



**GENUINE AWO.**  
**EXPERIENCE FOR**  
**THE FUTURE.**

## EDITORIAL

**“THE STRONG SHOULD STAND UP FOR THE WEAK FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE”** — The AWO philosophy can hardly be summarised better than in this quote from our founder Marie Juchacz.

Since 1919, we have been looking after all those who, for a wide variety of reasons, are disadvantaged and who have thus been forced to the fringes of society. Whether it be poverty, age, disability, physical or mental illness, addiction, unemployment, homelessness, having a different cultural background or language barriers, all these factors can prevent those affected from taking part, joining in, belonging, being involved.

At AWO, we support every person to successfully manage their individual everyday lives, to demand their rights and to be treated with solidarity. This involves helping people to help themselves, empowerment, giving encouragement, as our role is always to make it easier for the persons affected to join or re-join society, or to ensure that they can take part in everyday life with autonomy and dignity.

Our welfare organisation has had an eventful past. Founded in the turmoil left by the First World War and re-established after being banned by the National Socialists, AWO has unwaveringly helped to turn Germany into a fair and caring home for all its citizens.

Now, in the face of partially unconstrained market forces, it is even more important to speak up for justice and for solidarity within our society and to take a definite stance. We are convinced that the equality of all human beings before the law as well as universal human rights are the foundations of an open society. These rights are non-negotiable. They should be granted to every single person.

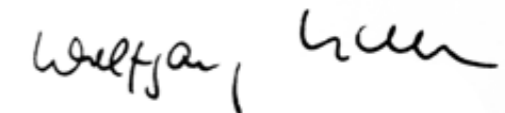
We fight for a democratic society in which religious, sexual, ethnic, social and linguistic diversity can flourish. Our work is aimed at helping to create a

world of social solidarity where all people can live together in peace, regardless of their differences. This is why we get involved.

We provide suitable support structures for children, young people, mothers, fathers, the elderly and migrants; we fight against everyday racism and right-wing extremism, both of which have a toxic effect on democratic and civilised coexistence.

Today, AWO is supported throughout Germany by more than 335,000 members, 66,000 dedicated volunteers and 215,000 salaried employees. More than 600,000 people devote themselves to AWO's values and mission, and support solidarity within society. The philosophy behind our work and activities is up-to-the-minute. For the future, one thing is sure, we will remain focussed on the person and will continue to fight for a dignified life – in Germany and throughout the world.

After more than 100 years of AWO, we will definitely continue our crusade (#WIRMACHENWEITER).



On behalf of the national association,  
Wolfgang Stadler  
Chairman of the AWO board





**EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE** — We have been fighting since 1919. For justice and solidarity, for diversity and women's rights. For a dignified life, in which no one is given alms but everyone has the opportunity to be a part. As it is only in this way that genuine integration is achieved.

In 1919, the first woman addressed a German parliament – Marie Juchacz, the Women's Secretary of the SPD party's executive committee. In the photograph she is giving a speech on the balcony of the former Ordenspalais on Wilhelmplatz in Berlin.

# WE ARE MANY. WE SHOW SOLIDARITY. WE ACT.

We at AWO can be found everywhere that help is needed. As one of the six central associations of the Freie Wohlfahrtspflege (non-statutory welfare organisations) in Germany, we represent the socio-political interests of people who, alone, cannot get their voices heard. For these people, we fight every single day for a society united in solidarity. We are politically active while simultaneously focussing on the person. We give them advice, provide assistance, encourage, strengthen, inform and accompany them in the name of solidarity, tolerance, freedom, equality and justice. We thus help to improve the quality of life of people who are in danger of falling through the social net. And we have been doing this for many years, all the way back to the Weimar Republic.

