**International Conference** 

# Mission Possible: Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in the Middle East

25-26 November 2016 Kiel University of Applied Sciences



**Program Book** 

3	Welcome
4	General Information
6	Conference Program
10	Abstracts
14	<b>Biographical Notes</b>
17	Conference Organisers

18 Map and Directions

Dear All, welcome to the international conference Mission Possible: Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in the Middle East.

Violence against women and girls is a transnational and transcultural phenomenon and its elimination is a global goal. Although women live worldwide in very heterogeneous and complex circumstances, shaped by religious differences, local traditions, ethnic differences, and socio-economic conditions violence pervades gender relations across all social categories in many parts of the world. Gender-based violence is fundamental to the functioning of the patriarchal gender structure; however, in many cases existing gender orders cannot be understood without the complexities of the colonial pasts.

November 25 as the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women" is based on the date of the assassination of three political activists in the Dominican Republic in 1960, known as the Mirabal sisters. The United Nations have designated November 25 to combat and raise awareness of violence against women more broadly.

The two day conference opens discourse on gender relations in the Middle East bringing together knowledge of well-known transnational gender or human rights activists and academics. It offers a forum for connection, mutual learning, solidarity and transnational feminist advocacy.

We are looking forward to a great meeting!

## Dr Britta Thege

on behalf of the conference organisers

Welcome

## **Conference Dates**

November 25 – 26, 2016

## Venue

Kiel University of Applied Sciences Fachhochschule Kiel Großes Hörsaalgebäude (Building CO2) Sokratesplatz 6 24149 Kiel

## **Conference Language**

English Wireless translation devices will be available if a lecture is held in German or Arabic

## Moderator

Prof Dr Ingelore Welpe

## Registration

Registration and payment deadline: **October 31st, 2016** 

You can only pay via bank transfer. For further information and registration see www.fh-kiel.de/index.php?id=16867

	Full rate	Reduced rate*
Full conference	85,00€	45,00€
25 November	50,00€	25,00€
26 November	35,00€	20,00€

\*Students / low income with no other source of funding (the conference organisers may request proof of status)

Catering at the event is included in the registration fee

## **Hotel Reservation**

In cooperation with Kiel-Marketing e.V., we organised a hotel room booking platform for all conference participants.

Please check on our website www.igd.fh-kiel.de or www.fh-kiel.de/fileadmin/Data/technologietransfer/institut\_frauenforschung/Tagungen/ Hotelbuchungsformular\_Englisch.pdf

## **Closest Airport:**

Hamburg Airport

The Kielius airport-bus leaves hourly from Hamburg airport (Terminal 1) and will take you directly to Kiel Central Station. You can book a taxi on the bus (combi-ticket). https://www.bahn.de/autokraft/view/angebot/ kielius/kielius-ueb.shtml

## **Public Transport to Venue:**

Bus line 11 / Direction "Dietrichsdorf" Bus stop "Fachhochschule"

**General Information** 

# Friday, Nov. 25th

- 8:15 Registration
- 9:00 Conference opening

Welcome message

Welcome message of the organisers

- 9:30 Keynote: Violence against women human rights defenders in cyber space
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:15 Parallel workshops
  - 1. New ways for newcomers (in German)
  - 2. Sexual and domestic violence in Muslim migrant and refugee families
  - 3. Violence against female refugees
- 13:15 Lunch break
- 14:30 Human rights advocacy for women in Yemen (in Arabic)
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Plenary discussion
- 17:00 Female fighters in Kurdistan (in German)
- 18:00 Buffet

Anette Langner Undersecretary of State, Ministery of Social Affairs, Health, Science and Equality Schleswig-Holstein

Prof Dr Udo Beer, President of Kiel UAS

Ehsan Abri (ZBBS), Dr Britta Thege (IGD) & Sarah Braun (Gleichstellungsbüro)

Shadi Sadr, Justice for Iran

Ehsan Abri, Kiel

Dr Marianne Rauwald, Institut für Traumabearbeitung und Weiterbildung, Frankfurt a.M.

