



ALLZEITORTE: Building Connections, Sharing Experiences and Creating Together

As part of our Allzeitorte project, a special process of meeting, exchanging and learning together has gradually developed between Women in Exile, Home in Exile and Haus des Wandels.

Creating spaces for meeting and exchange

It all began with a first meeting at the project house of Haus des Wandels. We had the opportunity to get to know one another, discover our different spaces and projects, and above all, share our experiences, ways of working and ideas.

Over time, these meetings have become important spaces for exchanging perspectives and talking about our different realities of life. We have shared experiences as women and activists, discussed different ways of organising ourselves, and explored how we can build solidarity within our projects and communities.

We have learned a lot from one another. These encounters have shown us how important it is to create open and welcoming spaces where people can meet, feel comfortable, share their experiences and learn from each other.

Shared meals, conversations, activities and informal moments all play an important role in building these connections. It is often during these simple and spontaneous moments that new relationships and ideas emerge.

A warm gathering in Markgrafpieske

Our most recent gathering took place at the Home

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in Exile project house in Markgrafpieske, where we invited our neighbours to come and discover our project and spend time together.

We were very happy that our neighbours joined us. Around the barbecue, we shared a meal and had many interesting conversations in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. It was an opportunity to get to know each other better, exchange experiences and build new connections with people from the neighbourhood.

After the meal, we gathered around the campfire. The warmth of the fire and the peaceful atmosphere of the evening created a wonderful space for further exchange. We continued talking, sharing stories, laughing and listening to one another.

We also took the opportunity to present the Women in Exile archive, which documents many years of engagement, struggles and activism by refugee and migrant women. The archive preserves important experiences, stories and memories that are part of our collective history.

Building lasting connections

Our gathering in Markgrafpieske once again showed us that Allzeitorte is much more than a series of meetings. It is a collective process of building con-



nections, strengthening solidarity and creating relationships beyond our different projects and spaces.

By opening our doors, sharing a meal, talking around a fire and taking the time to listen to one another, we create opportunities for people to meet who might otherwise never have crossed paths.

These simple moments are precious. They allow us to understand one another better, share our experiences and imagine new ways of living together.

We look forward to continuing this journey with Women in Exile, Home in Exile, Haus des Wandels, our neighbours and everyone who would like to take part in this process and contribute to building new spaces of solidarity and connection.

GROWING SOLIDARITY: The Garden at Home in Exile



The garden at Home in Exile in Markgrafpieske is beginning to take shape as more than a place to grow food. It is becoming a shared space for care, connection, learning and solidarity.

Even during the hottest days of summer, when the grass grows waist-high and nettles spread across the grounds, the garden is visibly coming alive. Bright pattypan squashes emerge from the greenery, while green and yellow courgettes grow rapidly. Beneath the old fruit trees, pears and quince hang from lichen-covered branches, alongside plums, apples and strawberries. Peaches are now ripening, adding to the abundance already offered by the land.

There have been challenges, too. The soil is new to us, and the heat has made growing spring onions difficult. Yet many crops are thriving. Courgettes, Irish and sweet potatoes, kale and cowpeas are growing well, as are rosemary and peppermint. In the greenhouse, the tomatoes are waiting for more light before they flower. The large walnut tree remains a striking reminder of what the grounds were already providing

before the garden project began.

As no one yet lives permanently at the house, women travel from across Brandenburg to water and care for the plants. These journeys are an important part of the project. They are acts of collective responsibility and a way of building a relationship with a place that is gradually becoming a shared home.

The garden also creates opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences — between participants, with those living at Karla*hof, and through learning directly from the land. What grows here is shaped by experimentation, cooperation and shared effort.

For Home in Exile, creating spaces where people can meet, organise and support one another is central to building solidarity. The garden offers a practical way to do this:

working together, sharing resources and knowledge, and creating a space where people can step out of isolation and strengthen connections.

With every plant nurtured and every journey made to care for the garden, we are cultivating not only food, but also community, resilience and collective power.

FROM THE EXHIBITION TO THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE: Preserving 20 Years of Women's History

Following our exhibition, Women in Exile is now taking the next important step: we are transforming our collection into a Digital Archive that will preserve and make accessible the stories, experiences, struggles, and achievements of refugee women over the past 20 years.

Our history began with a small group of women determined to document the experiences of women in exile: their struggles to be recognised and accepted by the system, their resistance to racism and sexism, their demonstrations together with solidarity groups and friends, and the spaces they created to support one another. Through photographs, videos, newsletters, gazettes, banners, documents, and testimonies, we have brought together a rich collection documenting this history.