**WE CHAMPIONED SOLIDARITY FROM THE VERY OUTSET** — Workers founded AWO in 1919 in order to be able to change social conditions. The initiative came from a woman – Marie Juchacz. She was the founder of AWO (Arbeiterwohlfahrt, the Workers' Welfare Association) and she was the first woman to address a German parliament. In 1919, she was elected to the Weimar National Assembly and remained as a member of the Reichstag for the SPD (Social Democratic Party) until 1933. Marie Juchacz and her associates had seen the increasing hardship experienced by refugees and invalids, the sick and the poor, single mothers and orphans brought about by the First World War. Coming from a modest background, Marie Juchacz fought for equal opportunities and better social conditions. She believed in education, self-help and solidarity to combat the causes of poverty and disadvantage. This stance has shaped us to this very day.



**RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES** — In order that all people can enjoy a good life now and in the future, we play our part in climate protection and preserving natural resources. We take on ecological and social responsibility. Environmental issues are integrated into our association-wide AWO quality management system. AWO endorses the climate protection goals in the Paris Agreement.

**WE STEP IN** — Our mission is to play an active part in shaping social policies. We have been fulfilling this mission for 100 years together with our members and volunteers. With our civil society commitment, we step in and afford equal opportunities for people who are on the fringes of our society. As a strong and independent association, we have an impact on social legislation in order to create a fairer general framework and to safeguard statutory entitlements. Our goal is responsible social, health and labour market policies that are financed fairly.

We intercede between the interests of the state and those of its citizens, and we respond to social challenges at an early stage. In doing so, we are open to alliances based on our values. We are strong because we are many and we inspire others because we have a clear idea of what solidarity and democracy involve.

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**“The principle of solidarity, that so wonderfully brings to life all the branches of the labour movement, is also the driving force behind our joint actions to the benefit of people in need, especially the young. This idea is to be expressed more strongly than before in dealings between our organisations, the strong should stand up for the weak for the good of the whole, for the benefit of our shared goals.”**

**MARIE JUCHACZ, 1879–1956** — Social reformer, social democrat, feminist and founder of AWO.

More information can be found in the AWO historical archives at [www.awo-historie.org](http://www.awo-historie.org)



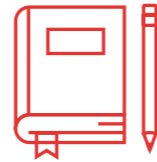
### **WE ARE MANY VOLUNTEERS IN A STRONG ASSOCIATION —**

Our more than 300,000 members are organised into local associations throughout Germany. Every membership counts. Whether an individual person or an entire family join – everyone is very welcome to play a part in our strong, democratic AWO community.

We encourage civic action in all its various forms: from traditional volunteerism to structured voluntary service. Voluntary board members and delegates take on responsibility for the democratic structures of the association. Dedicated people in local associations and social projects actively lend a hand and show how multi-faceted solidarity can be. With their dedication, they help people to become more of a part of society and to improve their quality of life. AWO encourages social solidarity in the district and in the neighbourhood and thus builds upon the traditionally strong role of the local associations as a port of call within the community.

We have enshrined our values and we take a stand against the instrumentalization of this commitment. Social work does not replace any publicly financed social infrastructures and their benefits/services. It is important to us to promote self-organisation and to encourage people to stand up for their own interests. And we want to get through to as many people as possible. Supporting voluntary work must not increase inequalities but should embrace people in socially disadvantaged circumstances in particular. One of our most important concerns is to promote social integration.

We will continue to focus on a culture of enablement, encourage participation and further develop the general framework for civic action. As social work is increasingly short-term, digital and independent of location, we advocate the greater integration of digital communication and participation methods. They facilitate intermediation and coordination, and open up new channels for self-organisation.



**SOCIAL WORK DOES NOT STAND STILL, IT ADAPTS IN LINE WITH PRESENT DAY REQUIREMENTS —** Our AWO Bundesakademie training institute offers a wide variety of educational and vocational training courses, including seminars, conferences and workshops. We view lifelong learning as the key to motivated staff and to dedicated, professional work.

We are convinced that voluntary work promotes a democratic society and builds trust and social solidarity. At AWO, we play a part in fostering a vibrant, strong and sustainable civil society in Germany.

**WE GET INVOLVED —** Being helped to help themselves is often the first step towards a better life for many people. There are a wide range of social issues in which we strengthen and support.

Those who are experiencing social need always find solidarity and helping hands at AWO. Our salaried employees work passionately to help all those people who, for a variety of reasons, are lacking a solid basis.

