

kindly invites to a panel discussion on:

Gender, Migration and Security

Security concerns of female refugees from Eritrea and the Horn of Africa

Friday, 13th of October 2017, 15:00 - 17:00h

Otto Mauer Zentrum, Währingerstr. 2-4/22 (Mezzanin), 1090 Vienna

Speakers:

Helen Kidan (Political Scientist, Network of Eritrean Women, UK)

Sadia Hassanen (Social Anthropologist, Network of Eritrean Women, Sweden)

Laurie Lijnders (Anthropologist, University of London)

Viviane Tassi Bela (Consultant on Women, Peace and Security)

Facilitation: Beatrix Bücher-Aniyamuzaala (Consultant on Humanitarian Action)

Language: English

Background:

In this panel discussion we seek to explore the term „security“ from the perspective of female refugees from the Horn of Africa, specifically from Eritrea. Human rights violations and security concerns are reasons for women to flee or migrate from the Horn of Africa region, and security issues are most relevant for women on the road, in refugee camps, in transit and host countries. But how do international and European policies respond to migrant and refugee women’s security concerns?

The speakers will highlight neglected dimensions of the thematic cluster “migration and security”, which is too often merely seen from the perspective of European border control. The contributions of the activists from the Network of Eritrean Women (NEW) and other experts will reveal some of the contradictions between the democratic, humanitarian and gender-equality related claims of Europeans and the experiences of women who flee their countries. They will also discuss how to protect and promote women’s rights.

In the discussion with the audience we hope to inspire solidarity and hear about ideas and proposals for alternative action for civil society and politics.

17.00-19.00h: Snacks and informal gathering

We look forward to welcoming you! Your registration helps us to better organize the event.

Kindly register with: thallmayer@wide-netzwerk.at

Organized in cooperation with:



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With special thanks to Ishraga Mustafa-Hamid, coordinator of the meeting of the Network of Eritrean Women (NEW) in October 2017 in Vienna, for the cooperation!

Please note: Otto Mauer Zentrum is not accessible barrier-free. Please contact office@wide-netzwerk.at.

About the speakers:

Helen Kidan is a political scientist and human rights activist. She has done her Bachelor in Third World Studies and Politics and her Masters Degree in International Relations. Helen has worked in various capacities and co-founded Horn Human Rights in 1998. She went on to co-found and work in Eritrean Youth UK and later joined the Eritrean Movement for Democracy and Human Rights and the Network of Eritrean Women. Helen had done research on Eritrean women during the independence struggle and their participation post independence, and on the Eritrean/Ethiopian border conflict of 1998 with emphasis on the human rights situation affecting border communities. She lives in the UK.

Sadia Hassanen, born in Eritrea, has received a Bachelor in Sociology and a Master Degree in Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences at the International School at Umeå University in Sweden, as well as a PhD in Human Geography at the Stockholm University in 2007. Between 2009 and 2012, Sadia was a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Research in International Migration and Ethnic Relations and the Department of Social Anthropology at the Stockholm University. Her research interests are international migration movements, Horn of Africa peoples and their diasporas, and the impact of migration on gender roles, especially among African migrants and refugees.

Laurie Lijnders is an anthropologist whose work has focused on human trafficking, asylum and border policies and violence along the migration route from the Horn of Africa to the Middle East and Europe, with a particular focus on women. She has done research in urban settings and refugee camps in Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. Currently, she is a PhD candidate with the Centre for Gender Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her current research explores how experiences of displacement influence motherhood and family dynamics lived.

Viviane Tassi Bela is a gender and leadership expert. She holds an MBA and works as an international consultant in the areas of gender analysis, political and economic empowerment of women in sensitive or post conflict settings, and advocacy for gender equality and women, peace and security issues. Her professional experiences over the past ten years cover various countries such as Cameroon, Austria, Germany, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Belgium. Currently, Viviane does a PhD research on Gender and Leadership at the University of Liverpool (UK).

Beatrix Bücher-Aniyamuzaala studied International Development at the Complutense University of Madrid, and History, English, and Sociology at the University of Vienna. She is currently pursuing a PhD at Vienna University, focusing on Humanitarian Ethics. She has ten years of practical experience in humanitarian action from Jordan, Palestine, Spain, and Austria. In 2014 and 2015, she conducted assessments of the situation of Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan, and in 2016, she co-authored a report on the livelihoods of Syrian women. Beatrix co-founded "360°Access" to promote diversity and inclusion in humanitarian and development initiatives. She lives in Vienna.

About the organizers:

WIDE is a network for women's rights and feminist perspectives in development, based in Vienna.

www.wide-netzwerk.at

WIDE (Austria) is part of the European WIDE+ network, www.wideplus.org

The **Network of Eritrean Women (NEW)** is an independent global Eritrean women's movement founded by Eritrean diaspora women in 2013, in order to mobilise, actively promote, advocate and facilitate the empowerment of Eritrean women to fight oppression and discrimination.