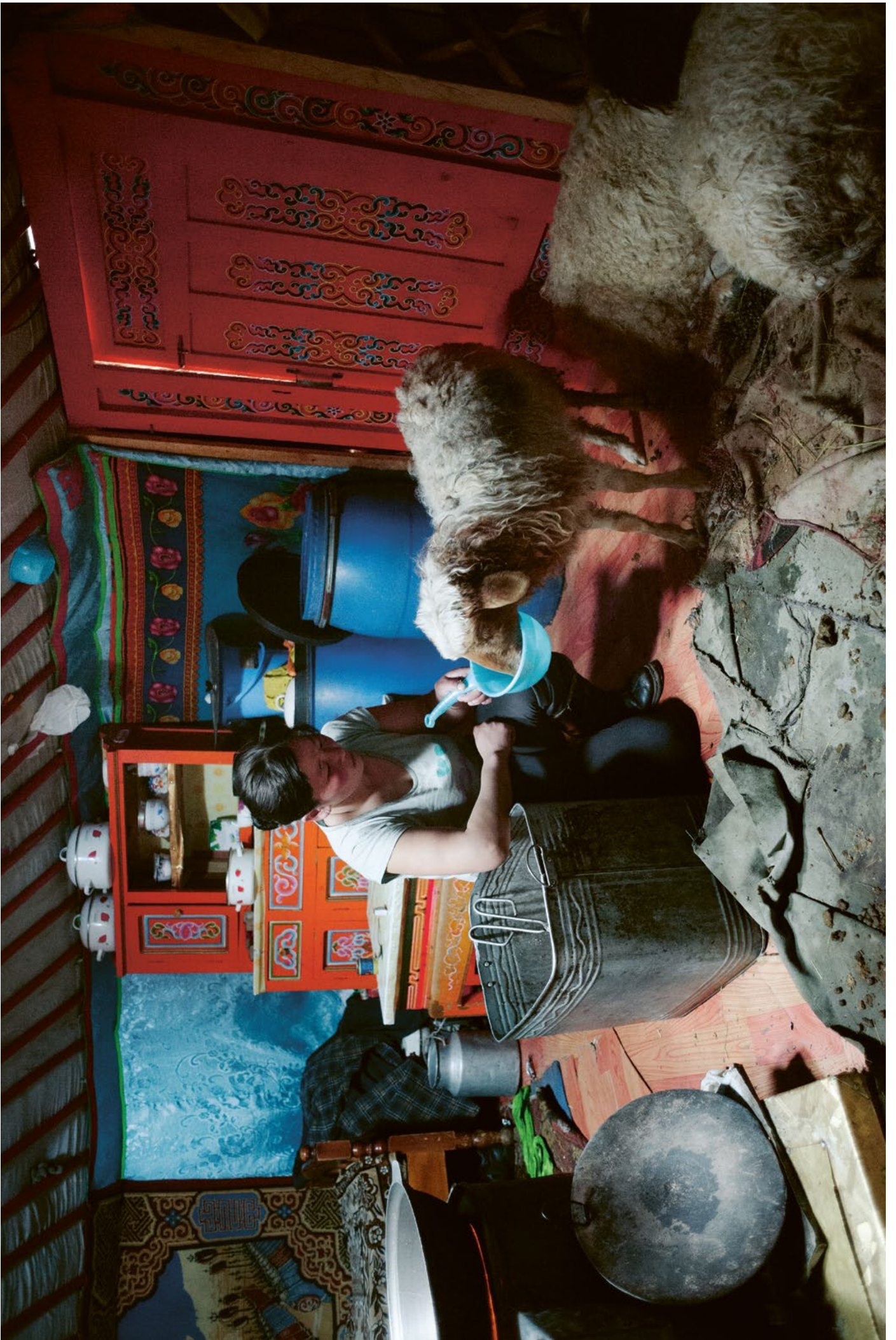
Page 42:

Mongolia, Arkhangai Province. Erdene Tuya, 29, watering an exhausted sheep in her ger, the traditional Mongolian tent. The outside temperatures drop to -50 degrees Celsius in winter. Everything freezes and many sheep die of thirst.

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Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. A herder family has built their ger in the capital. About half of Mongolia's population lives in Ulaanbaatar. According to the Mongolian Office for Statistics, the city's population almost doubled from 2008 to 2018. The harsh climate conditions in the countryside force many shepherds to abandon their nomadic life in the steppe and move to the ger district of Ulaanbaatar.







Haiti, Port-au-Prince

Haiti is one of the countries most affected by climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the UN, the impact of natural disasters there is particularly severe because of existing environmental degradation. Drought, hurricanes and floods have led to rural-urban migration in Haiti. Thousands of environmental migrants are moving to the capital Port-au-Prince.

In Haiti, Grassani documented how people are dealing with the challenges of deforestation and natural disasters. He accompanied former farming families who moved to Port-au-Prince in search of better opportunities and new jobs.

Page 45:

Haiti, Lake Azuéi. After a hurricane, only the trunks of dead palm trees remain. The lake has almost doubled in size in the past ten years, flooding houses and farms. Scientists blame climate change for this.

Page 46:

Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Cité Soleil slum. Cité Soleil has around 400,000 inhabitants. Climate change and deforestation have drastically reduced the amount of agricultural land in the countryside and forced people to migrate to the cities. Every year, thousands of environmental migrants arrive in the capital.

Page 47:

Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Village des Rapatriés. Rising sea levels mean that coastal neighbourhoods are often flooded, including Village des Rapatriés, a poor neighbourhood in Port-au-Prince.







Kenya, Nairobi

On the African continent, Kenya is one of the countries suffering most from climate change. 84% of Kenya's land area is affected by drought. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in Kenya, there were at least 204,000 internally displaced persons in the country in the year 2020. Droughts and disputes between groups of herders over grazing land and water for their herds have left many Kenyans dreaming of a better future in Nairobi. In the Kibera district, the largest slum in Africa, about one million people live in deplorable conditions. Climate change is one of the main causes of Nairobi's unstoppable growth.

In Turkana county, the driest area of Kenya, Grassani witnessed the hostile conditions faced by local communities. Recurrent droughts and famines have destroyed much of their livestock and crops. In bloody conflicts, communities fight over scarce grazing land and water. In the Kibera slum, Grassani accompanied families who have fled Kenya's drought regions and come to Nairobi.

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Kenya, Turkana county. Near Todonyang, a village on the border with Ethiopia, a herdsman is searching for pasture with his assault rifle. In Kenya's driest region, people fight for pasture and water, sometimes leading to bloody conflicts.

Page 50:

Kenya, Turkana county. Nomadic herders dig deep for water for themselves and their animals in a dry riverbed near the village of Lobei.

Page 51:

Kenya, Nairobi. Rose Juma, 34, pours dirty water in front of her mud hut. The former herder works as a laundress in Kibera, a slum in Nairobi. Rose Juma comes from a herding family in Turkana county. When her animals starved and died of thirst, she moved to Kibera with her husband and six children.







Bangladesh, Dhaka

For Bangladesh, climate change is an existential problem. According to the World Bank, between 300,000 and 400,000 people move from the countryside to the capital Dhaka every year for economic and environmental reasons. The International Organisation for Migration estimates that 70% of all those living in the slums came to the city as environmental refugees. According to calculations by the University of Toronto, Dhaka will be the third largest city in the world in 2050, with a population of around 35.2 million.

In Dhaka, Alessandro Grassani accompanied families who fled to the city from floods and rising sea levels. The fisher and farmer families had a simple, dignified life before they moved. They could afford three meals a day and their children went to school. Now they live in abject poverty in the slums of Dhaka.

Page 53:

Debnagar, Bangladesh. Fazila Khatun, 42, hangs laundry in front of her house. She and her husband have lived in Debnagar village all their lives. The river has been overflowing its banks for nine years and for about seven months a year they have to cope with the adverse conditions.

Page 54:

