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Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology / University of Duhok
in Cooperation with the Civil Peace Service / giz

The First International Conference on Genocide and Trauma

4th - 5th May 2018
Conference Center
University of Duhok



The First International Conference on Genocide and Mass Trauma

4th and 5th of May 2018
at the University of Duhok

Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology
- University of Duhok -

in Cooperation with the
German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH
Civil Peace Service (ZFD) Germany



**International Conference in Duhok
Genocide and Mass Trauma**

Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology, University of Duhok

04.05. – 05.05.2018

University of Duhok

The Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at the University of Duhok and ZFD (German Peace Services) aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, research scholars and practitioner to exchange and share their experiences and results about all aspects of Genocide, Trauma, Reconciliation and Peace for better Future in Iraq. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the field of Genocide Studies and Traumatology.

The organizers invite papers, panels and roundtables on any aspect of genocide and mass trauma.

Other topics of interest include but are not restricted to:

- Genocide, War crimes and crimes against humanity
- Terror, war and mass violence
- Individual cases or comparative analyses of genocide or mass trauma
- Representations of genocide in literature, film, art, music and other media
- Prevention and Intervention of collective violence
- The politics of apology, reconciliation and restitution
- Gender and mass trauma
- Children in Genocide
- Ethnic, Religion, Minorities and Trauma
- Psychosocial support of survivors
- Psychotraumatology and Trauma Treatment
- Transgenerational transmission of Trauma
- Memorialization and commemoration of atrocities
- Transitional justice and mass trauma

We welcome interdisciplinary and theoretically informed approaches as well as transdisciplinary dialogue. Submissions from scholars, postgraduate students, as well as practitioners and researchers working in government, the NGO sector and other institutions are invited.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan

Welcome Speech

Prof. Dr. Mosleh Duhoky

President of the University of Duhok

Dear Mr. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Guests,

I would like to welcome you all at the University of Duhok for the “International Conference of Genocide and Mass Trauma“

As you know the University of Duhok is always pioneer in providing the quality graduate to cater the society needs. For that goal in 2016 we Initiate Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology within our premises to offer a Master Degree in Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology. We are quite aware of the sever demands for such services to people in our region whom might need it, especially after ISIS attack and due to all the turmoil that our area went through during the last three decades. This institute was initiated and supported with tremendous help of the German authorities, right from day one. We always appreciate the involvement of German authorities in this noble goal, through supporting the project financially and academically especially the State Baden Württemberg.

It is worth mentioning that this joint project is one of several joint projects of the University of Duhok with the German universities, and in this occasion I would like to highlight our fruitful collaboration with Dortmund University through offering joint Bachelor degree in Spatial Planning.

It is extremely important for us to have potential graduates from this institute that well equipped with the most up-to-date knowledge in their field of study, and to make use of having German expertise involvement.

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the hard and productive work of the German team and in particular Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan from the State University for his continuous supervision on the project.

I wish your conference enriching discussion and fruitful results.

Thanking you for organizing this important event.

Prof. Dr. Mosleh Duhoky

President of the University of Duhok

Dr. Andreas Selmeçi

Program Coordinator of Civil Peace Service, GIZ Iraq

Draft Welcome Speech for Conference on Genocide and Mass Trauma

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Excellences, Colleagues, Friends, Guests from far abroad and Students,

On behalf of the Civil Peace Service of German International Cooperation (GIZ) I would like to thank the Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at University of Dohuk for organizing this International Conference on Genocide and Mass Trauma. Thanks for allowing me to give you this brief welcome speech.

From 2014 to 2017, the so-called “Islamic State” or Daesh committed most serious crimes against members from various religious and ethnic minorities and any moderate Muslim who did not fit under their rule. With no doubt the Yezidi people were attacked most heavily. Some Yezidi women, who had experienced the murder of their family members and sexual enslavement, became very outspoken. UN commissions and various government and parliaments recognized genocide. It was as if the genocidal campaigns of the Saddam Hussein regime against the Kurdish people in 1980ies were repeated despite all vows that such crimes could not happen again in Iraq.

