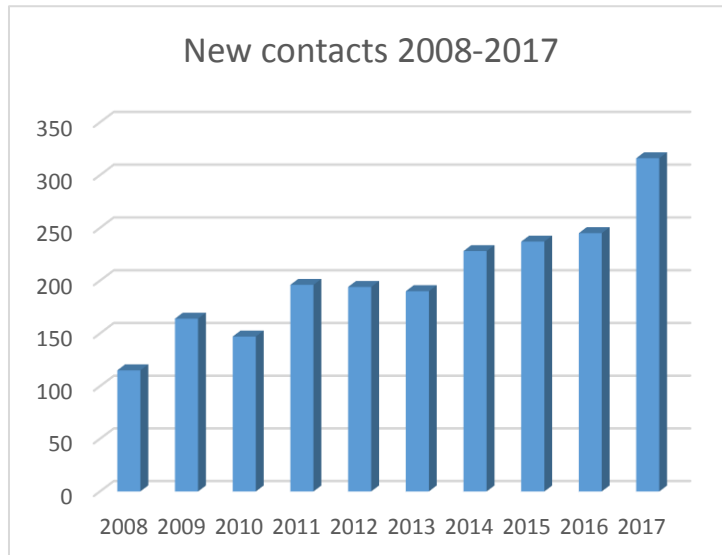


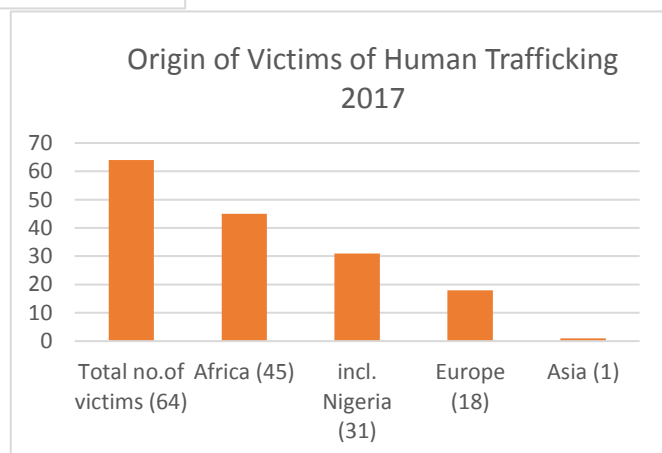
Facts and figures



In 2017, a total of 401 women who came from 64 countries were counseled. 316 women contacted the counseling center for the first time. Of these 65% came from Africa, mainly from Nigeria, followed by Somalia, Ghana, Eritrea, Kenya and Cameroon. Almost a quarter came to Germany via another EU country, mainly Italy. 138 women with 121 children received long-term counseling. 90% of the long-term-assisted women came from Africa.

The total number of trafficking victims (64) has doubled compared to the previous year (31).

In addition, there were 19 cases of suspected human trafficking. Over 90% were victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Eight of them testified. Among the new cases of trafficking, the number of young women aged between 17 and 21 years has increased.



Similar to 2016 a large number of women came to the counseling center via other clients. The number of clients who were directed to the center by staff of refugee accommodations has quadrupled because of skill enhancement on the theme of human trafficking.

The most common reasons to contact the counseling center were initially again problems with resident permits, missing documents, homelessness, the seeking of asylum and pregnancy, but during the counseling process it frequently transpired that human trafficking or other types of violence and exploitation were the reason for the emergency situation.

Target group and psycho-social counseling

SOLWODI Berlin works at the interface between flight, migration and human trafficking, which represents a large grey area. From this target group, which approached SOLWODI because of their flight history, many victims of trafficking have been identified in 2017. The majority of them, however, will not appear in the official statistics of the Federal Criminal Police Office as they did not file charges

against their traffickers, fearing retaliation against their families in their home countries, or did not have sufficient information to do so. Noteworthy is furthermore the increase in those affected by human trafficking who, after fleeing from their homeland, have fallen into the hands of traffickers during their long and tedious journey through the Sahara desert. Some recounted their long and forced stay in Libya or Morocco, where they were imprisoned, raped, forced into prostitution and even sold. Although the largest group of African victims of trafficking originates from Nigeria, the number of persons affected by human trafficking as well as other forms of violence and human rights violation from East- and West- African states, mostly Somalia and French speaking countries, increased in 2017.

The constructive cooperation with the State Criminal Police Office has continued to help identify victims, to protect them better and to prosecute traffickers. In addition, the cooperation with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, in the persons of the Special Representatives for the Trafficking in Human Beings and Violence against Women, was extremely important, when those affected by the reasons mentioned above have sought protection in Germany. The good cooperation and networking with the relevant authorities, as well as with other counseling centers and facilities for refugee women, has contributed to the fact that the number of clients has increased. At the same time, the specialization of the respective bodies could be used to the optimum for the benefit of those seeking help.