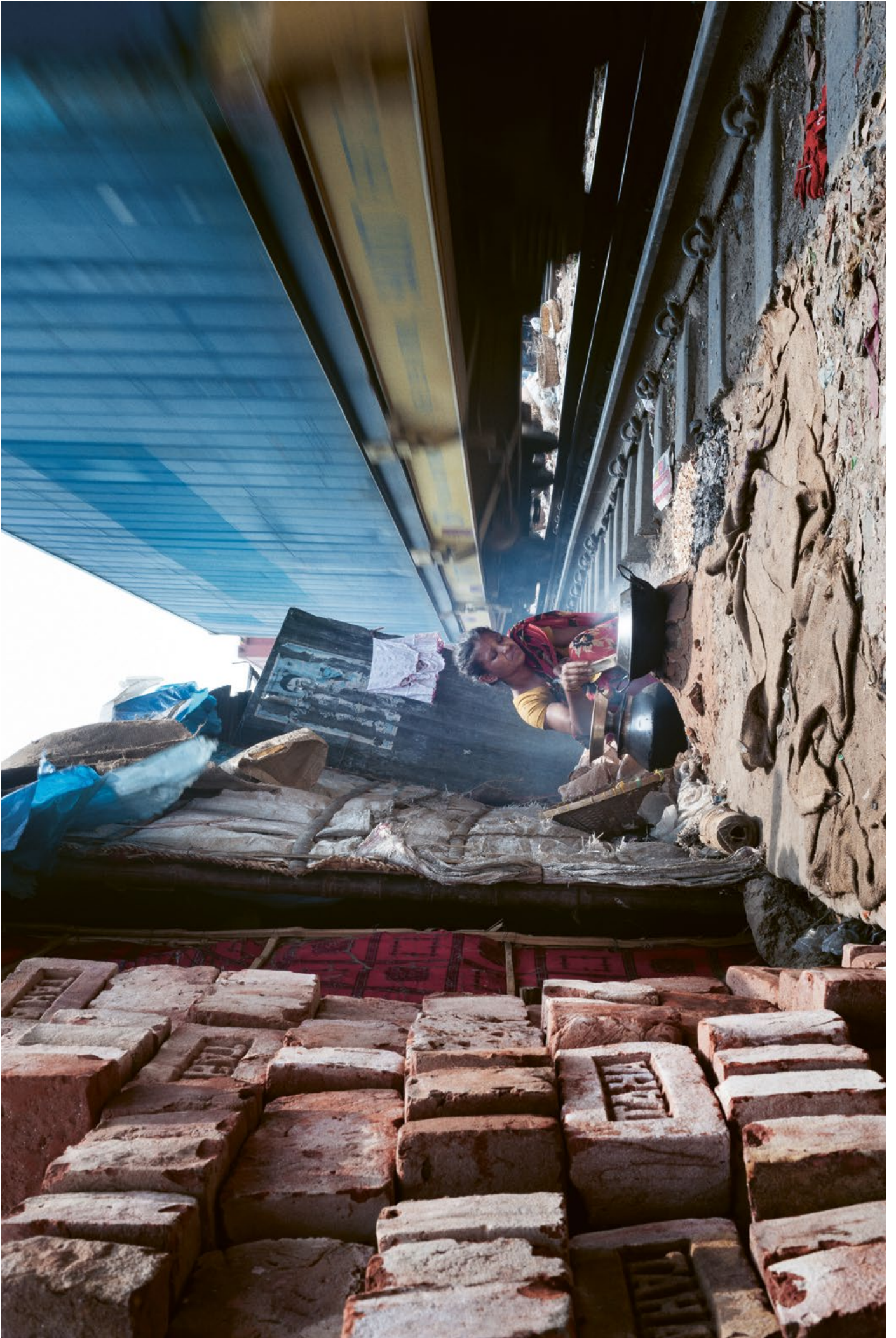
Bangladesh, Dhaka. Newly arrived environmental migrants often start making money by driving rickshaws. During the rainy season, many areas of Dhaka are flooded. Lack of urban planning and rapid urbanisation are causing parts of the city to sink. For generations, Dhaka has been the main destination for people fleeing rural poverty. Now, climate change is accelerating migration to the capital.

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Bangladesh, Dhaka. Nomataz Begun, 40, cooks in front of her makeshift shelter next to the railway line in the Kawran Bazar slum. Two years ago, the farming family moved to Dhaka after their house in Jainjhar Bajar village was swallowed by the Konkso River. Now Nomataz Begun's husband works as a hairdresser while she takes care of the household. His low income is not enough to enable the three children to continue attending school.







The Institute

Mission and tasks

The German Institute for Human Rights is Germany's independent national human rights institution (Section 1 of the Law regarding the Legal Status and Tasks of the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMRG)). It works to ensure that Germany respects, promotes and protects human rights at home and abroad. As a centre of expertise on domestic implementation of human rights, it advises policymakers and civil society, provides information on human rights, strengthens human rights education and contributes the human rights perspective to political and social debates.

The Institute also accompanies and monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe Conventions on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Germany. For this purpose, it has set up corresponding monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

Research and advise

The Institute conducts interdisciplinary and applied research on human rights issues and monitors the human rights situation in Germany. It advises policymakers at federal, state and local level, the judiciary, the legal profession, business and civil society organisations on the implementation of international human rights conventions. It reports to the German Bundestag and drafts statements for national and international courts and international human rights bodies. It supports educators in embedding human rights in education and training for human rights-sensitive professions, as well as in shaping human rights education in schools and extracurricular activities. The Institute sees itself as a forum for exchange between the state, civil society, academia, practitioners and national and international actors.

Inform and document

An important task of national human rights institutions is to provide information on the human rights situation in their own countries. The Law on

the Legal Status and Mandate of the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMRG) therefore provides that the Institute shall report annually to the German Bundestag on the development of the human rights situation in Germany and submit an activity report.

In addition, the public library of the Institute provides research literature and journals on human rights. It has the largest collection of human rights education materials in Germany. With numerous web and social media offerings, the Institute provides information on human rights issues and documents the implementation of the most important human rights treaties and reports in Germany.

Politically independent

The Institute deals exclusively with the topic of human rights and is politically independent. As a national human rights institution, it works on the basis of the "Paris Principles" of the United Nations. Since 2015, the DIMRG has regulated the legal status, tasks and funding of the Institute. The Institute is organised as a non-profit association and is financed by the German Bundestag as well as - for individual projects - by third-party funds.

National human rights institutions

National human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights exist in around 120 countries. They work on the basis of the Paris Principles. The United Nations laid down these principles in 1993 as an international standard for the role and functioning of national human rights institutions. An important principle is the independence of the institution. The German Institute for Human Rights fully complies with this standard and has therefore been awarded "A status". Only human rights institutions with this status have the right to speak and participate in UN bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism

Germany ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its additional protocol in 2009. Article 33, paragraph 2 of the UN Convention obliges the States parties to set up an independent monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the UN Convention. The Institute was entrusted with this task in 2009 and established the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism for this purpose.

The task of the Monitoring Mechanism is to promote compliance with the rights of persons with disabilities and to accompany and monitor the implementation of the Convention. It conducts research on the implementation of the UN Convention in Germany, advises federal, state and local policymakers as well as the judiciary, academia and civil society on the interpretation and implementation of the UN Convention. The Monitoring Mechanism works closely with governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Goal: Monitoring mechanisms for all federal states

Independent monitoring mechanisms in the sense of Article 33(2) of the UNCRPD for all 16 federal states are essential for the implementation of the UNCRPD throughout Germany. This requires a legal basis and permanently secured funding. The Institute advocates for all federal states to enact legal regulations for the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism at the state level, in accordance with the Paris Principles for National Human Rights Institutions, entrust the Institute with the exercise of these mandates and provide sufficient funds for this purpose.

Statutory regulations on monitoring at the federal state level exist in five Länder so far: North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein. The Institute has been actively performing its monitoring role in Berlin since 2012, in North Rhine-Westphalia since 2017 and in Saarland since 2020.

It exchanges information with the national human rights institutions of other countries and informs the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about the implementation of the Convention in Germany.

National CRC Monitoring Mechanism

Germany ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its additional protocols in 1992 and committed itself to respecting children's rights. In 2015, the Institute was entrusted with the task of promoting, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany and established the National CRC Monitoring Mechanism for this purpose.

The Monitoring Mechanism contributes to raising awareness of children's rights and, where necessary, reminds organisations to comply with the UN Convention. Using a research-based approach, it advises politicians at the federal, state and local levels as well as the judiciary, the legal profession and civil society on the interpretation and child-friendly implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also exchanges information with the national human rights institutions of other

First state monitoring in Hesse

The state of Hesse is the first federal state to introduce independent monitoring of children's and young people's rights. The aim is to observe and evaluate the social and legal reality of life for more than 1.1 million children and young people in Hesse on the basis of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Institute was entrusted with the monitoring project and initially developed a concept for it from 2021 to 2022. The first phase of the monitoring process is currently underway. Participants from politics, administration and science as well as young people and young adults from Hesse are involved in the monitoring process. The Institute's central recommendations are: Make children and young people better aware of their rights, strengthen their participation rights and promote educational equality for all children and young people in the state of Hesse.

countries and informs the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about the implementation of children's rights in Germany. The Monitoring Mechanism works closely with civil society, government agencies and research institutes. And of course with children and young people themselves, because participation - in the sense of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - is the basis of its work.

National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) has been in force in Germany since 1 February 2018. The German Institute for Human Rights has been entrusted by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth to independently monitor and accompany the implementation of the Convention in Germany. For this purpose, it has established the National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence.

Using data- and evidence-based monitoring and the observation of legislation and jurisprudence, the Monitoring Mechanism develops practice-oriented recommendations for action for policy-makers, administrative bodies and the judiciary so that gender-based violence can be prevented and combated more effectively and those affected can be supported in a more targeted manner. The National Rapporteur Mechanism works closely with civil society and promotes public discourse on gender-based violence. With the information and findings it publishes, it supports the federal government with regard to its reporting obligations at national and international level.

National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings

The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings has been in force in Germany since 2013. The EU Trafficking in Human Beings Directive of 2011 also obliges Germany to combat trafficking in human beings and to protect trafficked persons. In 2022, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth entrusted the Institute with the task of monitoring and accompanying the implementation of these provisions in Germany. To this end, it established the National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings.

Using data and evidence-based monitoring as well as the observation of legislation and jurisprudence, the National Rapporteur Mechanism develops practice-oriented recommendations for action for politics, administration and the judiciary so that human trafficking can be prevented and combated more effectively and trafficked persons can be supported in a more targeted manner. The National Rapporteur Mechanism works closely with civil society and promotes public discourse on trafficking in human beings. With the information and findings it publishes, it supports the federal government with regard to its reporting obligations at national and international level.

National Rapporteur Mechanisms: Tasks and working methods

The Institute has developed an overall concept for the establishment, design and working methods of the two National Rapporteur Mechanisms in 2022. It is available on the Institute's website.