The Civil Peace Service or ZFD was founded in 1999 as a consortium of eight bigger agencies of German civil society. Together, these agencies receive funds from the German Federal Government for implementing peace programs in more than 20 countries. In Iraq, the ZFD program of GIZ started end of last year. It is dedicated to assist Iraqi people in coping with the effects of the Daesh crimes. We will provide international advisors to work on various political, legal, psychosocial and educational aspects of dealing with the past. We also want to contribute to trust building and restoration of the social fabric so that different communities can peacefully live side by side again.

Some survivors of genocide may need a professional psychotherapy for coping with trauma. Many other who saw violence happen and/or were evicted from their many need psychosocial support in various forms. In partnership with the IPP, ZFD wishes to contribute to the further qualification of psychosocial interventions. They should be adapted to the cultural context. The objective must be empowerment of the survivors and their communities. The key to empowerment is active participation and being given options to decide yourself. They shall move from

being mere victims and recipients of help to become masters of their lives again. By this they will be living messengers that genocide does not reach its ultimate goals. Throughout my work with Civil Peace Service, I saw many psychologists and social workers doing a good job in empowering survivors. It is good to see that the authorities of Duhok Governorate are very supportive for the provision of psychosocial services to internally displaced persons and other people who suffered from war and mass violence.

Dealing with the legacy of genocide requires holistic approaches. First of all, it is necessary to admit that this always will be political. After war and mass destruction governments need to ensure security for the whole population and to rebuild infrastructure in a large scale. They might have other priorities than to listen to the grievances of one small group. Life must go on! But the survivors are still missing lost relatives. They want to know where the mass graves are, if victims could be identified and where they can commemorate their loved ones. Governments should enhance that family members of victims are consulted about decisions on mass graves and that they play an active role in designing a culture of memory.

Another legitimate question of the survivors is if the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Unfortunately, the International Criminal Court could not follow up on preliminary investigations because the veto powers in the UN Security Council did not allow that. The Government of Iraq so far only conducts trials for terrorism against captured Daesh fighters. A number of them were found guilty and some of them hanged. Maybe some survivors welcome that because they feel safer or some of their anger is satisfied. Well, I am glad that the Kurdistan Regional Parliament has enacted a moratorium on the death penalty.

However, I would wish the governments in Bagdad and Erbil to reconsider. Only trials of suspects for war crimes and crimes against humanity can bring truth about what happened and justice to the victims. Moreover, courts and judges should decide about genocide, not only politicians, historians or psychologists giving their opinions. Or trained journalists like myself. Lawyers can give a lot for survivors as well. The best lawyers I met during my peace work listened carefully to what psychotherapists and psychosocial counselors could say about their clients.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in this sense I wish all of you very fruitful discussions on how to provide best psychosocial support for survivors in the upcoming two days.

Dr. Andreas Selmeçi

Program Coordinator of Civil Peace Service, GIZ Iraq

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan

Dean

Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Excellences, Colleagues, Guests, Friends and Students,

I would like to thank you for coming to the Conference on Genocide and Trauma which is organized by the Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at the University of Duhok, GIZ and the German Civil Peace Services.

For several generations, people in Kurdistan have found themselves in wars or war-like circumstances. IS (“Islamic State”) is one of the human tragedy that happen in Kurdistan. Flight, expulsion and mass destruction have influenced this society to a particular extent. The hope that democracy might develop after the Saddam era, and that the various ethnic and religious groups might live together peacefully, has been shattered, since 2014 in particular.

Dehumanised, sexualised violence against women in the former Yugoslavia, Ruanda, Guatemala, Cambodia and other countries – or currently in Iraq and Syria – has shown us how cruelly human beings can treat other human beings.