*con*tra e.V., Fachstelle gegen Frauenhandel in Schleswig Holstein

Dr Huda Ali Alawi, University of Aden, Yemen

Shadi Sadr & Dr Huda Ali Alawi

Anja Flach, Hamburg

**Conference Program** 

## Saturday, Nov. 26th

8:15 Registratio	n
------------------	---

- 8:45 Introduction
- 9:00 Solidarity and struggle of women against oppression and despotism shall break the chain of captivity
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:30 Human rights violations experienced by LGBTIs in Iran (in German)
- 11:15 Parallel workshops
  - 1. Crimes against women in the name of honor
  - 2. Intercultural counseling in cases of domestic violence
  - 3. Child marriage
- 13:15 Lunch break
- 14:30 Cultural amnesia and shifting fictions of consensus - some thoughts on social contexts that facilitate violence against women
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Plenary discussion
- 17:00 Presentation of workshop: Results & resolution
- 18:30 Closing remarks & farewell

# Selay Ghaffar, Parlamenterian Solidarity Party of Afghanistan

Shadi Amin, Iranian Lesbian & Transgender Network (6Rang)

Selay Ghaffar, Afghanistan

Suzana Kamperidis, LÂLE - interkulturelle Beratungsstelle, Hamburg

Tarfah Alfadhli, Kiel

Prof Dr Susanne Kröhnert-Othman, Fliedner Fachhochschule Düsseldorf

Selay Ghaffar, Shadi Amin & Prof Dr Susanne Kröhnert-Othman

# Friday, Nov. 25th

## Shadi Sadr: Violence against women human rights defenders in cyber space

Cyber space is usually considered as a safe space for activism and the internet is usually defined as a great tool which facilitates great achievements. However, the experiences of many women human rights defenders shows the dark side of cyber space in which they are subjected to different forms of gender based violence including cyber bullying, online slander campaign and threats merely because of their human rights work. The response of the internet giants and law enforcement bodies to this violence is neither appropriate nor precautionary.

## Dr Huda Ali Alawi: Human rights advocacy for women in Yemen

Interpretations of Shari'a and social custom result in ongoing violations of Yemeni women's rights, including the failure to enforce laws pertaining to violence against women. Huda AI Alawi draws attention to advocacy strategies for promoting women's human rights that address the discriminatory policies and practices that Yemeni women face in the name of culture and religion.

## Anja Flach: Female fighters in Kurdistan

In 1995 women from all four parts of Kurdistan joined the all-women's army YJA Star. YJA Star, however, became the model for the Women's Protection Unit (YPJ), which was founded in 2013 in Northern Syria/Rojava. But it was only with the fighting in Rojava and the liberation of Kobane that armed Kurdish women's units were brought into the spotlight of the world's media.

## Workshops

### Ehsan Abri: New ways for newcomers

Ehsan Abri gives an overview over the situation of female refugees from the Middle East living in Germany by drawing on his experience from voluntary social work with refugees.

Furthermore, he elucidates how human rights activists can possibly sensitise male refugees for women's rights and presents examples from his project "New Ways for Newcomers".

## Dr Marianne Rauwald: Sexual and domestic violence in Muslim migrant and refugee families

After a short input on the topic (focusing on trauma and the long-term aftermath of sexual and domestic violence) this workshop will discuss and share experiences: How can we understand the situation of traumatised women and mothers? What are specific needs of Muslim women and their families in the context of domestic violence? What kind of support is necessary to help traumatised women (and their families) to find a way out of their violent circumstances?

## contra: Violence against female

#### refugees

Women and girls fleeing from persecution or turmoil in their home countries are particularly at risk of physical, sexual and psychological violence during the journey to Europe when seeking sanctuary, in transit and when they arrive in the EU. What steps must be taken to protect vulnerable populations, like women and children (e.g., in shelter facilities)? What can be done to secure their rights?

