

Oral Statement by TransInterQueer e.V.

to the 66th session of the CEDAW committee to consider the Seventh and Eighth Periodic Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Parallel Report submitted by TransInterQueer e.V.

Statement on trans female refugee issues by Faustin Vierrath
Contact: faustin@transinterqueer.org, +491772800819



I would never have imagined that something as simple as exercising my right as a trans woman to use the ladies' toilet would put me at risk of being bullied by security at LAGeSo¹, until it actually happened.

– end of quote. Refugee women who happen to be transgender face (1) threats and harassment at the hands of fellow refugees as well as staff in accommodations and government authorities; (2) obstacles to continuing hormone treatment; (3) ridicule and obstruction by interpreters when trying to claim asylum on the grounds of gender identity based prosecution.

We urge the committee to recommend the Federal Government

- to explicitly recognize trans and gender non-conforming refugees as a particularly vulnerable group with special needs for protection in accordance with EU Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU, following the example of Berlin
- to ensure safe accommodation and access to hormone treatment e.g. through amendments of the Asylum-Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG)
- to ensure training and quality assurance regarding trans rights for interpreters, "decision-makers", medical, security and other staff at refugee accommodations as well as government authorities responsible for refugee issues.
- to appoint specially-commissioned case-officers for LGBTI issues at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) and its branch offices.

¹ Berlin regional authority responsible for registration and accommodation of refugees until 2016.