As a result, the victims as well as the collective they belong to can be traumatised for decades. Forms of violence range from rape, harassment, mutilation, enslavement, marking the person by branding, to killing the victim.

The medical and psychological care of people who have experienced trauma poses significant challenges for therapists, physicians and other experts. Apart from the language difficulties resulting from forced migration, they include patients' culturally specific perspectives and descriptions of illness, the resulting storytelling modes, political situations, gender-specific aspects, trans-generational trauma etc., which make treatment more complex.

This means we are faced with groups that have been persecuted, excluded and forcibly converted for centuries and over generations in Iraq and Syria. Trans-generational trauma is passed on from generation to generation through a range of cultural and religious narratives and behaviours. These groups are now confronted with the collective trauma of being hurt, raped, tortured and killed. At the same time, of course, each person experiences his or her own trauma when confronted with this kind of violence and destruction.

In research as well as in the treatment of people who have experienced trauma, these three types of trauma must be taken into account much more than they have been until now.

We know that collective trauma, as in Ruanda, Bosnia, and now in Kurdistan, impacts not only each individual separately, but the community as a whole.

The Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at this University of Duhok is providing the necessary infrastructure of mental health services. This institute will research the topic of psychotherapy and trauma in its entire breadth and develop culturally sensitive modules and approaches for psychotherapeutic practice. This also covers interdisciplinary crossover with medicine and psychology and their sub-disciplines.

Moreover, the institute will support participants and other researchers in combining the goals of postgraduate training with accreditation as practitioners. This allows synergetic effects to be used.

This is important because psychology and trauma studies are still unfamiliar fields in Iraq and Kurdistan. The treatment of emotional hurts and dealing with the past are part of reconciliation and the peace process.

When people learn to deal with their own aggression, when they don't resort to violence as a solution but seek conversation and dialogue, then psychotherapy, social work and counselling become important for the development of the society.

This is why basic psychological service provision must be established in Kurdistan and Iraq. The required personnel must be trained in their homeland, so that local people can be treated in their own language and using their own individual, cultural and religious resources. Treating trauma through specialist personnel in the country of origin is more effective in the long term.

Crisis intervention and psychosocial services for victims of war in refugee camps or other locations are important, but for the long term not sufficient. In the countries of origin, dealing with trauma must be integrated structurally and for the long term. This is where the international community can make a contribution, like this Institution, that the University of Duhok, University of Tübingen, and the Cooperative State University Baden-Württemberg set it up with support of the German State Government in Baden-Württemberg.

It is necessary to establish institutes for trauma studies and psychotherapy treatment, which include the training of physicians, psychologists, social workers and other professions for good and effective treatment.

The work on war, the research of the genocide on society are important processes also for trauma processing and the first steps towards peace in this country. Everything must therefore be done to prevent forgetfulness, because a peaceful future is not possible without coming to terms with the past.

Universities, like the University of Duhok and the Health Directorate of Duhok decide to stand by their communities and assist them. The GIZ and German Civil Peace Services stand for this work and I would especially thank them for their support for this conference.

Our conference today is also a political sign, that the survivors of the ISIL terrors are not alone and will get help through the democratic states and communities.

A few remarks on the course of the conference:

You will find the program and procedure in the bags with a brochure in which the most necessary information is written.

I ask all panellists and moderators to strictly adhere to the times given. We want everyone to have a fair chance to make their speeches.

I ask the participants to stick to their questions and not to make their comments too long. I am aware that many experts are among us and have a lot of knowledge and experience. Please use the breaks, lunch or dinner to get into an active exchange. This is one of the main objectives of this conference.

I wish them all a good conference. Thank you!