Abstracts

# Saturday, Nov. 26th

## Selay Ghaffar: Solidarity and struggle of women against oppression and despotism shall break the chain of captivity

In an occupied country where Islamic fundamentalists are in power women's rights have no meaning. The only way for women's emancipation is awareness, organisation and struggle. Selay Ghaffar traces Afghan women's struggle for their rights.

# Shadi Amin: Human rights violations experienced by LGBTIs in Iran

In Iran transsexuality is recognized as a Gender Identity Disorder (GID) curable through sex reassignment surgeries. LGBTI individuals have to choose between either risking harassment, persecution, and arbitrary arrest and detention by police and paramilitary *basij* forces because of their actual or perceived homosexual orientation, or seeking a diagnosis of GID with a view to undergo sex reassignment procedures.

## Prof Dr Susanne Kröhnert-Othman: Cultural amnesia and shifting fictions of consensus – some thoughts on social contexts that facilitate violence against women

Our daily life experience tells us that there is still a gap between a general potential for violence and the exertion of violence itself. Against this background and from a sociological perspective Susanne Kröhnert-Othman elaborates on some phenomena and mechanisms like social disintegration, cultural amnesia and shifting fictions of consensus which to her understanding currently facilitate the exertion of violence against women in the Middle East.

# Workshops

## Selay Ghaffar: Crimes against women in the name of honor

Violence against women and girls in Afghanistan has deep social and cultural roots beside the violence from the state. Today struggle for women's rights and elimination of violence against women became a commercial business in Afghanistan. Violence against women is an endemic problem, since impunity for perpetrators is common – but without prosecution of perpetrators the elimination of this violence will stay a dream of our society. Women can achieve their rights only by standing up for themselves.

#### Suzana Kamperidis: Intercultural counseling in cases of domestic violence

Suzana Kamperidis elaborates on what is "special" and what should a professional or non-professional person know about working with people from different backgrounds, working with interpreters or doing counseling in a foreign language in cases of domestic violence or forced marriage.

## Tarfah Alfadhli: Child marriage

This workshop will look at the phenomenon of child and early marriage in Yemen. It will explore the issues that drive the phenomenon such as extreme poverty, and also the resulting psychological problems it creates in the individuals involved and the wider negative social impacts.

Abstracts

**Ehsan Abri** was born in Tehran and is living in Germany since three years. He is a human rights and children's rights activist. Ehsan studied law in North Iran, where he was active in the student movement and in the green revolution. 2013 he was forced to leave Iran because of his political activities.

**Tarfah Alfadhli** was born in Aden/Yemen. She holds a Master degree in International Relations from the University of Aden and is a civil society and human rights activist since high school. Tarfah Alfadhli is an independent journalist and has worked for several international and national humanitarian organizations in Yemen as well as for the Woman's Research and Training Center of the University of Aden. She is a committed member of several advocacy forums that aim at seeking equal opportunities for and protection of women across several Middle Eastern countries.

**Dr Huda Ali Alawi** is assistant professor in the factuality of law in the University of Aden. She holds a PhD in Criminal Law. Dr Ali Alawi is an expert in women's research and training. Since 2010 she is Director of the Women's Research and Training Center of the University of Aden (governmental). Huda Ali Alawi is also a writer and has published a collection of short stories.

**Shadi Amin** is an Iranian feminist, writer and activist, a founding member of the Iranian Women's Network Association (SHABAKEH) and currently one of the coordinators of the Iranian Lesbian Network (6Rang). She is also a co-founder of the organisation Justice for Iran. Shadi Amin was forced to leave Iran in the 1980s because of her political activities.

#### *contra* - Foundation against the trafficking of women in Schleswig -Holstein is the only counseling centre in Schleswig-Holstein specialised in working with trafficked women. *con*tra is located in Kiel.

**Anja Flach** holds a Master's degree in Ethnology and is author of two books on the Kurdistan Women's Liberation Movement. In the 1990s she lived for more than two years as an Internationalist in the mountains of Kurdistan, where she got to know the life of the guerilla units of the Kurdish liberation movement. Anja Flach is particularly interested in gender roles and gender relations within the Kurdish guerilla and the effects on the situation of women in traditional societies.

