



Gröpelinger News

voices from the neighbourhood #3



www.solidarisch-in-groepelingen.de

You are holding in your hands the new neighbourhood newspaper of Solidarisch in Gröpelingen. In the newspaper we always publish an interview with people from the district. There are also information about legal questions, political texts, a quiz, riddles and much more.

Melissa and Jana living in a shared house in Gröpelingen since February 2020.

How your daily life changed due Corona?

M: I work for a child and youth welfare organisation and have been in the home office since mid-March. At the beginning of the Corona period I was with my sister and looked after her children because she is single parent and her boss wasn't fan of home office.

J: Normally I've been meeting a lot of people. Now I use the phone more but it's not the same as in real life. What went bad because of Corona: I faxed my ALG II application to the JobCenter on a Tuesday. One day later the JobCenter closed the visitor traffic. I never got an answer to my application and therefore no money.

What effects do you see in Gröpelingen?

J: I often see police checking and sending people away in the Grünstreifen. The control measures seem intimidating. But what I like is that there are many solidarity groups: There is the group neighbourhood help, which go shopping for others and the gift fence (fence where people hang donations for the homeless).

Do you have more or less contact to your neighbours now?

M: Since it's warmer we've had more contact and we talk a lot in the garden. When there was a fire the other day, everyone was in the street and I had a real neighbourhood feeling. We live on a building site, that's a real noise pollution. I would like to exchange ideas with all the residents, but how does that work during Corona?

What do you think about the measures of the government or also here in Bremen?

M: Opening shops is okay, but why the Bundesliga games? They say there are 60,000 jobs attached to them. Can you count that against the fact that schools and day care centres are closed? For whom are the test capacities available? Wouldn't it be better to test more in the social sector? Violence that happens in families cannot be discussed over the phone.

And do you think there are long-term effects?

J: I hope that the criticism of capitalism will be spread more widely. Looking back on the financial crisis in 2008, I can see that Germany is doing well as usual and that in the long term it will probably hit other countries harder than Germany.

M: It will also have negative consequences for the healthcare sector in the long term if all the people who are currently doing care work unpaid or working in care professions don't even get leave to recuperate but simply continue to work.

Business as usual? What must change after the crisis?

M: Something must be done about the housing shortage and high rents. Putting a brake on rents (Mietpreisbremse) like in Berlin does not help much. It is not acceptable to work 24 hours a day to be able to pay the rent.

J: There have to be an adequate pay for care & nursing work. There must be no more mass housing. You should listen to the needs of the people who live there. And the Federal Government should consider whom it is now supporting, especially in view of the climate crisis.

The consequences of the Corona crisis are dangerous for a lot of people. Many of them are afraid of getting infected or losing loved ones. On top of that come the financial scares or extra stress at home. As we cannot so easily meet with each other anymore, many are left to handle their problems alone.

We want to counter this!

Starting from now, we will regularly publish experiences of people from Groningen on Facebook, on our website and in this journal. Write to us on how your life has changed due to Corona. What does solidarity mean to you in times of Corona? And what can we do so that at the end we don't carry the cost of the crisis, while billions are being pumped into the financial sector

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The whole interview you can find on facebook or our homepage.

How are women affected in Corona crisis?

Corona crisis has changed the life of many people drastically. But in which fields are womyn affected most? What kind of problems do they have to face?

From one day to the next kindergardens and schools have closed. Still it's mainly womyn who are in charge for child care and household. Therefore they are especially affected by providing child care at home and working at the same time. The already difficult situation to accomodate a number of things is now intensified. Additionally playgrounds and youth centers were closed, so many families have suffered even more stress and overextension, especially when living in small flats. A lot of mothers, especially single parents, have been desperate because no perspective was shown. Nobody could say for how long kindergardens and schools had to be closed and support was rarely given.

Child care, cleaning, washing, cooking and a lot more is mostly not even approved as work. If a woman raises four children, runs the whole household and nurses their parents at the same time, she doesn't even gets any money or pension. Work at home and work in a factory, an office, a building site or wherever, aren't considered equal. But not only at home, also in whole society a lot of important work like nursing and care work are still beared by womyn for example in elderly homes, kindergardens or hospitals. And even though we all depend on those kind of work, the wages in these fields are extremely low.

During Corona crisis many sectors switched to home office, but when working with people it's simply not possible. So it's mainly womyn who had to continue working despite the health risk.

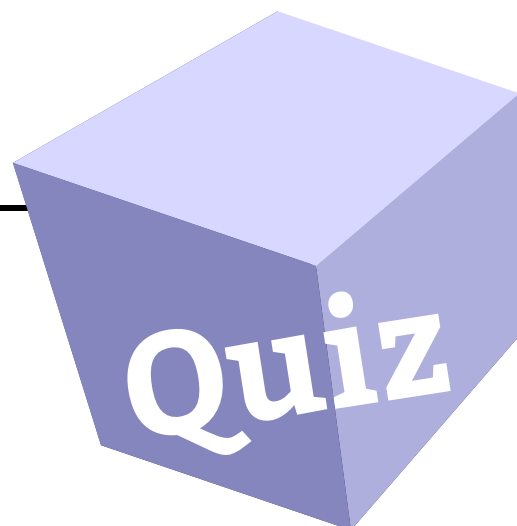
For a different society and a better life free of fear and violence, in which everybody feels responsible equally for nursing and caring for children, sick and elderly people and not only womyn have to bear it on their shoulders.

Working conditions are already bad in hospitals and elderly homes. A bad wage and too less staff cause permanent overload. The work pensum is not makeable, all the more if one tries to fulfill all security measures. Instead of creating relief an emergency decree increased possible work duration during Corona up to 12 hours daily and reduced break times.