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan

Dean

Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (IPP)

Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (IPP) – Basic information Master of Advanced Studies in Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (MASPP)

1) Management and responsible persons

Dean of the IPP	Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan Jan.Kizilhan@dhw-vs.de
Vice Dean of the IPP	Dr. Mamou Farhan Othman pirmamo@gmail.com
Responsible of the Curriculum	Prof. Dr. Martin Hautzinger hautzinger@uni-tuebingen.de Dr. Sebastian Wolf sebastian.wolf@uni-tuebingen.de
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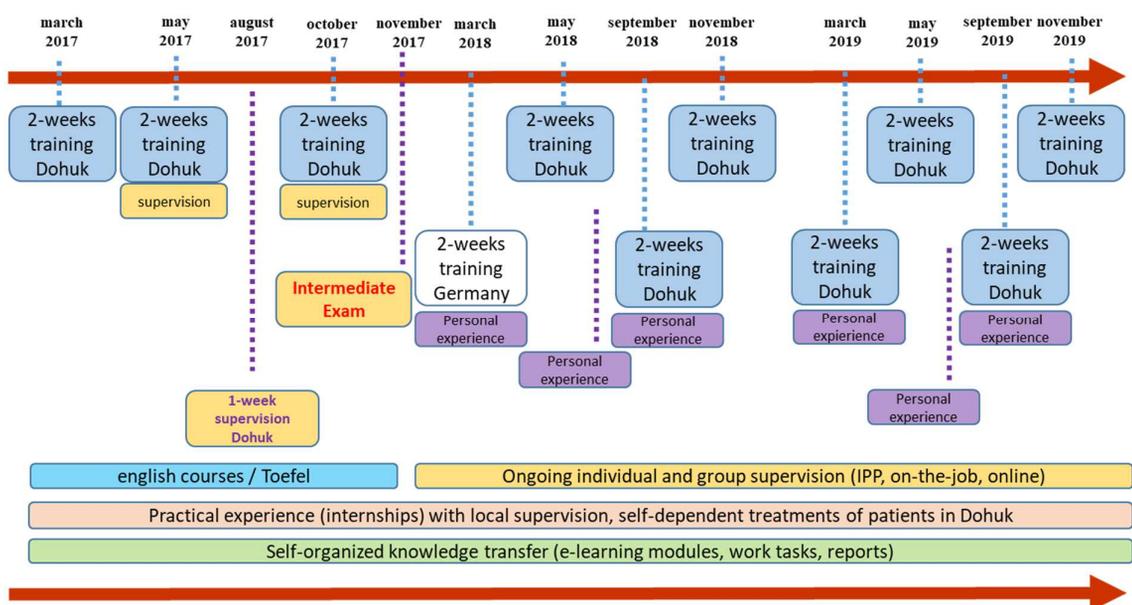
2) Scope

The severe mental health consequences of people living in Iraq after the occupation of the Islamic State (ISIS) are the basis for the foundation of the IPP and the implementation of the Master Program of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (MASPP). The IPP is located in Duhok, in a region with around 1.5 Mio inhabitants that currently (November 2017) houses around 550 000 IDPs from Iraq and around 75 000 refugees mostly from Syria that are living in 24 refugee camps around the city of Duhok. Psychological disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and Depression Disorders are currently widespread under IDP and refugees especially under women and children that suffered from severe physical and sexual violence under the capture of ISIS. The general situation for a big part of the population in northern Iraq is still characterized by violence (ISIS, political conflicts), political and social instability, poverty and uncertainty about the

future, which are risk factors for the development and maintenance of psychological disorders. Besides the support of international NGOs, there are currently only around four local psychiatrists and one local psychiatry clinic (AZADI hospital) that provide mental health services for these patients in Duhok region. The IPP and the MASPP therefore aim to teach and train Iraqi psychologists in psychotherapy and psychotraumatology to support the local mental health services with clear long-term goals. The IPP and the MASPP program is funded by the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

3) MASPP Regulations / Study plan

The Master provides a broad understanding of theories and practices of cognitive behavioural psychotherapy (CBT) and psychotraumatology necessary for safe and effective clinical and scientific work. To enter the Master studies students require a bachelor degree in Psychology, Medicine, Sociology or Nursing. The official vocational regulations of the MASPP program are based on the vocational regulations of specializations in Psychological Psychotherapy in Germany (PsychTh-APrV). The MASPP comprises of theoretical trainings, individual and group supervision sessions, intervision, personal experience and practical work (individual treatments, clinical internships). The following figure illustrates an exemplary study plan of the first student cohort (2017-2019).