Human rights research

Does Germany fulfil its human rights obligations? This question guides the Institute's human rights research. The starting point is the universal human rights enshrined in international human rights treaties and in the Basic Law. Research questions are, for example: Does legislation adequately take into account human rights requirements? Do federal and state governments, authorities and other state actors act in accordance with human rights law? Are laws or policies achieving their human rights

objectives? What measures are needed to implement human rights obligations? Do people in Germany enjoy their rights and are they aware of them?

Independent - interdisciplinary - participatory

The Institute's research forms an important basis for its policy advice and human rights education. In addition, it strengthens human rights perspectives in debates between different disciplines.

Research projects 2022

Business and human rights:

Under what circumstances are human rights and environmental standards more important to companies than profits or cost savings? A behavioural economics study with an experimental design, which the Institute carried out together with the Technical University of Munich, was dedicated to answering this question.

Climate activism and freedom of assembly:

Dr. Martina Kolanoski, Fellow of the Institute and researcher at Goethe University Frankfurt, explored with students the incidents and obstacles that climate activists encounter in exercising their freedom of assembly - whether it be during encounters with the police, in rural or digital spaces, or as protesters with disabilities. The students presented their findings in a workshop discussion with the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention (see also p. 37).

Inclusive education:

What obstacles do parents of children with disabilities encounter when trying to secure a place at a mainstream school? To answer this question, existing studies and statistics that point to a high rate of exclusion were supplemented with empirical case studies.

The Institute asked experts about particularly frequent case constellations and conducted guided interviews with parents (see also p. 11). Live-ins in home care for the elderly: The Institute researched the working and living situation of Eastern European workers in home care for the elderly, so-called live-ins, with the help of interviews with experts (see also pp. 14-15).

Children of prisoners:

Do prisons in Germany provide adequate conditions for the children of imprisoned parents to exercise their right to regular and direct contact with their parents (if this is not contrary to their best interests)? The Institute prepared a survey of German prisons that will be conducted in 2023.

Human rights monitoring:

The Institute continued to develop human rights indicators, for example for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the Convention on Trafficking in Human Beings. As part of the monitoring of children's and young people's rights in Hesse, it evaluated existing statistics and collected its own data, for example on the opportunities for children and young people to participate.

The Institute selects its research topics independently and its research is open-ended. It has expertise in various disciplines, and especially in the areas of law, social sciences, education and economics. The Institute conducts interdisciplinary and intersectional research on many topics. Interdepartmental research coordination, regular in-house training, interdisciplinary exchange formats, peer review procedures and compliance with guidelines on good scientific practice ensure the quality of the research process. In 2022, the Institute developed a child protection guideline for its work, which also contains guidelines for conducting research projects with children and young people.

Through the exchange with self-advocacy groups, associations and professional communities, the Institute incorporates the perspectives and knowledge of people whose rights are at stake into its research.

Funding

The Institute finances its research projects through institutional funding from the German Bundestag. In addition, the Institute attracts targeted research funds from the public sector and private foundations that fit thematically into its research agenda. The Bundestag increased the Institute's research funding by 300,000 euros in 2022, enabling it to intensify existing projects, conduct in-depth research, start new research and develop concepts for future projects.

Multi-year research projects

Racism in extracurricular adult education

Further education in the sphere of adult education is an important building block in reducing racism. But what can be done when educational offers are not accepted or even rejected? Since 2022, the Institute has been investigating reactions to the discussion of racism in educational events as part of a qualitative research project. Defensiveness is a common and powerful reaction to the discussion of racism, and results in the discussion of the topic being broken off or reinterpreted. In educational practice, trainers have often developed strategies to work with participants' defensive reactions, but these have not yet been empirically investigated. Participant observations, guided interviews and short questionnaires are planned. In a qualitative content analysis, the Institute wants to work out patterns of reactions to broaching the issue of racism. The research project *ABRAKA (Abwehrreaktionen in der Auseinandersetzung mit Rassismus in der Bildungsarbeit - ihre Identifikation und Bearbeitung* - defensive reactions to confrontation with racism in educational work - their identification and treatment), which will last several years, aims to contribute to the academic debate and to feed results back into practice.

Political participation of people with disabilities in Berlin

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges the state to include persons with disabilities in all political decisions. Berlin has numerous structures for political participation. But how well do they work in practice? The Institute investigated this question using a multi-stage mixed methods design. Using semi-standardised questionnaires and expert interviews, it collected the perspectives of the parties involved, i.e. civil society, the state administration and district and state representatives for people with disabilities. The perspectives of civil society participants with intellectual disabilities were collected by way of guided interviews. The results were validated during an expert discussion with participants from all groups. The Institute identified factors for the success of participation as well as needs for action for Berlin. It also developed recommendations for improving the framework conditions for the political participation of people with disabilities.

Globally networked

As Germany's national human rights institution, the Institute works closely with the human rights bodies of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union. It considers itself a mediator between the national and international levels: the Institute regularly reports to international human rights bodies on the human rights situation in Germany and contributes its experience in implementing human rights in Germany to the further development of international human rights protection. In turn, it feeds developments at the international level into the legal and political debates in Germany.

Active at UN level

State reporting procedure

The task of the UN Human Rights Committees is to monitor the implementation of the respective human rights conventions through state review procedures. The Institute regularly participates in Germany's state audits by delivering "parallel reports" on the human rights situation in Germany. In 2022, the focus was on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany: At the beginning of September, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child entered into a constructive dialogue with the German government delegation in Geneva. At the end of September, the Committee published its concluding observations, in which it called once again for the institutionalisation of the National CRC Monitoring Mechanism at the Institute for Human Rights.

The Institute also participates in the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitors the implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All members of the treaty committees work on a voluntary basis and without personal support from the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights. Since 2017, the Institute has supported the work of the German member of the Committee, Deputy Director Michael Windfuhr, with technical expertise. This includes background research for state reporting processes or legal issues in the context of drafting General Comments and opinions on the interpretation of the UN Social Covenant as well as the processing of individual complaints. This support is financed by the Federal Foreign Office.

In 2022, the consultations for the planned General Comment on Sustainable Development were the focus of the work. The Institute held consultations with experts in Africa, Latin America, Europe and with children and young people from different regions. All events were organised in close cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The Geneva-based NGO Child Rights Connect was recruited for the consultation of children, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development also supported the participation process.

UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances

The UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances reviews the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which entered into force on 23 December 2010. The Institute has been supporting the work of the German member of the Committee against Enforced Disappearances, Barbara Lochbihler, with technical expertise since 2019. This includes background research on country situations or legal issues, the conceptual development of measures for further ratifications of the Convention against Enforced Disappearances, or the public presentation of the Committee's work.

This support is financed by the German Foreign Office. In 2022, the UN Committee worked on its first general comment on disappearances in the context of migration. Publication is planned for 2023.

UN expert on the rights of older people

In May 2020, the UN Human Rights Council appointed Dr. Claudia Mahler, head of the Institute's Elder Rights Team, as Independent Expert on the rights of older people for a three-year term. Her mandate was renewed for another three years on 1 May 2023. As part of this voluntary work for the United Nations, she investigates the human rights situation of older people worldwide. Since May 2021, the Institute has been supporting the work of the Independent Expert with scientific expertise. This support is financed by the Federal Foreign Office. The Independent Expert receives further support through grants from the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (see also pp. 33-35).

UN Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons

The Institute informs the most important organisations and individuals dealing with the rights of older people in Germany about the work of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA). In cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, it regularly holds expert discussions with civil society organisations and academics and then makes the results of the discussions publicly available. The aim is to improve networking among the relevant German parties and to enrich the discussion of the UN working group in New York with good examples and well-founded suggestions.

Cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are networked globally and regionally. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) represents the interests of around 120 National Human Rights Institutions worldwide (as of April 2023), coordinates working groups on human rights issues of global significance, monitors compliance with the UN's

Paris Principles - the rulebook for NHRIs - and advocates for NHRIs to have participation rights in all UN bodies dealing with human rights issues.

At regional level, there are also networks in Africa, America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. They support the establishment of NHRIs in their region, organise training and exchange and develop joint positions in regional and global human rights bodies.

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

The Institute has been a member of the GANHRI Climate Caucus since September 2021. The aim of this working group is to promote cooperation between national human rights institutions in the field of climate, to integrate human rights into national climate commitments, policies and laws, and to strengthen reporting on human rights and climate change. As part of a cooperation between GANHRI, the United Nations Development and Environment Programme (UNDP, UNEP) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Institute contributes to the strategic development of the topic of climate and human rights at GANHRI. In June 2022, it participated in the NHRI roundtable consultation with the new UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights. The Institute also contributed to a GANHRI statement at the launch of the new report of the Special Rapporteur on the Environment at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council, as well as a statement for the negotiation at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (COP27). The Institute is also involved in the GANHRI working groups on the rights of older people and on the rights of people with disabilities.

European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) comprises more than 40 National Human Rights Institutions in Europe. It speaks out on human rights issues at

European level. As a member of ENNHRI, the Institute, together with other NHRIs, drafts statements, reports and recommendations for European organisations, such as the Council of Europe or the EU, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) or the OSCE. This includes, for example, an annual report on the development of the rule of law in Europe. It also participates in various ENNHR working groups, for example on economic, social and cultural rights, on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the rights of the elderly, on climate change and human rights or on business and human rights. In particular, the Institute participates in joint opinions in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). In 2021, these concerned issues of climate protection and human rights. Deputy Director Michael Windfuhr represents the Institute as a member of the Finance Committee,

advising the ENNHRI Secretariat and the ENNHRI Board on financial and budgetary matters. Institute Director Beate Rudolf re-joined the ENNHRI Board in April 2022.