**WE ARE DEDICATED TO INNOVATIVE SOCIAL —** Social work is colourful, diverse, exciting and challenging. We are involved in a labour-intensive market. For the elderly, families, children and the young, for those with disabilities, for migrants, for the homeless, for the ill, the unemployed and the displaced – we are wholeheartedly committed to helping all these people, every single day. Professional quality and humanity go hand in hand. With a varied portfolio of career opportunities, demanding and interesting tasks and personal development opportunities, AWO is an attractive employer at the cutting edge of social work.



**VOLUNTARY. FOR THE FUTURE —** The AWO volunteer services offer very special learning experiences in an environment dedicated to socio-political issues. Take on responsibility, have fun and gain valuable work experience – the Freiwillige Soziale Jahr (voluntary social year programme) and the Bundesfreiwilligendienst (federal volunteers service) foster personal development and teach important skills. This is where many people discover their AWO heart.

# AWO MILESTONES

**1919** FOUNDATION OF AWO WEIMAR REPUBLIC      **1933 – 1945** BREAKUP / PERSECUTION, RESISTANCE AND EXILE      **1946 – 1960** RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND REBUILDING      **1961 – 1989** DEVELOPMENTS / DEMANDS BONN REPUBLIC      **1990** UNITED AWO BERLIN REPUBLIC      **2019** EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE #WIRMACHENWEITER