**Selay Ghaffar** is a prominent politician and human rights activist from Afghanistan. Currently she is the permanent leading member and spokesperson for Solidarity Party of Afghanistan (SPA). Besides her political work, she is an outspoken women's right activist and is well known for her struggle against fundamentalist factions.

**Suzana Kamperidis** is a systemic therapist (DGSF) giving counseling, support and information for women, men and young people with migration background, who are victims from domestic violence, and forced marriage. She works for LÂLE, an intercultural counseling centre for victims of domestic violence and forced marriage in Hamburg.

## Prof Dr Susanne Kröhnert-Othman is a

sociologist with a regional expertise in the Arab Middle East. She has studied Social Anthropology, Sociology and Islamic Studies and amongst others has published on professional women in Palestine, immigrant religious organisations in Germany and processes of othering of Islam and Muslims. She currently has a focus of working and teaching on diversity and organisation at a University of Applied Sciences.

**Dr Marianne Rauwald** is Head of the Institut für Traumabearbeitung und Weiterbildung Frankfurt. She is a psychoanalyst (DPV) with a focus on transgenerational transmission of psychic traumata, trauma bonding, responses to Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM), and international projects in crises regions.

**Shadi Sadr** is an Iranian intellectual, lawyer, human rights activist, essayist, novelist, journalist, and a women's and LGBT rights advocate born in Tehran. She holds a Master's Degree in International Law from Tehran University and is an expert on women's legal rights in Iran. Shadi Sadr has founded "Justice for Iran", a human rights organisation based in London.

**Prof Dr Ingelore Welpe** is founding director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Gender Research and Diversity (IGD) and an international expert in human resource management, organisation development, and gender and diversity. She is editor of the book series "Angewandte Genderforschung/Gender Research Applied". Ingelore Welpe is first chair person of the NGO "Create Future e.V.".

# Institut für Interdisziplinäre Genderforschung und Diversity (IGD) der Fachhochschule Kiel

Contact: Dr Britta Thege +49 (0)431 210 1783 britta.thege@fh-kiel.de www.igd.fh-kiel.de

#### Gleichstellungsbüro der Fachhochschule Kiel

Contact: Sarah Braun +49 (0)431 210 1880 sarah.braun@fh-kiel.de www.fh-kiel.de/genderfamilievielfalt

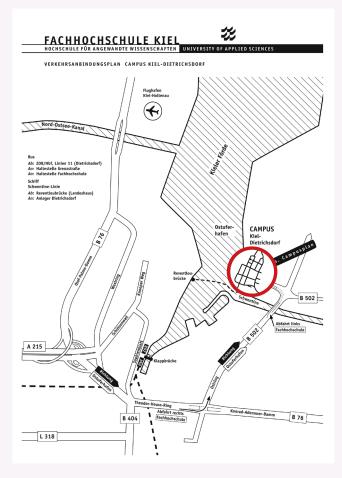
#### ZBBS e.V. – Zentrale Bildungs- und Beratungsstelle für Migrantinnen und Migranten e.V.

Contact: Ehsan Abri Contact through IGD www.zbbs-sh.de

#### Create Future e.V. – Verein für soziale Start-up Projekte und interkulturelle Bildung e.V.

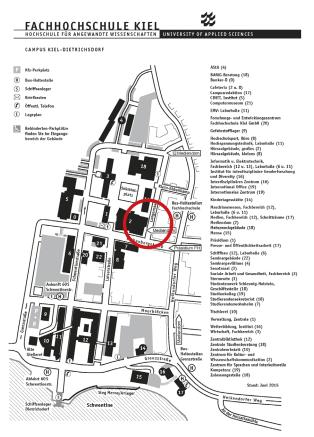
Contact: Prof Dr Ingelore Welpe Contact through IGD www.create-future.org

## **Kiel UAS**



**Map and Directions** 

## Campus



**Map and Directions** 



Design & Illustration: © Mathias Foot - mathiasfoot@gmx.de