4) Course contents

a. Theoretical Training

The MASPP program provides theoretical trainings in the following subjects: Clinical psychology and Psychopathology, Psychiatry, Psychopharmacology, theoretical basis of Cognitive-Behavioral therapy (CBT), Case conceptualization, Disorder specific diagnostics and treatments of most relevant ICD-10 F diagnosis, Approaches and techniques of Cognitive-Behavior Psychotherapy (CBT), Psychology of Culture and Identity, Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods.

There is further a main focus on trainings in Psychological Trauma and Post-Trauma Therapy:

Cognitive therapy for psychological trauma, Stabilization Techniques, Narrative-Exposure-Therapy (NET), Imagery Rescripting, Cultural-sensitive Narration Therapy, Disaster Mental Health and Community Crisis Interventions

b. Supervision

The IPP provides individual supervision sessions for all students (online, personal on-site, on the job). Part of the required supervision sessions is organized in group-supervision sessions (disorder-specific supervision sessions).

c. Personal experience

The IPP and the University of Tuebingen provide personal experience in CBT for all students. Students develop personal resources, self-efficacy and their own psychotherapeutic identity which is relevant for their own work as a psychological psychotherapist. They further face own important life topics and experiences and personally simulate CBT techniques.

5) Lecturers and supervisors

Lecturers and supervisors are all experienced clinicians and/or researchers from Germany, other European countries or Iraq with specific knowledge of transcultural psychotherapy/psychiatry. Professors/directors of universities or clinics in Germany give lectures in their clinical/research field. Experienced clinicians and

directors of clinical institution/outpatient clinics provide supervision and personal experience.

The Institute was named as a sustainable project for victims of ,IS' by the United Nations Commission on Syria in September 2016.

Speakers

We have not received all CVs and abstracts because of short preparations, so here are only some of the speakers listed. We apologize for this.

— *Abdulbaghi Ahmad*

Chair of the Panel: **Crisis Intervention Program for Children and Adolescents (CIPCA) to prevent posttraumatic psychopathology**

Abdulbaghi Ahmad, MD, SBCAP, PhD, Associate Professor/ Senior Consultant, CAP, Uppsala University, Sweden IACAPAP Ambassador/ Founder Metin Health House & Child Mental Health Duhok, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

Abstract

Child mental Health program a collaboration between Duhok and Uppsala University

For the first time in the Middle East, a special academic unit for child mental health was established at the College of Medicine, University of Duhok in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, in collaboration with the Uppsala University in Sweden. It was the first step to make child and adolescent psychiatry a separate medical specialty in the region. The support of and links with Sweden's Uppsala University is one of the reason for its success. (8) CMH in Iraqi Kurdistan. Available from:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/297001276_CMH_in_Iraqi_Kurdi stan [accessed Apr 20 2018].

— **Qanta A.A. Ahmed**

Qanta Ahmed Attending Sleep Disorders Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, Winthrop University Hospital, Associate Professor of Medicine. State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook, New York. Honorary Professor of Medicine, School of Public Health, Glasgow-Caledonian University, Scotland, UK Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellow in Science and Religion.