<p><b>April 25, 1925</b> <b>Registration as an association with the Berlin Mitte district court</b> AWO is now formally independent.</p> <p><b>1926</b> <b>"Immenhof" in Hützel</b> Establishment of a corrective training centre in line with AWO's socio-pedagogical philosophy.</p> <p><b>"Schwarzwaldheim Ludwig Frank" in Schönwald</b> Sanatorium for children suffering from tuberculosis</p> <p><b>October 1, 1926</b> <b>"Arbeiterwohlfahrt" magazine published (central body)</b> Print run: 10,000 Editor: H. Wachenheim.</p>	<p><b>1931</b> Political appeal in the association's magazine, <b>Wachenheim</b> [...] fight ... for your work, for the needy ..., for a free, democratic and social Germany.</p> <p><b>1933, spring / summer</b> <b>National Socialist activities aimed at breaking up AWO</b> Occupation of offices, seizure of funds, employees barred from the premises etc.</p> <p><b>1936 – 1939</b> <b>Relief for refugees, support for resistance, illegal work</b> e.g. M. Juchacz, M. Moritz, E. Kirschmann and J. Kirchner organise aid from Alsace.</p> <p><b>March 17, 1933 (to 1935)</b> <b>Foundation of a German / foreign youth relief association as a cover organisation</b> Aid for the persecuted, prisoners and emigrants.</p> <p><b>May 29, 1941</b> <b>M. Juchacz and E. Kirschmann in exile in New York</b> Aid campaigns for politically persecuted persons in Europe etc.</p>	<p><b>1931</b> Political appeal in the association's magazine, <b>Wachenheim</b> [...] fight ... for your work, for the needy ..., for a free, democratic and social Germany.</p> <p><b>1933, spring / summer</b> <b>National Socialist activities aimed at breaking up AWO</b> Occupation of offices, seizure of funds, employees barred from the premises etc.</p> <p><b>1936 – 1939</b> <b>Relief for refugees, support for resistance, illegal work</b> e.g. M. Juchacz, M. Moritz, E. Kirschmann and J. 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In Berlin, AWO is able to work until the wall is built (1961), then in West Berlin only.</p> <p><b>January 20, 1949</b> <b>Return</b> Marie Juchacz leaves her American exile and boards a freight ship in New York to return to Germany.</p>	<p><b>March 5, 1951</b> <b>Recognition of the legal successor of AWO, which was dissolved in 1933</b></p> <p><b>February 1, 1952</b> <b>Relocation</b> The head office moves to Bonn.</p> <p><b>January 3 / 4, 1946</b> <b>Re-establishment</b> The AWO steering committee is re-established in Hanover.</p> <p><b>May 3 / 5, 1947</b> <b>First national congress (interzonal congress) after 1933</b> It is not feasible to re-established AWO in the Soviet occupation zone. 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Continuation of the prison reform and more effective assistance for offenders are demanded.</p> <p><b>June 1, 1987</b> <b>Social counselling for employees from abroad</b> Since 1962, AWO's network has grown to 451 counsellors for Turkish, Yugoslavian, Tunisian and Moroccan employees and their families.</p>	<p><b>January 11, 1983</b> <b>Ensuring tenant protection</b> A joint statement from AWO, the German Trade Union Confederation and the German Tenants' Association demands priority for new housing, tenant protection and the supply of low-cost housing.</p> <p><b>September 5–7, 1984</b> <b>Lack of career opportunities for young people</b> In a policy document, AWO sets out its stance on the lack of career opportunities for young people, youth unemployment and appropriate federal government goals. It presents its 10-point programme for combating youth unemployment.</p> <p><b>November 20 / 28, 1984</b> <b>Campaign against cuts in social services</b> National leaflet campaign against cuts in social services. Those affected describe their circumstances. AWO collects and publishes the reports in a black book.</p>	<p><b>November 10, 1990</b> <b>AWO reunification</b> State and district associations unite throughout Germany. As opposed to other welfare associations in the former GDR, it has to build from nothing.</p> <p><b>August 1991</b> AWO presents 30,000 signatures in favour of social nursing care insurance to Norbert Blüm, Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs.</p> <p><b>1992</b> With 1,193 services and facilities, AWO has a presence in 177 of 216 districts in the newly-formed German states.</p> <p><b>November 27/28, 1998</b> <b>AWO special congress "AWO 2000 – Shaping the future with solidarity":</b> 440 delegates discuss the new AWO policy statement.</p>	<p><b>October 25, 2000</b> <b>Social report 2000</b> "Gute Kindheit – Schlechte Kindheit" (Good Childhood – Bad Childhood): Closing report of the three-year research project carried out by ISS on behalf of the national board of AWO. It sparks a huge media response and interest in the report lasting many years.</p> <p><b>September 16, 2005</b> <b>Start of the Bonn-Berlin run</b> The relocation of the office of the national association from Bonn to Berlin is celebrated with an XXL marathon. Numerous events along the 700 km route organised by the AWO districts and their divisions provide the backdrop.</p> <p><b>February 2/3 2006</b> <b>Start of the "Save our Social Europe" campaign, Vienna</b> Kick-off event by the Volkshilfe Österreich charity for the campaign started by Solidar and its member associations. The aim is to oppose the predominant neo-liberal direction of the EU and champion a social Europe.</p> <p><b>August 18, 2017</b> <b>Unveiling of the Marie Juchacz monument</b> The monument is on Mehringplatz in Berlin.</p>
<p><b>December 13, 1919</b> <b>Foundation of AWO</b> In Berlin, Marie Juchacz obtains consent from the SPD party congress to found a steering committee for workers' welfare. Employees are no longer to be dependent on the public welfare system.</p> <p>The political aim is to take away the stigma that relief for the poor had during the Empire and to incorporate the idea of self-help and solidarity into a modern welfare system.</p>	<p><b>October 16, 1928</b> <b>Opening of the "Wohlfahrtsschule" charity school in Berlin</b> The school specialising in socio-political education trains new welfare workers.</p> <p><b>Wohlfahrtsschule demonstration 1920s</b></p>	<p><b>AWO at a health fair in Cologne, end of the 1950s</b></p> <p><b>Holiday programme, 1950s</b></p> <p><b>AWO symposium, 1985</b></p>	<p><b>AWO at a health fair in Cologne, end of the 1950s</b></p> <p><b>Holiday programme, 1950s</b></p> <p><b>AWO symposium, 1985</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony marking 60 years of AWO, 1979</b></p> <p><b>JW stand, 1989</b></p> <p><b>Marie Juchacz monument, 2017</b></p>





**THE AWO CAMPAIGN WEEK "GENUINE COMMITMENT. GENUINE DIVERSITY. GENUINE AWO."** — We are many and we act. Commitment is firmly rooted in the history of AWO. With this in mind, AWO and its youth section organise a campaign week every year.