To stabilize the clients was still the first and foremost goal of the auxiliary planning; a goal that was achieved, within a reasonable period, by the specialized trauma-focused counseling as well as by a professional and culturally sensitive relationship building. However, because of the high numbers and individual psychological burdens of the respective clients, the psychosocial counseling, with its diverse tasks, took up most of the working time in order to accompany the clients in their decisive developmental steps for the purpose of a successful integration. The multidisciplinary team made it possible to work with clients also pedagogically with regard to their children and ensure mediation with the youth welfare offices, day-care centers and schools. This, in turn, has a stabilizing effect on the mothers and fosters the process of social participation.

Integration Projects

In addition to the individual consulting work, group offers in the form of integration projects, are always a new opportunity to test ones aptitude, to participate in community and to experience relaxation and joy. Therefore this year again, there were many different offers in small and large groups.

- At the beginning of the year, a creative dance class for clients of the counseling center was provided. It was realized by a culturally sensitive artist who used the curative education dance as an approach and method.
- During a relaxation workshop, given by a respiration and relaxation therapist, the clients were taught simple and everyday techniques. Working with ones body implies an awareness of it and promotes the discovery of inner and outer strength and harmony.
- Two annual highlights were once again the summer festival and the Christmas party, which the team cheerfully celebrated together with clients, their children and volunteers. Women of various cultural and religious backgrounds participated, giving a vibrant face to diversity through their songs and culinary specialties from their countries of origin, and thanks to the generosity of a parish, the women and children could be surprised with Christmas presents.

Public Relations Work

In 2017, SOLWODI employees once again gave a large number of lectures on the topics of "human trafficking" and "work with people affected by trafficking" in schools, communities, associations and networks in Berlin and across national borders. Here is a selection:

- Within the framework of the European network RENATE, one colleague went to the Netherlands and Malta to report on the work of SOLWODI Berlin and the topic of trafficking in human beings.
- A visit to the counseling center by an expert delegation for human trafficking and forced prostitution from the Piedmont region in Italy was of particular benefit. A presentation on the work of the counseling center led to a lively exchange of expertise on a common focus: Trafficking in human beings from Nigeria and the fight against it.
- A small group of women's rights activists from India, invited by the Foreign Office, also came to the counseling center for an exchange. The presentation about the work of SOLWODI was the occasion for a very enriching conversation about the situation of women in India and Germany, especially with regard to human trafficking, its social causes and its effects.
- The counseling center Berlin also participated in a study by the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime UNODC, which investigates the worldwide connection between human trafficking and smuggling of people, with regard to marriage. One employee was interviewed as an expert to this effect.
- A specialist article, by a SOLWODI Berlin staff member, on the subject of human trafficking was placed in the Kenyan magazine "New People" which is widely published in East-Africa.

Training courses to identify victims of human trafficking

- One focal point in 2017 was the training of staff in residential accommodations for refugees. Employees were trained to be aware of the subject of human trafficking, the situation of victims and their identification. The training was funded by the "Masterplan Integration and Security" of the Senate Department for Health, Care and Equality.
- A training course for religious sisters from Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, in cooperation with the international network of Religious Sisters against Human Trafficking Talitha Kum, was co-organized by a staff member of the counseling center. The main purpose of the training was to improve the work of the sisters with regard to preventative work for this high-risk group.

Vernetzung

In order to work successfully, good communication and good networking are indispensable for the counseling center. The staff was active throughout Berlin, but also on a national and international level, in a large number of working groups, committees and networks, and would like to thank these for the good and constructive cooperation.

Among others, they were represented in the following committees or networks:

Federal Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings, KOK – German NGO network against trafficking in human beings; at the Berlin level: Working Group Trafficking in Women, Network Counseling for Returnees, Working Group Refugees of Berlin Archdiocese, Migration and Integration Diocesan

Council, Women's Commission of Berlin Archdiocese, Refugee Council, Network Women in Neukölln, Working Group Domestic Violence, Catholic Church North Neukölln, Network Psychosocial Process Support, Round Table of the Charité for Refugees in Berlin, Volunteer Working Group SOLWODI Berlin.

Internationally, there is a good networking with RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation), with the worldwide network of religious sisters against human trafficking Talitha Kum, and with COSUDOW (Committee for the support of the dignity of women) in Benin City (Nigeria) and Rome.

Gratitude

We thank all those who are touched by the difficult situations of the women and support our work in an advisory, practical or financial manner. We thank all volunteers, all public and church funding agencies, as well as all donors and supporters who made our work possible.

In view of our 10th anniversary in May 2018, special thanks go to our clients, who have enriched and supported us with their strength and hope during all these years.

The SOLWODI Team Berlin