"Stock your mind, stock your mind. You might be poor, your shoes might be broken, but your mind is a palace." Frank McCourt

Abstract 1

Impact on Sleep and Role of Narrative Medicine in the Female Trauma Survivor
This brief discussion will focus on sleep in human beings from birth to end of life, and the unique features of sleep in women at all stages of life. The talk will then examine sleep disorders in the traumatized female—chiefly insomnia manifestations and the development of posttraumatic stress disorders parasomnias and catastrophization. Attendees will learn about sleep architecture in women, PTSD in women and the protective role of insomnia in the immediate aftermath of trauma. Treatment strategies will be suggested. Scoring tools to assess sleep quality as a means to develop future studies on the patterns of sleep in the Yazidi Genocide Survivor will be offered at the close of the discussion. Narrative medicine will be considered as a component of trauma survivorship and an informative tool during psychotherapy.

Abstract 2

Islamism: the totalitarian foundations for modern genocide

As an expert in Islamism also known as radical Islam in Western syntax I am commonly challenged on the character of Islam to account for actions of extremists, particularly in the United States media. This talk will differentiate Islamism, the modern day 20th century political totalitarianism from Islam the ancient monotheism and sequitur of Abrahamic faith. Within the six tenets of Islamism, central to the focus on this talk will be the foundations

for 'otherization' which lay the grounds for the genocide of the Yazidi people by Daesh and the basis for the lethal persecution of Christians, Jews, minority Muslims and others in the name of Islamism. This is NOT Islam, and it is very important for experts everywhere to have command of this distinction in order to better explain events as they unfold while reigning in anti- Islam xenophobia. While these discussions are vibrant and animated in the Muslim majority world, in the United States public discourse on these issues is shrinking with detrimental impact on both American Muslims and others and ultimately a rise in Anti Muslim animus. Particular attention will be given to Islamism's focus on purity and authenticity and its mortal enmity with secularism.

— **Salah Ahmad**

Salah Ahmad is the founder and president of the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, the only institution offering comprehensive medical, psychotherapeutic and social assistance to survivors of human rights violations in Iraq.

Mr. Ahmad is a child and youth psychotherapist and systemic family therapist trained in Germany. Throughout his career, he has treated hundreds of traumatized refugees from numerous countries at the Berlin Center for Torture Victims, Germany.

Having experienced flight and exile himself, Mr. Ahmad has shown lifelong commitment to human rights, the cause of disadvantaged groups, the prevention of violence and victims' improved access to mental health care in Iraq.

Consequently, Mr. Ahmad decided to return to his hometown Kirkuk after the fall of the Ba'ath regime, where he established the first treatment center for survivors of torture in Iraq in 2005. During the following decade, he used his experience and expertise to advance the idea of psychotherapy and trauma care in his home country, to establish a unique network of rehabilitation centers in North Iraq, and to train hundreds of local staff for the benefit of thousands of survivors of human rights abuses.

Mr. Ahmad regularly commutes between Germany and Iraq and now holds an exceptional position in the Kurdish region as the success and respected work of the Jiyan Foundation allow him to push for policy changes that in return impact our clients' lives.

To honor his tireless work and accomplishments in Iraq, Mr. Ahmad was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in February 2015.

Abstract

The Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights is a non-governmental organization based in Kurdistan/Iraq and Germany which runs a network of eleven trauma rehabilitation centres in North Iraq and provides free-of-charge treatment to its clients regardless of their age, nationality, gender, ethnic or religious

affiliation. Genocide survivors consider two issues paramount: ending impunity of perpetrators and obtaining adequate reparations. As to the first objective, documenting human rights violations in line with international standards is a complex undertaking requiring different specialization than that of the Jiyan Foundation. Therefore, we decided to refer our clients to specialized organizations, such as the Commission of Investigation and Gathering Evidence. Reparation for gross human rights violations, on the other hand, is a complicated topic that, as of yet, has not been appropriately addressed. As it is not realistic to expect that the issue of redress will be dealt with in the forthcoming criminal proceedings, an alternative approach is needed. For this reason, the Jiyan Foundation, decided to focus on strengthening the claims of victims on reparation, in line with international standards. Although the Jiyan foundation will primarily focus on rehabilitation as a distinct form of reparation, preferences of victims as regards other forms of reparation will be dully noted. Finally, it may be worth recalling that the state of Iraq, although not responsible for actually committing genocide, must take steps to redress the victims. Legal ground for this lies in the state obligation to prevent genocide which, all things considered, was not satisfactorily discharged by Iraq in the present case.