Cooperation with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Since 2011, the Institute has been the German research partner of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna and has been commissioned by the FRA to produce legal and social science studies on the human rights situation in Germany, for example concerning access to justice, data protection, victims' rights in criminal proceedings or children's rights. The Institute's reports form the basis for FRA's comparative reports, which analyse the respective topic and its problems throughout the EU. The Agency has research partners in all 27 EU Member States.

FRA Fundamental Rights Report

For the FRA's annual Fundamental Rights Report 2022, the Institute compiled a detailed summary of the most important developments in the field of fundamental rights in Germany. The comprehensive study, in which the Institute's social, political and legal experts participated, covers eight topics, such as racism, data protection and children's rights. Among other things, it explains relevant changes in the law, presents examples of good practice from the respective topic areas and gives an overview of important research results. Based on this report and comparable reports from other EU member states, FRA's annual report comments on the most important developments, formulates recommendations and provides a compact overview of the greatest fundamental and human rights challenges in the EU.

Research on refugees from Ukraine

In the summer of 2022, the Institute conducted several studies on the situation of refugees from Ukraine in Germany on behalf of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. For this purpose, the Institute interviewed authorities in charge of reception and integration at the state level as well as associations and organisations from civil society.

In addition, from October 2022 onwards, it produced regular reports for the FRA, for example on the situation of Sinti and Romani refugees from Ukraine or on access to the labour market. Also in autumn, the Institute supported the process of interviewing over 2,700 refugees from Ukraine as part of a survey for the FRA project "Online survey on persons displaced from Ukraine". FRA presented the results of this comparative survey in February 2023.

Service

Library

The Institute's special library, which is open to the public, provides printed and electronic literature on human rights, including a collection of materials on human rights education, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that is unique in Germany. The library organises readings and offers training in specialised internet research.

Stocks

At the end of 2022, the library recorded in its online catalogue and in German shared catalogues around 51,200 references on topics concerning human rights. In addition to the approximately 14,000 books and e-books, national and international human rights journals are available in printed and electronic form on its premises. Numerous other e-journals can be accessed through participation in free and low-cost national and alliance lists. The library also has a collection of currently 359 publications in easy or simple language.

Open Access Publications by the Institute

The Institute's own publications are regularly uploaded by the library to SSOAR, the Open Access Repository of GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences - and provided with metadata. The SSOAR statistics recorded a total of 39,735 downloads of Institute publications in 2021. Since 2020, the Institute's educational materials have also been available in the open access repository peDOCS of the DIPF, the Leibniz Institute for Educational Research and Information. In 2022, the materials were downloaded 544 times.

Accessibility in libraries

2022, six webinars were held in the online series "Accessibility in libraries: All inclusive" (see also "Further training offers"). The presentations of the respective speakers as well as further materials are available on the Institute's website. Since 2021, the series has been organised in cooperation with the German Centre for Accessible Reading and the Commission for Customer-Oriented and Inclusive Services of the German Library Association (dbv). In addition, the head of the Institute's library has been a member of the dbv Commission on Libraries and Diversity since July 2021.

Accessibility

A parking space is available in front of the building for visitors with disabilities. The entrances to the Institute have no thresholds, the lift is passable, and the door on the 7th floor opens automatically. There is a workstation for visually impaired people in the library, and a wheelchair-accessible toilet right next to the library. The library is happy to offer further assistance within the scope of its possibilities.

Library opening hours

Monday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The library is open to users by appointment (current regulations: www.institutfuermenschenrechte.de/bibliothek/nutzung-derbibliothek). It also offers support with literature and document research by email (bibinfo@dimr.de) or telephone (030 259 35910). The library provides copies of articles and book chapters that are only available in the Institute's holdings on request and in accordance with copyright regulations.

Educational materials and materials for practice

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Human rights are not only abstract legal norms, but also rules and standards which help people coexist. Everyone should know them. Only those who know about human rights can stand up for them. Human rights education makes people aware of human rights and encourages them to recognise and apply them as a guideline for their own actions. The Institute has developed educational materials on various human rights topics, for different age groups and educational contexts and for different professional groups.

Materials for early childhood education

Clear box - human rights: Human rights education in early childhood means aligning the basic conditions under which children are raised in institutions, relationships, methods and everyday life with human rights. In this way, children can learn about their rights and experience them. The material includes 72 cards that can be used by professionals in early childhood education to deal with topics such as inclusion, participation or children's rights. The cards - packed in a cardboard box with an accompanying booklet - give educators and leaders ideas for implementing human rights in daycare centres and kindergartens. Each card consists of a short introductory text and questions for reflection, as well as suggestions for building relationships with children, for exchanging ideas about personal values, teamwork, daily structures, methods and materials.

Materials for school and extracurricular education

Compasito: compasito is a German-language material for human rights education with children between the ages of 7 and 13. On 336 pages, it offers 40 activities and games on topics such as

poverty and social exclusion, discrimination, family, health, violence or media. The exercises tie in with children's lived experiences. The Institute has translated the 2009 English edition by the Council of Europe into German in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

Compass: Compass is an (online) handbook for human rights education both in the school context and outside of it. On more than 600 pages, it contains 57 exercises that familiarise students with various human rights issues and encourage them to implement them in their educational practice. Background information on topics relevant to human rights enables well-founded preparation of activities and workshops. The manual - published by the Council of Europe and available in many languages - has been extensively revised by the Institute and adapted to the German-speaking world. It is available online at www.kompass.menschenrechte.de, can be downloaded as an accessible PDF from our website and is available in printed form from the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

Scale of human rights - educational practice on the topics of refugees, asylum and racial discrimination: How can educators deal with the topics of refugees and asylum appropriately? How can they create an inclusive learning space in which everyone in a learning group feels comfortable? What aspects do they have to consider? The handbook "Human Rights Standards" provides answers to these and similar questions. It is aimed at all those who work in the area of human rights education, refugees, asylum or racial discrimination and was developed as part of the project of the same name funded by the project platform "Live Democracy!" The handbook is also available in English and contains recorded conversations, scientific contributions, field reports and drawings.

Human rights - materials for educational work with young people and adults:

The educational materials contain numerous exercises for school and out-of-school education with people aged 15 and older. Topics are: Protection against discrimination, access to justice, disability and inclusion, children's rights and participation as well as refugees and asylum. It also contains didactic information on human rights education.

Online manual "Inclusion as a human right":

The website www.inklusionalismenschenrecht.de is a collection of information, games and methods on the topics of inclusion, disability and human rights. Numerous background texts and exercises provide information on the situation, rights and political opportunities for self-help of people with disabilities. The online handbook is especially aimed at educators in school and extracurricular educational work. It was produced in 2012 with the support of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future.

Reckahn Reflections: What characterises a relationship between student and teacher that is based on respect for human rights? How can mutual respect for dignity be strengthened in schools and institutions? The Reckahn Reflections provide answers to these questions and encourage educators to rethink their own pedagogical behaviour and develop it professionally. The core of the manifesto is a voluntary commitment consisting of ten guidelines that formulate ethical orientations for everyday life in school, early childhood education and social pedagogical fields. The Reckahn Reflections were co-published by the Institute and are aimed at educators in various educational contexts.

What are human rights? This is the title of a brochure that provides answers to 30 questions about the history, development and implementation of human rights, such as: Are human rights universally valid? Are some human rights more important than others? How can I stand up for my rights? The brochure is aimed at people interested in learning more about human rights and is also available as a class set.

brochure was produced in cooperation with the Berlin State Agency for Civic Education. All educational materials are available for download at www.institut fuermenschenrechte.de/bildungsmaterialien.

MATERIALS FOR LEGAL PRACTICE

Having rights and enforcing one's rights are two different things. Time and again, people have to fight for their rights and against discrimination in court. Various Institute publications shed light on the practical significance of human rights for different areas of law. They show how ordinary law is to be applied in the light of human rights.

Guardianship law: The rights of persons with disabilities

Human rights in the practice of guardianship courts: This collection of materials contains basic information on selected rights of the UNCRPD that are relevant to guardianship law. It was developed as part of the multiplier training of the project "Human rights in the practice of guardianship courts: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". It includes brochures, presentations and questionnaires as well as information on supported decision-making; some texts are also written in plain language. The documents are intended for further use, for example in workshops or training courses (last updated in 2022).

Family law: Family court proceedings

Podcast series "Child-friendly family court proceedings": Family court proceedings in Germany are to be made child-friendly across the board. A seven-part podcast series, which was developed within the framework of a pilot project of the Institute and the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, explains exactly how this can be done and which children's rights criteria must be observed. Each podcast episode is approximately 20 minutes long, and the series is aimed at judges and persons involved in the design of court proceedings (last updated in 2023).

Social law: The rights of persons with disabilities

Equal treatment and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in social law practice: The handout uses specific examples to show how the UNCRPD can be applied in legal practice in social law (last updated in 2014).

Human Rights in Social Court Practice: This collection of materials contains basic information on selected rights contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and their application in German social law. It also lists important UN documents on the UNCRPD as well as judicial decisions by German and European courts and serves as a reference for legal practitioners (last updated in 2018).

Criminal Justice: Identifying and Prosecuting Racist Crimes

Racism in law enforcement. On the need for structural changes: The reader brings together expert contributions on law enforcement and victim protection in cases of racism, anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism. It is aimed at security authorities and legal practitioners involved in law enforcement and contains assessments from the field, recommendations for effective measures and processes of change, as well as a guideline for investigating racist, anti-Semitic and right-wing motives for crimes (last updated in 2023).

