



Der Frauentag wird zum Fest der Nationen

Learning from each other and exchanging themselves: The range of stalls in the old town hall is as diverse as the women themselves.

By Louisa Houben

Stolberg. Women are well organized and networked, which is evident on this international women's day. They offer self-made delicacies from Albania, Turkey and Morocco sell English books, work with the children and, above all, inform and advise each other. The ladies meet each other in the old town hall to get in touch: in German, Turkish, English, Russian ...

"We can learn a lot from each other," stresses Susanne Goldmann, Equality Commissioner of the City of Stolberg and refers to the "well organized" women's sections of the Stolberg mosques, which have decorated tables in the town hall with sweets and contribute to the fact that the event well is visited. "Flia" is one of the many hearty pastries offered by the ladies of the Islamic Albanian Cultural Center. People have that with a cup of lemon tea.

At another table, a visitor can be decorated with henna, at another stand the girls' hair is braided to many small plaits and in the fashion show one or the other finds something nice to wear. The staircase at the town hall becomes the stage of Zumba dancers and the children of the figurative theater "Spiegelei" bring their dolls to life. The offer is as diverse as the participants of the Women's Day itself.

Diversity in the foreground

Together with intern Liridona Gashi and Khairunnissa Mazeena Ismail, from "IG Frauen und Mädchen", Susanne Goldmann, Equality Officer of the city organized the events on the International Women's Day.

In addition to the offerings on Saturday, the International World Prayer Day of Women took place in the Ecumenical Community Center on Friday and the International Women's Day on Sunday in the DITIB Mosque. "We are celebrating a festival for three days – that's something one should copy," says Susanne Goldmann.

Regarding the equality, much has already been achieved in Stolberg and its urban community. But there is still work to be done. Especially where people do not experience this way of living, women were harassed and injured, physically as well as mentally.

Lawyer Seyda Berber knows about the suffering of the broken women. She is responsible for bullying, stalking and domestic violence. She had the experience that the German language is a major problem. "With my lecture, I would like to contribute to more information," explains the lawyer. In German and then in Turkish, she gives all of them the opportunity to gain more insights into women's rights and learn how victims of harassment can defend themselves.



In addition to other lectures on topics such as child care or maintenance payments, information desks from daymothers, the AWO, Caritas or the midwife practice "Lebenslinie" offer counseling. Beatrice Koll and Dorothee Bremen provide information about the miserable future of their colleagues. Because the costs of liability insurance for midwives are exploding. The Nuremberg insurance group, which has been known as one of the few providers to insure midwife liability insurance, wants to withdraw from business from summer 2015.

For midwives, this means that they are hardly able to take care of their own birthrates and provide pre- and aftercare. "This means, on the one hand, the job for freelancers and for the women, that they are no longer free to choose which midwife takes care of them during pregnancy. This makes women's self-determination extremely limited," explains Koll.

They eagerly collect signatures for the ongoing Internet petition and win supporters.

During the international women's day there is really something going on at old town hall in Stolberg. The ladies use the opportunity to exchange information, to get information or to give advice, to get in touch with each other and maybe to celebrate a little bit.