— **Nura Begovic**

Society for Threatened Peoples, Section Bosnia and Herzegovina

The association "Women of Srebrenica" was founded in 1996, less than a year after the fall of Srebrenica. This was the first association of Srebrenica women and mothers looking for their sons, brothers, husbands and other male relatives. Nura was among the first women to join the association and has been its vice president ever since.

Every 11th of every month these women organize a silent vigil and a protest march in the center of Tuzla. They are always joined by citizens of Tuzla, pupils, students, members of women's organisations and other associations. They wear pillowcases with embroidered names of the victims of Srebrenica and their pictures.

The association has also collected one of the largest collections of photos of the victims. Unfortunately, only a few families were able to save photos of their relatives from Srebrenica. That is why this collection is particularly important, as many of the families can also discover their own relatives on different group photos.

Since its foundation, the association "Women of Srebrenica" has demanded the truth about the fate of the missing men and the punishment of those responsible and the perpetrators of the crime. All the important achievements of the Srebrenica mothers as a whole have sometimes been organized and supported by them or have been made according to their demands - from the cemetery and memorial center in Potocari near Srebrenica to the worldwide recognition of the genocide in Srebrenica.

Nura Begovic lost two brothers and numerous other male relatives in July 1995. Her husband was among the men who managed to leave Srebrenica in July 1995 and reach the free territory. Her two daughters are married and have their own families. Nura lives with her husband in Srebrenica again.

Together with other mothers from Srebrenica and representatives of other groups of victims, she regularly participates in conferences and lectures on genocide worldwide and talks about her experiences.

— **Güley Bor** _____

Güley Bor is a lawyer and a Harvard Law School Satter Fellow, currently placed at Yazda as the Manager of the Genocide Documentation Project. Her work focuses on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. She obtained her LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School and her B.A. from Bilkent University.

Abstract

Gendered Reparations Under International Law: The Case of Êzidî Women”

The attacks against Êzidîs of Sinjar, and in particular the systematic capture of and sexual violence against women by soldiers of the armed group referring to itself as the Islamic State, constitute genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention. While the crimes have garnered international attention, the issue of reparations for the Êzidî survivors of genocidal rape remain overlooked. In this speech, I will explore the topic of gendered reparations under international law for female Êzidî survivors of genocidal rape and provide a framework of reparations that could target the specific needs of Êzidî women.

— **Khidher Domle**

Researcher and member of the Center for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at the University of Duhok.

Abstract

The social impact of media: coverage survivor issues between professional and traditional preparation of reports

The issue of media coverage of sexual violence cases in general and those who have been subjected to major sexual assaults of Yazidi women in particular is considered to be one of the things that did not take enough research and attention and was not a priority of the international organizations in-charge, despite the huge number of women and cases and the occurrence of effects and problems in this regard. Moreover, media institutions did not put them in the category of specialized topics that require profession and take into account social responsibility in addressing and covering them.

The subject of press coverage of female survivors, which has become a heavy material for journalists in all their forms, has shown different perspectives from some special cases. Both, those that I have accompanied them personally or the ones which I followed in various social media, especially TV channels, within my work with survivors since the first arrival in September of 2014 and until now. These attitudes have caused psychological effects and have been seen as social challenges.

According to the follow-up on the situation of some women who have been subjected to sexual violence and sexual abuse for more than three years, I have always felt reactions that go back to the tension and anxiety of many victims' families and themselves about their viewing of the cases on television.