Racism and Human Rights. Materials for further training in criminal justice: The collection of materials provides background texts on the

topic of racism and criminal law. It is aimed at lawyers and trainers in the justice system and diversity and anti-bias trainers. It is intended to support trainers and facilitators in the conception and implementation of their own qualification and sensitisation offers for the criminal justice system, adapted to the needs of the participants (last updated in 2018).

Recognising and dealing with racist crimes: The project "Racism and Human Rights - Strengthening the Criminal Justice System" (2017-2018) developed and tested various training courses for the criminal justice system to support the recognition and effective prosecution of racist crimes and to promote appropriate treatment of the victims of such crimes. The reader is aimed at interested parties in the justice system. It provides background contributions on individual aspects of the training content as well as concrete suggestions for action in everyday work (last updated in 2018).

MATERIALS FOR AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL WORK

Right to a birth certificate: The website www.recht-auf-geburtsurkunde.de collects useful facts about birth registration and the application of the relevant laws in conformity with children's rights. Civil registrars, social workers and parents can quickly and easily find answers to practical questions as well as background information and references to publications. The website is available in Arabic, German and English and was created with the financial support of the CMS Foundation (last updated in 2023).

Further training

Human rights play an important role in many professional fields, for example in education, justice, social work, nursing, administration or the police force. In order for human rights to be put into practice in everyday life, professionals must know about them. The Institute therefore offers training for different professional groups.

Training for Parliament and Government

Since 2004, the Institute has organised training courses on national and international human rights protection for academic staff members of the Bundestag and federal ministries. In 2022, the event took place as a webinar.

Further training for the judiciary

The Institute regularly offers training courses on various topics for judges and lawyers, as well as for judicial officers and legal advisors, mostly within the framework of funded projects. The events focus on practical information about the requirements of the UN Conventions, such as the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in care and social court practice. The Institute has also developed training courses for employees in the field of criminal justice in order to support the effective prosecution of racist crimes and to promote appropriate treatment of those affected by such crimes (see pp. 12-13).

Training for the police

The police have the task of guaranteeing fundamental and human rights and protecting the free democratic basic order. Basic and human rights education is therefore an integral part of police training and further education. This also includes an understanding of the prohibition of discrimination under fundamental and human rights law. The Institute has therefore developed human rights education concepts for police officers, which deal critically with the issue of discrimination.

The training courses were developed in cooperation with police training providers for police training in Berlin, Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia.

In addition, the Institute networks external trainers whose training concepts for the police deal critically with the subject.

The Institute is also a member of the nationwide working group "Police and Political Education", whose members include the German Police University, the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia. The working group regularly hosts events in the field of police and political education. In 2022, the Institute co-organised the online forum "Teaching and Learning Democracy - Possibilities and Limits of Participation in Police Education and Training".

Further training and networking meetings for educational practice

Network meeting on human rights education:

The Institute regularly invites professionals and facilitators in human rights education to a one-day meeting. The focus is on the exchange on topics concerning human rights education, sustainable networking and the further development of current human rights discourse.

Event series: Building bridges with human rights - political education in transformation processes:

This series is funded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and organised in cooperation with the Berlin State Agency for Civic Education, explores the question of how civic education can constructively accompany social transformation processes and open up to new educators and approaches. It aims to link civic education professionals with each other and to strengthen the human rights perspective in the current debates on transformation processes in civic education. Materials for the event series are available on the Institute's website.

Further training for day-care professionals:

The Institute developed the resource "Klare Kiste - Menschenrechte" (Clear Box - Human Rights) for educators working in early childhood education. This includes information on the topics of children and human rights, inclusion, participation, human rights education, the right to education and protection against discrimination. Institute staff can present the educational materials in a workshop upon request.

Training for libraries

Libraries play an important role in social cohesion. Their services should be equally accessible to all - including people with disabilities. Since 2021, the Institute Library and the German Centre for Barrier-Free Reading have been organising a conference in cooperation with the Commission for Customer-Oriented and Inclusive Services of the German Library Association. The online series "Accessibility in Libraries: All Inclusive" was launched by the German Library Association.

In one-hour webinars, speakers go over the basics and explain specific concepts which can be used to implement accessibility. In 2022, six webinars were held as part of the online series. The speakers' presentations and further materials are available on the Institute's website.

Training for administrative bodies

Further training for employees of the Berlin administration: What are the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, what legal provisions on disability policy exist at national and state level, and what resolutions of the Senate, such as the Berlin Action Plan and the Berlin Participation Report, must be observed in administrative action? What do they mean in concrete terms for the work of administrative bodies in Berlin? These and other questions are the focus of the training courses that the Institute regularly offers for employees of the Berlin State administration.

Websites, databases, social media

Websites

www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de: The largely barrier-free website of the Institute provides information about the Institute's work. The sections "The Institute", "Themes", "In Focus" and "Human Rights Protection" provide an initial point of reference.

Under the section "**In Focus**", the Institute regularly presents current human rights issues and highlights them with interviews, background information and references to relevant literature.

The "**Human Rights Protection**" section gathers reports delivered on the human rights situation in Germany to the Bundestag, to European and international human rights bodies, as well as texts and documents belonging to key human rights conventions.

An overview of the status of the implementation of international human rights treaties in Germany is provided in the "Monitoring" section. This area of the website is dedicated to organisations such as the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism, the National CRC Monitoring Mechanism and the two National Rapporteur Mechanisms on gender-based violence and on trafficking in human beings, which present their reports and provide information on their work.

Literature on human rights, relevant legal, political or social science journals can be found in the **online catalogue of the Institute's library**. There you will also find an overview of which pages are **available in plain language** - a separate plain-language website is planned for 2023.

Up-to-date information on events, new publications and other Institute activities is also provided in the monthly email **newsletter** – which you can subscribe to via the Institute's website.

Other web offers

www.landkarte-kinderrechte.de:

Overview of the implementation of children's rights in Germany.

www.recht-auf-geburtsurkunde.de:

Useful facts about birth registration including a guide for parents.

www.kompass-menschenrechte.de:

Online handbook on human rights education.

www.inklusion-als-menschenrecht.de:

Online handbook "Inclusion as a human right".

www.humanrights4dev.org:

E-learning course "Human Rights in Development Cooperation".

www.kinderrechtekommentare.de:

Platform on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (in cooperation with the Federal Working Group of Municipal Representations of Children's Interests Association for the Implementation of the Rights of the Child at Municipal Level e.V.)

Databases

In the Institute's four specialised online databases, interested parties can search specifically for human rights documents, court rulings or questions. These are accessible free of charge.

Germany in the Human Rights Protection System contains the texts of key human rights conventions as well as documents on current reporting procedures on Germany in international human rights bodies. The database is continuously supplemented with further documents. (www.dimr.de/mrschutz)

ius menschenrechte brings together selected decisions of international courts, such as the UN Committees of Experts, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), as well as selected decisions of state courts relevant to human rights. (www.dimr.de/iusmenschenrechte)

ius gender & violence brings together case law and information on gender-based violence. It contains, among other things, decisions of national, European and international courts and independent human rights bodies, European and international legal documents as well as background information. The new database has been online since May 2023 and is continuously updated and expanded - also with information provided by users. (www.dimr.de/iusgender-gewalt)

Human Rights and Disabilities collects international legal documents of the United Nations on the rights of persons with disabilities. The structure is based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (www.dimr.de/mrbehinderung).

The four databases can be found at www.institutfuermenschenrechte.de/menschenrechtsschutz/datenbanken.

Social media

Twitter: @DIMR_Berlin, @DIMR_Bibliothek The Institute reaches different target groups via Twitter: At the end of 2022, the Institute was followed by around 15,000 accounts, including many politicians, academics, journalists, associations, authorities and international organisations. The Institute uses Twitter to disseminate core statements on human rights every working day, as well as the main content of all our press releases and news, information on new publications, job offers and events organised by the Institute. Special events at the Institute are accompanied with social media campaigns. The Institute tweets in German, English and in plain German for ease of use.

Mastodon: @DIMR_Berlin@social.bund.de Since 2023, the Institute has been using the German microblogging service Mastodon in parallel to Twitter. In less than three months, the Institute has gained over 900 followers. Ethical guidelines play a comparatively large role on Mastodon.

LinkedIn: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte / German Institute for Human Rights Since 2021, the Institute's corporate page on LinkedIn has primarily been used to disseminate job offers, selected publications, event announcements and news articles in German and English. Additional target groups are reached via LinkedIn, enabling networking with other national and international entities.

YouTube: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte The Institute uses the video portal YouTube primarily as a media library and livestream platform. All of the Institute's videos and audios can be found there. These include recordings of events, videos in German sign language, explanatory videos and series on various human rights topics.

Facts

Funded projects

Background Research for Targeted Capacity Building Measures on Social Rights for Civil Society Actors in Germany

Funded by: Council of Europe Funding period: July 2021 to June 2022

Begleitung der Umsetzung des Nationalen Aktionsplans Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte der Bundesregierung

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs

Funding period: 2017 to 2022

Beratung zum Themenfeld Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte

Funded by: German Agency for International Cooperation

Funding period: since 2020, currently 2022 to 2025

Berichterstattung für die Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte

Funded by: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Funding period: since 2011, currently 2019 to 2022

Entwicklung eines Konzeptes für ein Kinder- und Jugendrechte Monitoring für das Land Hessen

Funded by: State of Hesse

Funding period: July 2021 to April 2022

Erste Arbeitsphase des Kinder- und Jugendrechte-Monitorings in Hessen

Funded by: State of Hesse

Funding period: July 2022 to August 2023

Implementierung der Berichterstattungsstelle geschlechtsspezifische Gewalt

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Funding period: November 2022 to October 2026

Implementierung der Berichterstattungsstelle Menschenhandel

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Funding period: November 2022 to October 2026

“Kinder inhaftierter Eltern – landesweite Strukturentwicklungsprojekte”. Themenanwaltschaft im Projekt von Treffpunkt e.V.