Womyn are also affected more compared to men by another topic. Staying at home does only work if there is a home that is a safe space. Domestic violence, meaning physical, verbal, mental or sexualised violence and abuse in close relationships affects mainly womyn and children. Offenders are male (ex-)partners or family members in most of the cases. Genderbased violence and femicides have increased in the crisis. During curfew, contact limitation or quarantine it is even harder to get out of a situation of domestic violence because opportunities are limited to flee to a different place and to defend oneself.

In some neighbourhoods already before Corona womyn have started to get together and meet already. They say it is important for them to have a place where womyn can go on exchange and talk about their problems, worries and wishes. But also to laugh together, spent time with each other and get to know one another, to brace oneself and understand the own circumstances better.

We should create those spaces also in Gröpelingen! Let's get together when Corona crisis is over.



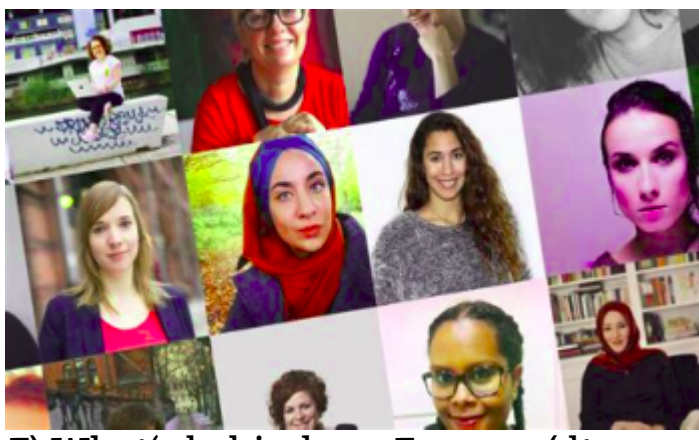
A) Since when women in Germany are allowed to vote in Germany?

B) How much less do women earn than men?

C) How many women experience violence in their lives?

D) What means #notOneMore?

E) To which group this women belong?



F) What's behind #noExcuses (dt. #ausnahmslos)

G) Where is this graffiti and what does it mean?

H) Since when women in Germany are allowed to do amateur boxing?

i) Since when in Germany rape is forbidden in marriage?

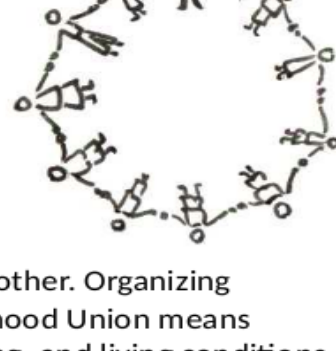
J) Am I allowed to terminate a pregnancy?

Solidarisch in Gröpelingen

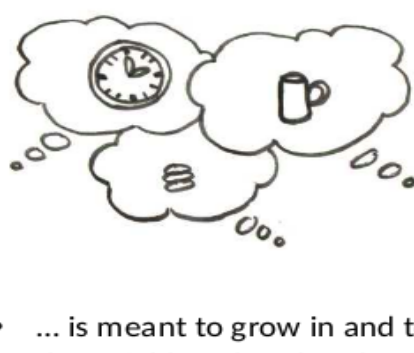
- ... is a place to come together. That's why there are open cafes and film evenings. We celebrate together, e.g. on 1 May (International Labour Day) and we do have open breakfasts together with people from the neighbourhood in summer.



- ... means supporting each other. Organizing ourselves in the Neighbourhood Union means fighting against bad working- and living conditions, trouble with Jobcenter, racism and other problems appearing in daily life. We also have a low-threshold Cafe for learning German Language, coaching for maths for pupils, information realtlet to problems concerning industrial law etc.



- ... means collective action. We don't want to handle our problems alone and on our own any longer, but to fight together for our concerns.



- ... is independent of political parties, government institutions and the official unions. We pay our rent and other things (like coffee and tea for our meeting place) on our own, that's why donations (time, things, money) are always welcome.



- A) In November 1918 the right to vote for women was introduced. This was preceded by decades of struggle and organisation.
- B) At 27%, the difference in income between women and men in Germany is relatively high by international comparison. In addition to bringing up children and part-time work, the fact that jobs in which mainly women work are generally less well paid also has a role to play.
- C) Every third woman experiences physical and/or sexualised violence at least once in her life. Women from all social backgrounds are affected. Every third day a woman is murdered. In many cases the violence is committed by (ex-)partners or family members.
- D) Is a feminist movement against feminicides and violence against women starting from Argentina. It gives a voice to the many women who suffer violence and the families left behind and fights for justice. The hashtag #NiUnaMenos (#no more) has spread from Argentina to the whole world.
- E) The Gulabi Gang is a group of predominantly women in Northern India who collectively oppose violence against women and gender inequality. They organize protests, expose grievances, hinder forced marriages, educate each other to be economically independent and able to defend themselves.
- F) 'No excuses', is a feminist initiative. It was founded by female journalists in Germany as a reaction to the racist reporting after New Year's Eve in Cologne 2016. The aim is to stand together against sexism and sexualised violence as well as against racism.
- G) The graffiti was created during the protests in Iraq. It says: "Half of society is the revolution". Women played a central role in the protests in Iraq.
- H) Since 1995. The German Amateur Boxing Association (DABV) has stood in the way for over a year until the application was finally approved and women were allowed to take part in official competitions.
- I) Only since 1997, misunderstanding marriage as a carte blanche shows that many partners believed that they were entitled to their wife in some way, whether they wanted it themselves or not. Unfortunately, this view has not yet been completely dispelled.
- J) Abortion is officially not legal, but is not prosecuted according to certain criteria. Within the first 12 weeks, abortion can be performed after visiting a counselling centre. Normally the health insurance does not cover the costs.