Across Germany, AWO facilities and offices open their doors, present their multifaceted work and provide information about numerous social issues. All the information is available around the clock at [echt-awo.org](http://echt-awo.org). #echtawo



**BECAUSE WHAT UNITES US IS GREATER THAN WHAT DIVIDES US** — With our voluntary work, we help, for example, refugees to be able to organise their everyday lives in Germany for themselves. Our goal is for them to be a part of social life on an equal footing.

In the context of national mentor schemes, volunteers pass their knowledge and experience on to needy people and provide concrete on-site support – in connection with private tuition, looking for a job/flat etc. etc.





**GIVING THE SHIRT OFF ONE'S BACK** — In political initiatives, campaigns and demonstrations, we communicate our stance publicly and fight for solidarity, tolerance, freedom, equality and justice. For a society in which all people have the same opportunities.

Our Giving the shirt off one's back campaign is a highly symbolic crusade against cuts in social services that demands solidarity within society. On one day of the protest, 3,000 shirts were lined up in front of the Bundestag building.



**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS** — AWO meets together every four years at the national congress to monitor their basic principles in terms of social issues, specialist areas and association policies. Current and future challenges are discussed. The numerous course-setting resolutions provide the guidelines for the work of the association and its facilities,

and for its services. The national congress is responsible for questions concerning the charter, the statute or a new policy statement. The members of the congress are the executive committee, the board, the delegates from the state and district associations, the AWO youth office and the corporate members of the AWO national association.



**ZEICHEN SETZEN  
GEGEN RASSISMUS**

Rassismus  
tut der Seele weh

Verbundenheit

Mensch Mensch

AL 1GG  
Leben  
anstatt Kreis  
als politisches  
Instrument

Mensch  
Illegal!

Der Kopf ist rund,  
damit das Denken  
seine Richtung  
ändern kann

Hass ist keine  
Meinung

Menschen in Rassen  
aufzuteilen ist  
biologisch  
Schwachsinn

LIEBER  
BUNT  
STATT  
GRAU

Alle Menschen  
sind gleich!

Menschen ohne Herz  
sind ohne Kultur

lassen mich  
verzweifeln

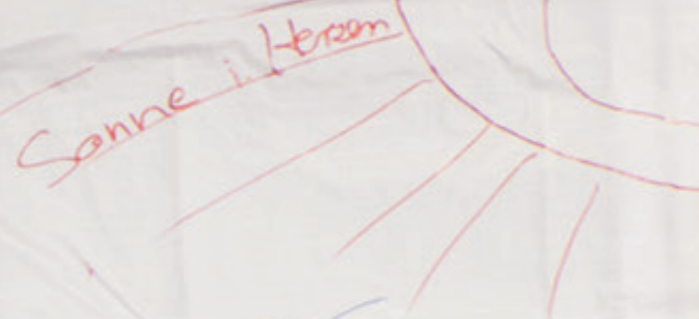
Nehmt die Menschen  
wie sie sind,  
andere gibt es nicht!

Alle Menschen sind  
gleich viel wert und  
Rasse ist biologischer Quatsch!

Solidarität ist auch  
der Kampf ums Recht!

miteinander  
statt  
übereinander } REDEN

Jeder Mensch  
ist Ausländer,  
fast überall!



Es ist egal, woher  
man kommt -  
wichtig ist wie man  
ist!

AWO AGAINST RACISM, AWO FOR DIVERSITY — AWO was banned from 1933 to 1945. Based on this fact alone, we know only too well what racism, antisemitism, ostracism and contempt for human beings lead to – a society that is not free, not social and not equal. Our work involves vigorously opposing this.

With the AWO against racism, AWO for diversity motto, we stand up and be counted each year and take part in the national campaigns for the "International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" on March 21. #AWOgegenRassismus



**CIVILIAN SEA RESCUE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN** — We are desperately needed. With the support of AWO International, the team of SOS MEDITERRANEE's rescue ship Ocean Viking saves lives week after week. The figures show how desperately needed the missions are.