Funded by: auridis Foundation

Funding period: January 2022 to December 2024

Live-Ins 2: Osteuropäische Arbeitskräfte in der häuslichen Betreuung

Funded by: Minor

Funding period: December 2021 to July 2022

Menschenrechte umsetzen in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

Funded by: German Agency for International Cooperation

Funding period: since 2005, currently 2020 to 2023

Monitoring-Stelle Berlin – UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention

Funded by: Land Berlin

Funding period: since October 2012

Monitoring-Stelle Nordrhein-Westfalen – UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention

Funded by: Ministry of Labour, Integration and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Funding period: since March 2017

Monitoring-Stelle Saarland – UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention

Funded by: Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family of the State of Saarland

Funding period: May 2020 to March 2022

Monitoring-Stelle UN-Kinderrechtskonvention

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Funding period: since May 2015, most recently January 2020 to December 2022

Papiere von Anfang an. Warum eine Geburtenregistrierung den Zugang zum Recht erschließt

Funded by: CMS Stiftung

Funding period: June 2021 to December 2022

Planungs- und Erprobungsphase für zwei Berichterstattungsstellen zu geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt und Menschenhandel

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Funding period: May 2021 to October 2022

Recht haben – Recht bekommen

Funded by: Aktion Mensch e.V.

Funding period: October 2020 to November 2022

Rassismus, Antisemitismus, Rechtsextremismus – Stärkung von Strafverfolgung und Opferschutz

Funded by: Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection; Federal States of Berlin, Schleswig Holstein, Saxony

Funding period: January 2020 to December 2022

Unterstützung der Unabhängigen Expertin für die Rechte Älterer

Funded by: Federal Foreign Office

Funding period: March 2021 to April 2023

Unterstützung des Mandats für Menschenrechte Älterer Personen

Funded by: Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Funding period: July 2022 to December 2024

Unterstützung des UN-Ausschusses für wirtschaftliche, soziale und kulturelle Rechte

Funded by: Federal Foreign Office

Funding period: annual funding since 2017, currently until December 2023

Unterstützung des UN-Ausschusses gegen das gewaltsame Verschwindenlassen

Funded by: Federal Foreign Office

Funding period: September 2019 to June 2023

Unterstützung des UN-Mandats für Menschenrechte älterer Menschen

Funded by: Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Funding period: March 2021 to May 2023

Vor- und Nachbereitung der Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Funded by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Funding period: since 2017

[Further information](#)

"Geförderte Projekte" page on the Institute's website

Cooperations

- Aktion Mensch
- Amnesty International Deutschland
- Working Group "Police and Political Education"
- Federal Foreign Office
- Federal Working Group on Children's Interests
- Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities
- Bread for the World - Protestant Agency for Diakonia and Development
- Federal Archives – Archive of Stasi Documents
- Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection
- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- National Coordination Group against Human Trafficking
- German Agency for International Cooperation
- German Police University
- German Library Association
- German Film Institute & Film Museum
- German Children's Fund
- German Committee for UNICEF
- German Centre for Accessible Reading
- Deutschlandfunk Kultur
- Engagement Global
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Fair Finance Institute
- College of Police and Public Administration Hesse
- University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH)
- Catholic University of Applied Sciences of North Rhine-Westphalia in Münster
- Commission on Customer-Oriented and Inclusive Services of the German Library Association
- Berlin State Agency for Civic Education
- Ministry of Justice and Health Schleswig-Holstein
- Minor - Project Office for Education and Research
- Museum for Communication Berlin
- Lower Saxony Ministry for Social Affairs, Labour, Health and Equality
- Prognos AG
- Robert Havemann Society
- Saxon State Ministry of Justice and for Democracy, European Affairs and Equality
- Saxon State Ministry of the Interior
- Senate Department for Justice, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Berlin
- Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future
- Treffpunkt - counselling and referral centre

Events

Institute events that drew widespread attention in 2022 are listed below in chronological order. Other internal events also took place but are not listed here.

[12.1.2022 | virtual event](#) **Consultation of the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism on inclusive education**
Consultation with disability policy associations

[18.1.2022 | virtual event](#) **Designing new libraries or renovating existing ones inclusively**
Online series "Accessibility in Libraries"

[21.1.2022 | virtual event](#)
App development for children and young people as part of the "Concept Monitoring Hesse" project
Workshop with young people and the organisation techheroes

[25.1.2022 | virtual event](#)
"Concept Monitoring Hesse": Data and indicators
Expert workshop within the framework of the project

[3.2.2022 | virtual event](#)
Presentation of the publication "Racist and right-wing extremist positioning in the service of the state? Why membership of the AfD is not compatible with the constitutional duty of loyalty"
Press briefing

[1.3.2022 | virtual event](#) **Diversity and Anti-Discrimination** Online series "Accessibility in Libraries"

[9.3.2022 | virtual event](#)
39th Consultation of the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism
Consultation with disability policy associations

[22.3.2022 | virtual event](#)
Free legal advice for people with disabilities from a lawyer
Expert discussion

[30.3.2022 | virtual event](#)
Human rights for parliament and government
Training for academic staff of the German Bundestag and new ministerial advisers

[26.4.2022 | virtual event](#)
Consultation of the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism on inclusive education
Consultation with disability policy associations

[28.4.2022 | virtual event](#)
11th meeting of the Federal and Federal State commissioners
Expert discussion

[5.5.2022 | Berlin](#)
Campus Forum: Between freedom and prejudice: Historical and present-day experience of the Sinti and Roma in Germany
Panel discussion in cooperation with the Federal Archives – Archive of Stasi Documents and the Robert Havemann Society

[11.5.2022 | virtual event](#)
Antiziganism in the context of justice and the police – the responsibility of state policy Panel discussion

[12.5.2022 | virtual event](#)
Accessible Events in Libraries
Online series "Accessibility in Libraries"

[12.5.2022 | virtual event](#)
Protection against violence in facilities for people with disabilities
Press conference in cooperation with the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities

02.06.2022 | [virtual event](#)

Teaching and learning democratically - possibilities and limits of participation in the context of police training and further education

Expert forum in cooperation with: College of Police and Public Administration Hesse, German Police University, University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine-Westphalia

10.6.2022 | [Berlin](#)

Fundamental rights-oriented and evidence-based? Possibilities and challenges of a new internal security policy

Expert discussion

14.6.2022 | [Berlin](#)

Werner Lottje lecture "Burkina Faso - Defending Human Rights in Conflict"

Lecture and panel discussion in cooperation with Bread for the World

15.6.2022 | [Berlin](#)

40th consultation of the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism

Consultation with disability policy associations

6.7.2022 | [virtual event](#)

Accessible websites

Online series "Accessibility in libraries"

19.7.2022 | [virtual event](#)

Sustainable Finance: Presentation of the study on indicators for Sustainable Finance at the European Commission

Expert discussion

5.9.2022 | [Frankfurt am Main](#)

The long path of the Sinti and Roma

Film screening & discussion in cooperation with the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility, Future

27.9.2022 | [Berlin](#)

Solidarity in times of crisis

Panel discussion in cooperation with the Museum for Communication and Deutschlandfunk

10-11.10.2022 | [Berlin](#)

Discussion between the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism and the National Human Rights Institution of the Czech Republic

12.10.2022 | [virtual event](#)

Library work for people with dyslexia

Online series "Accessibility in libraries"

28.10.2022 | [Berlin](#)

German Human Rights Film Award

Film event

8.11.2022 | [Berlin, hybrid event](#)

Where are the efforts to strengthen the UN treaty bodies leading?

Expert discussion

2.11.2022 | [virtual event](#)

Sign language in libraries

Online series "Accessibility in Libraries"

4.11.2022 | [virtual event](#)

The triage law

Press briefing

17-18.11.2022 | [Berlin](#)

11th meeting for the staff of the Federal and Federal State commissioners

Specialist event

22.11.2022 | [Berlin](#)

9th networking meeting on reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Networking meeting

30.11.2022 | [virtual event](#)

41st consultation of the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism

Consultation with disability policy associations

7.12.2022 | [Berlin](#)

7th Human Rights Report on the Development of the Situation of Human Rights in Germany

National press conference

Publications

Annual Report 2020. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 73 S.

Bedarfe von geflüchteten Menschen mit Behinderungen berücksichtigen. Mängel im Aufnahmeverfahren müssen behoben werden.

Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 4 S. (Position Nr. 25)

Berliner Maßnahmenplan zur UN-BRK weiterentwickeln. Empfehlungen zur Hälfte der Laufzeit. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 4 S. (Position Nr. 26)

Bezirkliche Koordinierungsstellen im Land Berlin. Einrichtung der Koordinierungsstellen nach dem Landesgleichberechtigungsgesetz.

Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S. (Handreichung)

Bezirks-Beiräte in Berlin. So kann jeder im Bezirk gut mitreden. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 16 S. (Text in Leichter Sprache)

Concept for a National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 7 S.

Concept for a National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 7 S.

