



Perlenschatz
Refuge. Counselling. Intercultural.

A real chance for integration

Perlenschatz

Women with massive experiences of violence or traumatic experiences of war and escape can develop as survival and coping strategies addictions, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Their children may also be traumatized by their own experiences or by violence against their mother. For this reason, we provide intensive trauma therapy and counseling until they can integrate as best as possible in Germany. This includes concrete life support: We offer legal advice and support in dealing with authorities, visiting doctors, as well as in the search for training, employment or housing.

German lessons, seminars and workshops on differences of shame and guilt culture, on intercultural competence, on how to deal with tight budgets, creative offers or tutoring for children are offered by employees and volunteers for a successful integration.

The refuge, run by house parents and social workers as living communities, is intended to meet the collectivist way of life of those affected and to be the best possible substitute for a family. Mentoring families support integration and remain available for their protégés even after they have moved into their own apartments.



Perlenschatz builds shelters for refugee and migrant women, predominantly from patriarchal cultural backgrounds, who

- are suffering psychological or physical/sexual violence, humiliation, isolation, torture or abuse, regardless of residence status, religious affiliation, age or income
- are at risk of honor killings or forced marriage („imported brides“)
- suffer from polygamous marriage
- are threatened or affected by human trafficking or forced prostitution
- converted or are in need of protection for other reasons.

To do this, we ask you to partner with us. Give abused women and their children a real chance of integration. Give appreciation, a future and dignity. Make their lives shine.

Kontakt

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BIC: GENODEF1EK1

Perlenschatz Stiftung (Donations and External Donations)
KD-Bank Dortmund
IBAN: DE66 3506 0190 1030 0710 14
BIC: GENODED1DKD



„Women in need deserve our support. Many are defenseless and have no lawyer. They need a place of refuge and people who are there for them. Women's rights are human rights! Perlenschatz stands up for them.“



Prof. Dr. Christiane Schirmacher
Scholar of Islamic Studies, Member of the Board of Trustees of the German Institute for Human Rights

German data protection regulations apply.

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The pearl that must not shine

Faridah crouches on the floor and stares ahead. Heavy thoughts circle in the darkness and find no light. Her right arm aches. She has used up her tears. Anger that could still give her some strength has long given way to resignation.

A unique, precious pearl or even a gemstone - she should be. That is the meaning of her name. These are the qualities her parents wished for her. But don't pearls and precious stones have the purpose to shine and sparkle, to be unique and precious? Faridah feels worthless. How she would love to shine! But life offers her no light to do so. She has imagined it quite differently. First, she had to drop out of school because she was supposed to marry Makin. He had promised her a better life. In Germany. And now? He rarely allows her to leave the house. And humiliates her constantly. She has no friends. She was not allowed to learn the foreign language. Makin uses her, when and how it suits him. His hand slips faster and faster.

Gently she caresses her belly. Her baby urgently needs a different environment. But how can she take responsibility for a child - lonely and without a job? Who will protect them both? She has not learned how life works. In the past, her father made the decisions for her. After her marriage, it was her husband. Where can she escape to? How only shall she start to build something new ...?



Lack of prospects paralyzes and robs all courage

According to a study by the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), one third of women in the European Union between the ages of 15 and 74 suffer physical and/or sexual violence. In Germany, the proportion is even higher than the EU average at 35 percent. Two-thirds of the women affected in Germany are estimated to have suffered severe or very severe violence. This is the shocking result of the representative study of the BMFSFJ „Living situation, security and health of women in Germany“. Women are thus much more at risk of domestic violence than of other violent crimes. And this is not only the case in socially deprived areas. Both the FRA and the BMFSFJ study „Violence against Women in Couple Relationships“ show that women in high educational and social classes are also victims of violence to a much greater extent than was previously assumed. But women from Asia and the Middle East are particularly affected, reports the World Health Organization.

For these oppressed women, important values such as freedom, dignity, esteem and self-determination often remain foreign words - and thus meaningless. **Perlenschatz** sees itself entrusted with offering women from patriarchal cultural circles a real perspective. Because they have no lobby and hardly any chances of integration. These pearls, especially refugee women, need refuge and a future.

A future in dignity and freedom. This is what we stand up for!

All people have a right to live in dignity and freedom. In our democratically governed country, human rights are considered worthy of protection. And that for everyone. That is why we want to intervene to help and protect where these original Christian values - for which we stand as a society in our democracy - are undermined. And instead, despotism, violence, tyranny and coldness of heart prevail. As Christians, we want to fulfill the mission of loving our neighbors and support those affected according to the values of the Christian idea of man. With house parents and pedagogical specialists. We help women who are beaten, raped, persecuted, insulted and humiliated or who even have to fear for their lives. This requires more than just giving them a roof over their heads. We reach out to those affected and offer them and their children individual care - tailored to their needs. **Perlenschatz** is committed to their integration without taking away their cultural or religious identity. We lead them to freedom and accompany them to a healed, self-determined life. Only in this way can their dignity be restored. Only in this way can women freely develop their potential without fear. At the same time, **Perlenschatz** is not meant to be a one-way street for our protégés: If a genuine reconciliation with husband or relatives is possible, we encourage it. In order to protect our pearls and their children and to make them shine again, **Perlenschatz e. V.** operates its own shelter with the **Perlenschatz Foundation** and would like to build up others. In addition, we have cooperation partners and also use private living space, as needed. **Perlenschatz** needs volunteers and many partners: friends and supporters with one-time or regular small or large contributions.



Yes, I want to make women in need shine and become a partner of the Perlenschatz Foundation or Perlenschatz e.V.

- by a one-time donation of _____ €.
- as a sponsor with a monthly quarterly yearly donation of 50€ 100€ 200€ _____ €
 by standing order by direct debit.
- by passing on _____ copies of the available flyer.
- by an information meeting. Please contact me.
- by a benefit meeting: _____ . Please send me flyers and posters.
- by donating gifts at my birthday party. Please send me further information.
- by _____

Of course, donors/supporters in Germany receive an annual donation.

Can you tell us how you found out about **Perlenschatz**?

Internet Friends Event: _____ _____

Your date of birth? _____ Your profession? _____

Every help counts! Help empower women to live and thrive. **Thank you!**

Perlenschatz ...

- ... needs donations for shelters nationwide, especially for migrant and refugee women with their children. In case of violence in the name of „honor“.
- ... offers integration and life support as well as trauma therapy.
- ... is assisted by house parents, social pedagogues, educators and therapists.