

Hamburg in Solidarity against Corona

Newsletter No. 2

Dear folks,

Here comes the second "Hamburg in Solidarity against Corona" newsletter. This time we'll spend a few words on the status of the Hamburg-wide group and the district work, talk about the problem of "domestic violence" in times of "social distancing", and draw attention to the current situation of prisons.

1. Status of the Hamburg-Wide Groups

First a few words on the status of the Hamburg-wide groups: Yesterday we received a few critical comments. The large group is perceived by many as "spammed", overloaded, and not moderated enough with regard to discriminatory content. We made a conscious decision to create a group where everyone can post and not a channel where only we can write. Because an essential part of solidarity work in the districts is for us to talk to each other and to exchange ideas about the current situation. Nevertheless, we recognize that a group with over 2,000 people has somewhat stricter moderation needs in order to function. Therefore, we will immediately delete all posts that do not match the group description (see the attached message). This also applies to the harmless but overwhelming contributions such as "Hello, I'm Helmut from Hoheluf" or "Great that you are all here!" Similarly, certain questions will be deleted if they have already been answered ("Is there a group in XY?"). We will also delete petitions or links that are shared for the umpteenth time to avoid repetitions. Please also understand it takes some time before contentious content is removed -- we work collective and coordinate making decisions. If you notice problematic content that we may have overlooked, please write to us directly. We hope that, in this sense, we can keep the group open. At the moment we are not able to keep up with consequential moderation. Therefore we've added the designation "unmoderated". With this in mind, we continue to hope for active participation in the district groups.

2. From the districts ...

The initiative make St. Pauli yourself (St. Pauli selber machen) invites you to the first digital district assembly on March 28, 2020. We are extremely excited. Further information: <https://www.facebook.com/stpselbermachen>

In Eimsbüttel, on the corner of Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse and Osterstrasse, a "gift fence" has been set up, where food and hygiene items can be left for homeless people. Further information (Instagram): <https://tinyurl.com/vls76fz>

3. Isolation increases the risk of violence at home

Since the spread of the corona virus has affected all of our lives and brought about many changes, the question of the effects of quarantine and curfew has also been discussed. For example, increasing reports from Wuhan of rising cases of violence at home during the lockdown. All schools and kindergartens in Germany have been closed since March 16, 2020. People are asked to stay at home. #stayathome? But what to do if home is not a safe place?

The managing director of the women's shelter coordination (Frauenhauskoordination) assumes that domestic violence against women* in Germany will also increase in the next few weeks. There are about 350 women's shelters in Germany. The spaces there are already scarce without the Corona crisis. The protection of women* and children from violence must not fall behind in times of the corona crisis. Conflicts between partners and between parents and children can intensify in the current situation, because fears about the future and existence, concerns about the health of people close to them, job loss, lack of leisure opportunities and social contacts burden people and increase frustration and aggression. Women* and children who are affected by domestic violence every day are also at risk from isolation.

Therefore we would like to express our solidarity to all concerned:

You are not alone! You are not alone!

Finding support and advice is not always easy, but even in the current situation there is an opportunity to contact others and get help. Here are some support numbers:

The violence against women helpline: 08000 116 016

The nationwide hotline is ALWAYS available. There is also online advice or chat that can be used. The advice can take place in 17 languages and can send help to your location.

<https://www.hilfetelefon.de>

24/7 central emergency room of the Hamburg Women's Shelters: 040/8000 4 1000

Hamburg women's shelters remain open despite the spread of the pandemic and the closure of various other social institutions!

<https://www.hamburgerfrauenhaeuser.de>

Schutz@24-7-frauenhaeuser-hh.de

EMERGENCY NUMBER for raped women and girls: 040/255 566

<https://www.frauennotruf-hamburg.de>

REFUGEES - Protection and help against forced marriage and domestic violence for girls and women: 040/3864 7878

<http://www.basisundwoege.de/hilfe-suchen-find/bei-sexueller-gewalt>

Children's and youth emergency service Hamburg: 040 428 15 32 00

<https://www.hamburg.de/basfi/kjnd>

There are also many websites that list advice centres near you. One of them is:

<https://www.superheldin-gegen-gewalt.de>

4. Prison situation

Another group that is particularly affected by the corona crisis are prisoners. According to information from the judicial authority, visits to Hamburg are currently only permitted "in justified individual cases after the decision of the institution's management and under special safety precautions (partitioning screen)", which represents a massive deterioration of the situation with potentially dramatic psychological consequences. So-called easing of enforcement, e.g. the possibility of temporarily leaving the prison is currently no longer granted.

At least replacement custodial sentences are currently no longer enforced. If you cannot pay a fine, you will no longer end up in prison.

In general, it can be doubted that the prisons are able to guarantee adequate healthcare in the event of an outbreak of the viral disease. A confirmed corona case has already occurred in the Hamburg JVA Glasmoor. The lack of transparency and effectiveness of the measures taken are reported on the homepage of the Prisoners' Union Nationwide Organization (GG/BO; Gefangenengewerkschaft Bundesweite Organisation)

If you have important information on other topics for the newsletter, please write to us!

Admin group of Hamburg in solidarity against Corona, 22.3.2020
(*Special thanks to the translation collective for their support!*)