The exhibition brought together important chapters of our collective work and highlighted three central areas: Lagers and Heims, Bus Tours, and Saturday Meetings. Each section revealed different aspects of refugee women's everyday lives, their resistance and solidarity, and their determination to create change.

The exhibition made this history accessible to a wider audience and generated strong interest beyond the exhibition space. After the exhibition closed, we received several requests to organise exhibition tours for different groups, students, and communities in different places across Europe. Visitors were deeply moved and impressed as they discovered the stories and experiences presented in the exhibition.

However, our collection is far larger than what could be shown in a physical exhibition space. This limitation has led us to take another important step: creating a Digital Archive, which will allow us to preserve and share a much larger part of our work.



The archive will bring together photographs, videos, testimonies, documents, banners, newsletters, and many other materials, while also providing the context behind them.

Most importantly, the voices and experiences of refugee women will remain at the heart of the archive. The move from a collection built up over many years, to an exhibition, and now to a Digital Archive represents an important step in preserving our history. This is more than an archival project; it is an act of remembrance and recognition.

The archive allows us to honour the struggles and solidarity that have shaped our collective journey and to ensure that these experiences continue to inform conversations about migration, asylum, racism, gender, and human rights.

We hope that this archive will remain an important resource for future generations, allowing them to discover the stories, struggles, and solidarities that have helped shape the future they inherit.

Beyond the BEZAHLKARTE

Women in Exile and Friends, Seebrücke Potsdam, Nein zur Bezahlkarte, We'll come United, the Protestant Church of Potsdam and individual persons against the Bezahlkarte-payment card have formed an alliance to campaign to abolish the payment card: "Solidarity, not Bezahlkarte!"

So far, the alliance made a federal press conference in the parliament on the 21st September. On the 25th September together we gave the petition with more than five thousand signature to the vice-president of Brandenburg Parliament. This was followed by a demonstration from the parliament to the state chancellor.

Later in the afternoon, we held a rally outside the offices of Publk GmbH in Berlin. We wanted to draw attention to the private companies behind the Bezahlkarte – Publk GmbH, SAP, Secupay AG and Visa – who make millions of euros from Bezahlkarte.

But to our surprise we were not allowed by Police to protest directly in front of the office, the office sign had been removed and private security guards had been hired to protect the building. **Are these german capitalist tech bros so afraid of some refugee women and their friends?!**

For those affected, the reality of the payment card hits the minute they are transferred from the first reception centre - Eisenhüttenstadt in this case. The same applies to those who were previously receiving the state's basic financial security on their bank accounts and are suddenly issued with a Bezahlkarte instead.

Below are different testimonies on what it means when this reality hits.

When V. was transferred to a collective accommodation from the reception centre, she was issued with a payment card: *"The true cruelty of the Bezahlkarte hit me during my very first month after I was transferred from the first reception camp of Eisenhüttenstadt. I was, from the €455 which were deposited from the social welfare office, permitted to withdraw just so little cash from my "account". This created a constant, heavy anxiety [in*



me]. It was deeply humiliating to be cut off from everyday life, [as I no longer had the] freedom of deciding how I could manage this money.

The nightmare of being unable to buy fresh food at a street market, join colleagues for a cheap cup of coffee, or handle a minor emergency. I felt the system had reduced me from a human to a card number, replacing dignity with forced isolation.

Looking back, receiving my €181 in cash at the lager [I lived in] before, felt completely different. The shift to the Bezahlkarte happened with no explanation as to why my access to cash would be practically cut off.

Using a payment card at the supermarket can [also] be stressful. The cashier and others are aware that this is not an ordinary bank card, and I feel caught up in a system that treats me differently. The environment feels cold and using that card makes me feel stigmatized, causing immense stress and frustration."

And from L.: *"I received my payment card in March 2025 and was shocked. There was no opportunity to appeal or ask questions. The transition was not smooth. It is illogical to put money on a card and then decide how that person is allowed to spend it. Having money without the freedom to choose how to use it is pointless.*

The card is not issued to everyone. I don't know the criteria, and some Landkreise [districts] still don't have them. People there still get their money into their bank accounts. This makes the system seem unfair and raises questions about equal treatment. I feel the card is meant to frustrate, disappoint and humiliate."



KEEP IN TOUCH

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/womeninexile>
Facebook: "Women in Exile & Friends"
Tel: 0331-24348233 | Email: info@women-in-exile.net

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