In countless rescue missions, tens of thousands of people have been rescued from emergency situations at sea and more than 30,000 people have been taken care of on board. Several babies have been born on the ship. For us, human lives are non-negotiable.

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"As much as we should all like to live in the present in order to play our part, it is important to examine the present in the light of the past and to be guided by all that was good in it. Not in order to dwell in the past, but to look back from time to time in order to be prepared again for the future."

Marie Juchacz

**SINCE 1919.  
WITH US.  
EXPERIENCE  
FOR THE FUTURE.**

# STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG CHILDREN

Family is wherever people take on responsibility for each other, take care of each other and show affection. With our modern and extended understanding of “family”, we also allow for lifestyle choices other than the traditional father/mother/child constellation.

All children and young people should have the same opportunities. Good education and care from the very outset form an important basis. Investment in full-time education and day care must therefore be increased significantly. This, in addition to a guaranteed child allowance, is an effective factor in preventing child poverty and in ensuring all children can grow up with equal opportunities. We demand pooled and transparent financial aid for families in order to enable them to plan more effectively. Above all, single parents, patchwork families, migrants and families with same-sex parents need particular support.

Stress and a lack of time are often a part of everyday life in many families. We are committed to ensuring that politicians, business and parties in the collective wage bargaining process become more aware of this burden and develop family-friendly offerings to allow for a good work/life balance. In this way, fathers and mothers can look after their children appropriately and take on family responsibilities on an equal basis. And this will facilitate the establishment of stand-alone social welfare provision, independent of the partner.



**MORE THAN TWO MILLION CHILDREN IN GERMANY LIVE IN POVERTY** — The long-term study carried out by AWO and ISS affirms that child poverty becomes engrained over generations. We have been fighting for many years to break this vicious circle of poverty with structural and personal measures.



# MANY CULTURES, ONE FUTURE

Shaping an inclusive society is one of the key missions for the future. For approximately 60 years, we have been the point of contact for people from numerous countries who want to make Germany their new home after fleeing from war, persecution or hunger. We are committed to ensuring that they can live here on equal terms and we take on humanitarian responsibility. We play an active role in shaping the immigration society at federal, state and local district level.