Cremer, Hendrik: Rassistische und rechtsextreme Positionierungen im Dienste des Staates? Warum ein Eintreten für die AfD mit der verfassungsrechtlichen Treuepflicht nicht vereinbar ist. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 58 S. (Analyse)

Cremer, Hendrik: Staatliche Gelder für rassistische und rechtsextreme Bildungsarbeit? Rechtsgutachten zur Frage der staatlichen Förderung der AfD-nahen Desiderius-Erasmus-Stiftung. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 25 S.

Cremer, Hendrik/Hübner, Catharina: Grund- und menschenrechtliche Verantwortung nach dem Abzug aus Afghanistan. Zu den Schutzpflichten Deutschlands für besonders schutzbedürftige Afghan*innen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 29 S. (Analyse)

Cremer, Hendrik/Hübner, Catharina: Responsibility for basic and human rights following the withdrawal from Afghanistan. On Germany's duty to protect particularly vulnerable Afghans. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 30 S. (Analysis)

Das Persönliche Budget für Menschen mit Behinderungen in Deutschland. Menschenrechtliche Grundlagen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 8 S. (Information Nr. 42)

Das Persönliche Budget für Menschen mit Behinderungen in Deutschland. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 16 S. (Information Nr. 42 in Leichter Sprache)

Das Wohl des Kindes bei Eltern in Haft. Recht auf Kontakt nach Artikel 9 der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 7 S. (Information Nr. 41)

Development of the human rights situation in Germany July 2021 – June 2022. Report to the German Federal Parliament in accordance with section 2 (5) of the act on the legal status and mandate of the German Institute for Human Rights. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 14 S. (Executive Summary)

Die Corona-Pandemie. Was passiert mit den Rechten von Menschen mit Behinderungen? Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 15 S. (Position Nr. 21 in Leichter Sprache)

Donald, Megan: The human rights impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 72 S. (Human rights in practice)

Engelmann, Claudia: Not-Unterkünfte für Menschen ohne Wohnung und die Beachtung von Menschen-Rechten. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 26 S. (Text in Leichter Sprache)

Engelmann, Claudia: Notunterkünfte für Wohnungslose menschenrechtskonform gestalten. Leitlinien für Mindeststandards in der ordnungsrechtlichen Unterbringung, 2., aktualisierte Auflage. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 45 S. (Analyse)

Entwicklung der Menschenrechtssituation in Deutschland Juli 2021 – Juni 2022. Bericht an den Deutschen Bundestag gemäß § 2 Absatz 5 DIMRG. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 148 S.

Entwicklung der Menschenrechtssituation in Deutschland Juli 2021 – Juni 2022. Bericht an den Deutschen Bundestag gemäß § 2 Absatz 5 DIMRG. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 14 S. (Kurzfassung)

Gesamtkonzept für zwei Berichterstattungsstellen zu geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt und Menschenhandel. Gefördert durch das Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 104 S. (Expertise)

Inklusion in den Schulen von Nordrhein-Westfalen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 12 S. (Position Nr. 24 in Leichter Sprache)

Jahresbericht 2021. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 88 S.

Kinderrechte im Blick. Aufgaben und Bedeutung eines unabhängigen Kinder- und Jugendrechte Monitorings. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S. (Information Nr. 39)

Kinder-Rechte im Blick. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 9 S. (Information Nr. 39 in Leichter Sprache)

Kinderrechte, Klima und Umwelt – Allgemeine Bemerkung Nr. 26. Interview mit dem UN-Ausschuss für die Rechte des Kindes. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S. (Interview)

Konzept für ein Kinder- und Jugendrechte-Monitoring in Hessen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 56 S. (Bericht)

Kroworsch, Susann: „Kindeswohl muss im Lichte des Rechts auf inklusive Bildung verstanden werden“. Warum das Recht auf den Zugang zu inklusiver Bildung nicht über einen Sorgerechtsentzug wieder ausgehebelt werden kann. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 5 S. (Interview)

Menschen mit Behinderungen müssen bei der Justiz mitmachen können. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 18 S. (Information Nr. 40 in Leichter Sprache)

Menschen mit Behinderungen müssen mitreden. Ideen für den Berliner Maßnahmen-Plan. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 12 S. (Position Nr. 26 in Leichter Sprache)

Menschenrechte in der betreuungsgerichtlichen Praxis. Öffentliches Fachgespräch am 11. November 2021. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 23 S. (Dokumentation)

Mobilität von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Berlin. Empfehlungen für eine an der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention ausgerichtete Mobilitätsplanung. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 5 S. (Position Nr. 23)

Politische Partizipation von Menschen mit Behinderungen über die Bezirksbeiräte in Berlin. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S. (Handreichung)

Präventiver Freiheitsentzug für Klima-Aktivist*innen? Zum menschenrechtlichen Kontext des polizeilichen Präventivgewahrsams. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 4 S.

Rassismus in der Strafverfolgung. Von der Notwendigkeit struktureller Veränderungen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 101 S. (Praxis)

Rechte älterer Menschen. Definition der Gruppe Älterer – Wirtschaftliche Sicherheit Älterer – Beitrag Älterer zu den SDGs. Fachgespräche zur Vorbereitung der 12. Sitzung der UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG-A) 2021/2022. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 30 S. (Dokumentation)

Schlegel, Britta: „Im Gesetzgebungsverfahren zur Triage sind Menschen mit Behinderungen von Anfang an zu beteiligen“. Interview vom 13.01.2022. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 4 S. (Interview)

Schulische Inklusion wirksam umsetzen. Warum die Landesregierung von Nordrhein-Westfalen im Sinner echter Bildungsgerechtigkeit umsteuern muss. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 4 S. (Position Nr. 24)

So können Menschen mit Behinderungen in Berlin besser unterwegs sein. Ideen für einen Plan, der zur UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention passt. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 11 S. (Position Nr. 23 in Leichter Sprache)

Umsetzung von der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention. Unsere Empfehlungen für die Regierungszeit 2021 bis 2025. Oktober 2021. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 25 S. (Text in Leichter Sprache)

Wündsich, Melanie / Windfuhr, Michael: National Baseline Assessment. Beitrag zur Fortschreibung des Nationalen Aktionsplans Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 72 S. (Analyse)

Wündsich, Melanie / Windfuhr, Michael: National Baseline Assessment. contribution to the update of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 42 S. (Analysis)

Zwangsräumungen als Menschenrechtsverletzung. Vorgaben des Ausschusses zum UN-Sozialpakt und anderer Menschenrechtsgremien zu Räumungen. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 10 S. (Information Nr. 43)

Zwangsräumungen sind Verletzungen von Menschen-Rechten. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 12 S. (Information Nr. 43 in Leichter Sprache)

Statements

Empfehlungen für die 27. UN-Klimakonferenz (COP27) in Scharm al-Scheich. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 9 S.

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Entwurf eines Gesetzes zum Fakultativprotokoll vom 10. Dezember 2008 zum Internationalen Pakt über wirtschaftliche, soziale und kulturelle Rechte. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 7 S.

Erarbeitung eines Rüstungsexportkontrollgesetzes. Beitrag zum Beteiligungsverfahren des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S.

Statement on the European Commission's Proposal on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 3 S.

Stellungnahme zum Gesetzentwurf der Bundesregierung – Entwurf eines Zweiten Gesetzes zur Änderung des Infektionsschutzgesetzes.

BT-Drucksache 20/3877. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 14 S.

Stellungnahme zum Gesetzentwurf der Bundesregierung zur Einführung eines Chancen-Aufenthaltsrechts und zum Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Beschleunigung der Asylgerichtsverfahren und Asylverfahren. Beratung im Ausschuss für Inneres und Heimat. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 13 S.

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Stellungnahme zum Referentenentwurf des Bundesministeriums der Justiz Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Überarbeitung des Sanktionenrechts – Ersatzfreiheitsstrafe, Strafzumessung, Auflagen und Weisungen sowie Unterbringung in einer Entziehungsanstalt im Rahmen der Verbändebeteiligung. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S.

Stellungnahme zum Referentenentwurf von BMFSFJ und BMI für ein Demokratiefördergesetz. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 5 S.

Stellungnahme zum Verordnungsentwurf des Bundesministeriums der Justiz einer Verordnung über die Registrierung von beruflichen Betreuern (Betreuerregistrierungsverordnung – BtRegV).

Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 6 S.

„Systemischer Wettbewerb – Menschenrechte als integraler Bestandteil der Weltordnung“. Anhörung des Bundestagsausschusses Menschenrechte am 30. November 2022. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 10 S.

Verbot von in Zwangsarbeit hergestellten Produkten auf dem Unionsmarkt – zum Vorschlag der Europäischen Kommission für eine Verordnung. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 7 S.

In partnership with other institutions

Ausgewählte Menschenrechtsindikatoren im Kontext aktueller EU-Regulierung: Für mehr soziale Nachhaltigkeit in Finanzsystem und Wirtschaft.

Teil I: Minimum Standards. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte; Heidelberg: Fair Finance Institute, 2022, 23 S. (Briefing-Paper Kurzfassung)

Czichon, Jan-Felix / Frankenbach, Patrick / Heimer, Andreas / Kurbjeweit, Frieder / Litschke, Peter / Palleit, Leander: Evaluation der Niedersächsischen Aktionspläne Inklusion. Abschlussbericht. Ein gemeinsames Projekt der Prognos AG und des Deutschen Instituts für Menschenrechte. Hannover: Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Soziales, Arbeit, Gesundheit und Gleichstellung, 2022, 101 S.

Das ABC der Menschenrechte für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit. Bonn: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 8 S.