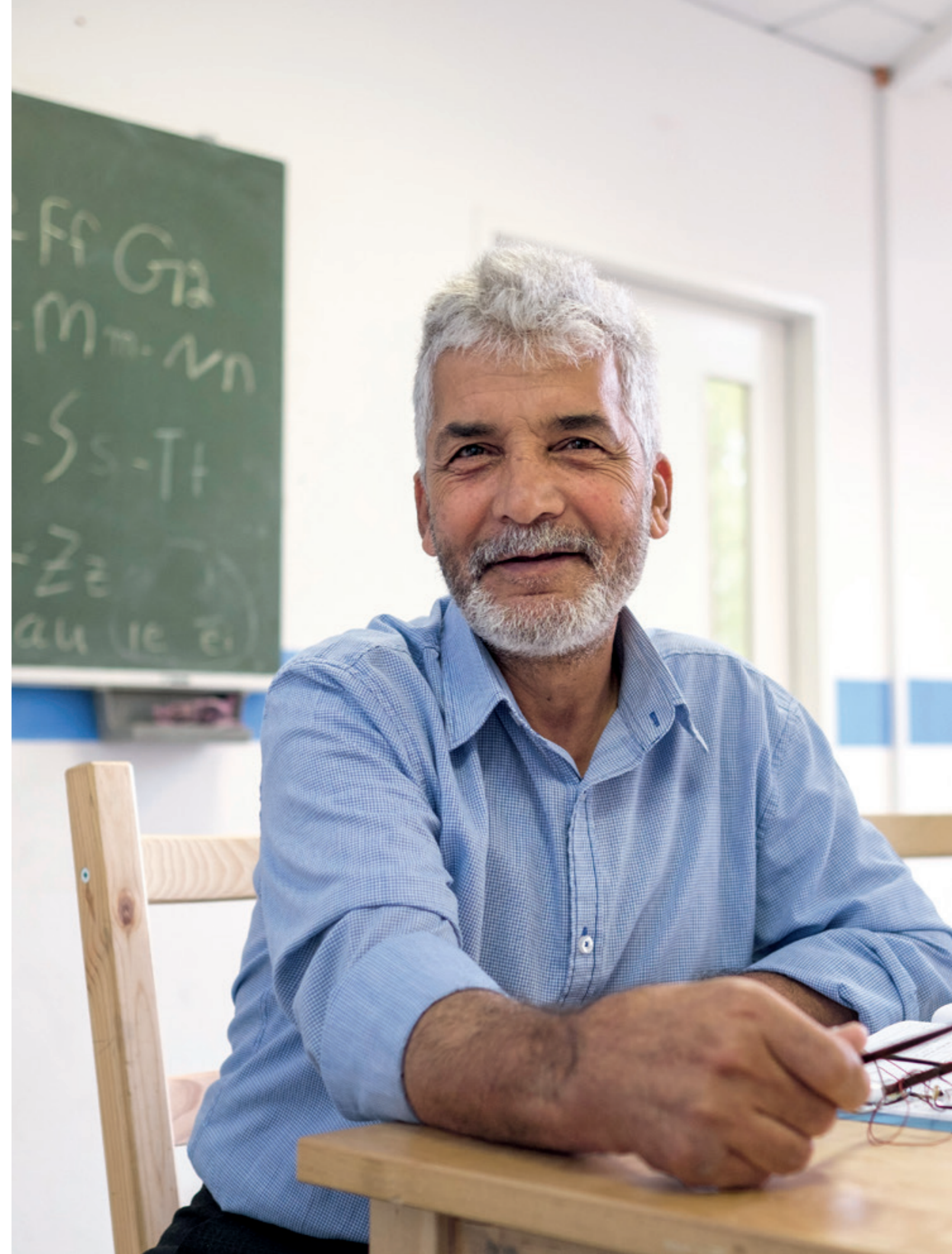
A tolerant approach to multicultural diversity is important to us because everyone is equal. With our stance and activities, we oppose discrimination and racism in all their forms.

But above all, we help exactly where it is needed. We support and give counselling to immigrants who need advice, irrespective of their country of origin, religion or culture. And regardless of whether they are an adult or a young person from the second or third generation of the family or they have just arrived in our country as a refugee, they can be sure that our social offerings will meet their needs. Our intercultural focus is an important feature of the quality of our many years of work with and for people of various origins.

Language skills and knowledge give people the ability to function in society. We reach out to and support numerous migrants with our training offerings. We fight to ensure that everyone can take part in society and can help to shape it. We are dedicated to empowering migrants – every single day.



**TÜRK DANIŞ** — In 1962, approximately 15,000 employees originating from Turkey lived in Germany and 1,000 more came each month. We at AWO responded immediately and established the central office for counselling and assisting Turkish employees (Türk Daniş). We recruited Dr. Salahattin Sözeri as the first Turkish counsellor and we were therefore pioneers in supporting Turkish immigrant workers.



# DIVERSITY MEANS MEN, WOMEN AND ALL GENDERS

Our goal will only be achieved when people are free to live their lives as they wish, irrespective of whether they are male, female or of any other gender. Today, we are committed to equal gender opportunities.

This can only be achieved when chances are the same for everyone and all people have the same opportunities to make an impact. And when people, irrespective of their gender, are shown respect. We fight for equality of men and women, intersexuals and transsexuals. Our understanding of diversity means working against discrimination of any kind.

The right to bodily integrity and self-determination is a core element of our work. In our pregnancy counselling centres and with our assistance in the event of domestic violence, we help women to live the way they want to live, with self-determination and free from violence.

We take a clear stance against any form of antifeminism and, in particular, we oppose right-wing populist opinions that challenge what has been achieved so far and lapse into negative stereotypes when it comes to refugees.

Women are still disadvantaged in virtually all aspects of society. We do not tolerate this discrimination and we fight for greater gender justice.



**ONE IN EVERY FOUR WOMEN IS SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE FROM THEIR PARTNER** — At AWO, we are working together with other associations to ensure the statutory right to protection and aid. We want victims of domestic violence to receive fast, low-threshold support.