Kannegießer, Anja/Höppner, Grit: Abschlussbericht des Pilotprojekts „Kinderrechtsbasierte Kriterien für das familiengerichtliche Verfahren“ – Eine Studie der Katholischen Hochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen, Abteilung Münster, im Auftrag des Deutschen Kinderhilfswerkes und des Deutschen Instituts für Menschenrechte. Berlin: Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk; Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 84 S.

Mehr Schutz vor Gewalt für Menschen mit Behinderungen: Forderungen und Verbesserungsvorschläge. Berlin: Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für die Belange von Menschen mit Behinderungen; Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 23 S. (Leichte Sprache)

Schabram, Greta / Freitag, Nora: Harte Arbeit, wenig Schutz. Osteuropäische Arbeitskräfte in der häuslichen Betreuung in Deutschland. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte; Minor – Projektkontor für Bildung und Forschung, 2022, 68 S. (Analyse)

Schutz vor Gewalt in Einrichtungen für Menschen mit Behinderungen – Handlungsempfehlungen für Politik und Praxis. Berlin: Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für die Belange von Menschen mit Behinderungen; Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 2022, 20 S.

Selected human rights indicators in the context of current EU regulation: Towards more social sustainability in the financial and economic system. Part I: Minimum standards. Berlin: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte; Heidelberg: Fair Finance Institute, 2022, 52 S. (Briefing paper)

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External publications

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Allenberg, Nele / Bernot, Sabine / Cremer, Hendrik / Feige, Judith / Funke, Sophie / Kimmig, Barbara / Meyer, Roger / Offergeld, Jana / Suerhoff, Anna / Töpfer, Eric / Uhl, Bärbel Heide: Franet National contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2022. Germany. Wien: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2022. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fundamental_rights_report_2022-_germany_.pdf (abgerufen am 28.8.2023)

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Videos

All audio and video materials are available via the Institute's YouTube channel "Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte".

Menschenrechte im Fokus – Inklusive Bildung Mit Deutscher Gebärdensprache und mit deutschen Untertiteln

Menschenrechte im Fokus – Rechte älterer Menschen Mit Deutscher Gebärdensprache und mit deutschen Untertiteln

Online-Veranstaltung: Antiziganismus im Kontext von Justiz und Polizei – Staatliche Politik in der Verantwortung Mit deutscher Gebärdensprache

Annual financial statement

Income

Institutional allocation from the federal government	€3.691.000
Income from third-party funded projects of the federal government	€2.151.300
Income from third-party funded projects of the federal states	€206.740
Miscellaneous income	€854.815
Total income	€6.903.855

Expenditure

Human rights policy Germany/Europe	€587.389
Third-party mandates/third-party projects: human rights policy in Germany/Europe	€1.131.187
International human rights policy	€207.140
Third-party mandates/third-party projects: international human rights policy	€792.131
Human rights education	€287.927
Third-party mandates/third-party funded projects: human rights education	€0
Communications	€674.373
Third-party mandates/third-party funded projects: communications	€48.996
Library	€221.476
Administration (overheads)	€1.252.993
Board of Directors/Management	€486.299
Third-party mandates/third-party funded projects: Board of Directors/Management	€18.134
National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism	€502.442
Third-party mandates/third-party funded projects National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism	€259.440
Third-party mandates/third-party funded projects National CRC Monitoring Mechanism	€433.925
Total expenditure	€6.903.855

Result 2022

0 €

Notes on the financial statement

The German Institute for Human Rights received €3,691,000 in **institutional allocation** in 2022. The Institute receives this as its core funding annually from the German Bundestag. It is intended to ensure that the Institute disposes of adequate financial resources as an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles of the United Nations. In 2022, the funding sum was increased by €576,000 for the expansion and stabilisation of academic posts as well as permanent research funds.

In addition to the institutional allocation, the income section includes three different items for the **recognition of third-party funding**. How they are allocated depends on the respective allocation and accounting modalities.

(1) €2,151,300 were received from **third-party funded projects of the federal government**.

Projects with third-party funding are shown in the annual financial statement for informational purposes, as they are settled independently with the third-party funding providers. The expenses are subject to the Federal Budget Code, as is the institutional funding.

In 2022, third-party funding from the federal government (1) continued to support scientific work for the German member of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance and for the German member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, there were projects to support the UN Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons. The Federal Foreign Office provided funding for these projects.

The Institute also received funding from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth to support the preparation of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing by German participants, for the work of the National CRC Monitoring Mechanism and for a project to set up National Rapporteur Mechanisms for the two Council of Europe Conventions on violence against women (Istanbul Convention) and on trafficking in human beings.

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection funded a project on the qualification of the criminal justice system.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs supported a research and advisory project entitled "National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights" and a cooperation project with the University of Siegen on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(2) **Third-party funded projects of the federal states, which are** accounted for independently, are shown for information purposes. They are subject to budget regulations in the federal states. In 2022, one such externally funded project was financed by a federal state with a sum of €206,740. Other funds that the Institute receives from federal states are currently accounted for along with the institutional funds and are therefore listed under miscellaneous income.

Third-party funded projects of the federal states (2): This includes the funding of the federal state of Berlin for the Monitoring Mechanism Berlin project. Other third-party funded projects of federal states are currently accounted for along with institutional funding and are therefore listed under miscellaneous income (3).

(3) The **miscellaneous income** item includes income from third-party mandates, which are accounted for along with the funds from the institutional allocation. It also includes fees for lectures given by Institute staff, as well as the lump-sum administrative fees from the third-party funded projects under (1) and (2), which flow into the institutional allocation at this point. In total, miscellaneous income comprised €854,815 in 2022.

Miscellaneous income (3) includes income from third-party mandates that are accounted for along with institutional funding.

It consists of funds from the German Agency for International Cooperation for projects on the topic "Implementation of a human rights approach in development policy" as well as for studies on the topics of textiles and advice on sustainability in business and human rights. In addition, it includes funds from the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) for reporting in the FRA-NET network, which the Institute took over for the FRA in 2022.

North Rhine-Westphalia funded the National CRPD Monitoring Mechanism for its state-specific work in the federal state. Saarland and Lower Saxony commissioned the evaluation of their CRPD action plans. Aktion Mensch is funding a project on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

In addition, Minor, the Project Office for Education and Research of the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, funded the preparation of a study on the labour exploitation of Eastern European workers in Germany. The Institute also received support from the Republic of Austria for the UN mandate to promote the human rights of older people. The Council of Europe is funding background research on organisations working on economic, social and cultural human rights in Europe. The Elisabeth Selbert Initiative financed the temporary relocation of a human rights defender with the Institute as the host organisation. In addition, a project was funded by Cedar. The National CRC Monitoring Mechanism was funded by the CMS Foundation with a project on the topic of birth certificates and was commissioned by the State of Hesse to develop a concept for monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the state level. In addition, the Auridis Foundation is funding a cooperation project on the topic of "children of detainees".

The Paris Principles of the United Nations stipulate that national human rights institutions should be financed predominantly from institutional funds so that they can choose their topics and working methods freely and independently. Earmarked funding from third parties should be subordinate to these. This requirement was narrowly met in 2022. In 2022, the Institute's project funds (all three categories) accounted for a total of 47% of its income. In 2022, the Institute continued to raise funds from third parties only in such a way that they served to implement and strengthen the focal points chosen by the Institute as contained in its strategic planning. The Institute would like to thank all its donors for their support of its work.

The financial statement lists which funds were available to the individual departments of the Institute for their work. The item "Administration (overheads)" includes, among other things, the Institute's running costs such as business supplies, rent and incidental rental costs, services (IT) and miscellaneous administrative expenses (experts, bank charges, etc.) as well as contributions for memberships in GANHRI and ENNHRI, and cross-departmental expenses.

The Institute's financial report is examined by two auditors appointed by the General Assembly. The General Assembly is responsible for the formal approval of the actions of the Board of Directors. It has issued its approval for the financial year and confirmed that all allocations were used efficiently and economically.

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We would like to thank all employees who supported us full or part time during 2022. Converted to full-time positions, 41 positions were funded from institutional grants and 33 positions from project funds.

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The guidelines for the Institute's work are set by a board of trustees composed of representatives from civil society, academia, media and politics. The Board of Trustees consists of 18 members with voting rights and nine members without voting rights (§ 24 Statutes).

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The General Assembly makes recommendations on the principles of the work of the German Institute for Human Rights. The association currently has 86 members.

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PUBLISHER

German Institute for Human Rights
Zimmerstraße 26/27 | 10969 Berlin
Tel.: 030 259 359 0 | Fax: 030 259 359 59
info@institutfuermenschenrechte.de
www.institutfuermenschenrechte.de
Twitter: @DIMR_Berlin

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EDITORS

Bettina Hildebrand, Kerstin Krell, Ute Sonnenberg

CONTRIBUTORS

Anabel Bermejo, Paola Carega, Helga Gläser,
Bettina Hildebrand, Kerstin Krell, Daniela
Marquardt, Julia Naumann, Anne Sieberns,
Ute Sonnenberg, Anne Vonderstein

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photos and texts are from the project
"Environmental Migrants: The Last Illusion
(2011-2016)".

TITLE PHOTO

Haiti, Lake Azuéli. The photo shows the remains of the village Lunettes, where around one hundred families used to live. The rapidly rising Lake Azuéli and a hurricane in 2006 destroyed the village. Over the past ten years, the lake has almost doubled in size, flooding houses and farms. Scientists primarily blame climate change for this.

TRANSLATION

Sarah Hanagarth

German Institute for Human Rights

Zimmerstraße
26/27 10969 Berlin

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