# BEING A PART WITHOUT OBSTACLES

Equal opportunities and being a part are particularly important for people who face obstacles due to health-related or social constraints. Age, disability, housing difficulties or being in need of care must not mean that they can no longer be integrated into society. They need information, support and assistance as well as expert advice about their statutory rights.

People of all ages who are burdened with illness, bankruptcy or homelessness benefit greatly from prevention, health promotion activities, rehabilitation, resocialisation and being a part of society.

Those who have to cope with difficult everyday lives need reliable help from healthcare, nursing care, legal and social systems. We work hard to ensure this help is provided. Disadvantaged people need free access to state benefits and services.

In order that people living in difficult circumstances can retain and strengthen their abilities and resources, we support them with a variety of offerings focussing on "help to help oneself". For example, we assist and give counselling to men and women suffering from addiction, the homeless, offenders and people in debt, and improve their ability to take on personal responsibility. In addition, we give counselling on health and nursing care issues.

Taking part, being involved, taking an interest – everyone needs social ties. Therefore, we work to ensure intact socio-spatial neighbourhood structures. For us, neighbourhoods where everyone helps each other are very important. We promote active and diverse work in the local community.



**POLICIES THAT CREATE REALMS WHICH PROMOTE HEALTH** — At AWO, we are committed to ensuring that people's resources are preserved and fostered. What is important is to work together with all those involved to develop preventative offerings so that everyone has the same opportunities as far as their health is concerned.



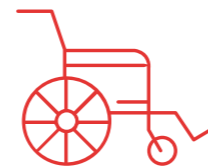
# MORE JUSTICE, A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE

Human dignity is inviolable. We work hard on a daily basis to ensure that this fundamental right is granted to all people in our country. The basis of a vibrant and open society is to respect and protect every single person and all their rights.

We have always been committed to democracy and the social rule of law – in Germany, in Europe and throughout the world. The vision of justice across the globe is the mission that spurs us on.

We campaign for a society unified in solidarity. We do not accept that people are living on the poverty line and can no longer take part in society. Thus, we work hard for reliable and effective social safety nets. From guaranteed child allowance, through the training and job market, to retirement; we make our voices heard in national and European politics with respect to all socio-political issues.

Non-government welfare organisations, with their many social facilities and services, form the backbone of our welfare state. And that's not all – they are also a formidable factor in the economy and in the job market. We are committed to an innovative social economy with attractive working conditions and we fight for a general framework in which all people have the same opportunities. In this context, we support our institutions with their international networks.



**OUR GOAL IS WORK  
AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ALL** — We support  
people with disabilities to  
find jobs in the commercial  
labour market. All those  
affected must have the  
opportunity to be a part of  
life in the community.



# SOLIDARITY AROUND THE WORLD

Since the foundation of AWO, we, as part of an international (labour) movement, have been confronted with the effects of interwoven connections within the global economy. All people throughout the world are entitled to have their human rights respected. With our AWO International association, we campaign for and show solidarity with disadvantaged people – across international borders. We are working for a fair world where there is no hunger anymore and where people can live healthy and self-determined lives; a world with a democratic and ecological foundation.

We fight for global, sustainable economic and social policies. This is why we also join together with institutions and associations in other countries to support citizens to assert their rights. Through AWO International, we strengthen people who are ostracised or discriminated against, or are affected by hunger and poverty. Women and children, indigenous groups, migrants and people at risk of human trafficking and slavery need our support the most. It is important to us that the citizens of the individual countries set up their own self-help organisations.

Natural disasters show how vulnerable poor people are in particular. With AWO International, we provide humanitarian aid in the event of emergencies or disasters and support redevelopment together with local partners. We also carry out forward-thinking prevention work in order to strengthen the population on a long-term basis by means of effective structures.



**UNO'S AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** — The United Nations' goals for sustainable development are our blueprint. They oblige states to end hunger, ensure a healthy life for all people and promote humane working conditions. And they demand sustainable economic activity in order to combat climate change. We are convinced that only justice throughout the world can bring about global peace.



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