As I have also seen different reactions by the families of the victims showed that the media coverage contributed in causing social gaps and psychological effects on both parties, caused by the lack of professionalism followed by journalists in covering those topics, which were covered as any impermanent political event.

The subject of media coverage of survivors' cases was a competition between TV channels in a provocative and far from professional values and journalistic

ethics, which clearly indicated that important considerations must be taken into account. Unfortunately, they were absent from local and international journalists, and therefore the coverage of the press is considered, whether directly through interviews and reports or those that came in the news, in which the survivors appeared, as they were not considerate to the feelings and the conditions they were in when they were captured by ISIS organization.

— **Honore Gatera**

Honore started working at the Kigali Genocide Memorial as a Guide Officer in 2004, when it was first opened. In 2010, Honore was appointed Manager of the memorial. Since then, Honore has hosted thousands of visitors including many Heads of State and other visitors to Rwanda. He has contributed to preserving the memory of the Genocide against the Tutsi by attending various trainings related to the genocide prevention and education in England, USA, Germany and Poland. He has travelled around the world participating in conferences and meeting raising awareness on genocide as a global threat to humanity.

Honore is responsible for the daily operations of the Kigali Genocide Memorial including visits, maintenance, psychological support and administration. Honore is a graduate of Kigali independent University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Science.

Abstract

Genocide, violence and reconciliation

Context: The genocide against Tutsi

The genocide against the Tutsi was a genocidal mass slaughter of Tutsi in Rwanda by members of the Hutu majority government. More than 1,000,000 Tutsi were killed during the 100-day period from 7 April to mid-July 1994, The genocide and widespread slaughter ended when the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) led by Paul Kagame took control of the country and stopped all the killings.

The post genocide situation was full of challenges linked with the fact that neighbors became enemies and friends killed friends, parents killed children and vice versa. In a such situation, the biggest risk was the retaliation of killings and the revenge that could take over. Part of the response that Rwandans developed was a combination of home grow efforts that contributed as a set to the successful path towards the reconciliation of Rwandans. As part of efforts to reconstruct Rwanda and nurture a shared national identity, the Government of Rwanda drew on aspects of Rwandan culture and traditional practices to enrich and adapt its development programs to the country's needs and context. The

result is a set of Governance and Home-Grown Initiatives (GHI) - culturally owned practices translated into sustainable development programs.

Despite all these efforts the topic of genocide had been a challenge to all levels, with consideration to the trauma both physical and psychological that people live with all the angles of the topic were to touch in one way or another in the psychological wounds of the people. This challenge was in schools as well.

With Rwandans owning the National identity that replaced an ethnic brand that existed for more than a generation, the background of everyone was not changed, teachers and students included.

This presentation discusses the role of memorialization and commemoration in Education and most importantly the Peace and values education.

— **Cinur Ghaderi** _____

Prof. Dr. Cinur Ghaderi studied psychology at Ruhr-University-Bochum (RUB). After her post-graduate education in psychological psychotherapy (behavioral therapy) she worked in the “Psychosocial Centre for refugees” (PSZ) in Düsseldorf. 2013 she received her PhD at the faculty of Social Sciences, chair of gender and social structure research at RUB. Since 2013 she is professor of psychology within the faculty of social work at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in the city of Bochum. She is part of the committee of gender equalization, member of the board of the umbrella organization of Transcultural Psychiatry Psychotherapy and Psychosomatic in German speaking countries (DTPPP). Today her main academic interests are international social work, migration and health, refugee studies especially psychosocial aspects, transcultural psychotherapy, identity, diversity and gender.

Abstract

Gendering trauma...or the personal is political

In this presentation a gender orientated perspective of trauma discourse will be introduced. Firstly, the fundamental gender specific trauma phenomena will be presented. The experiences and coping strategies of complex traumatisation for girls and boys or rather women and men is strongly characterised by gender specific speculation and contradictory research findings. The intersection of trauma with gender illustrated the limitation of neurobiological answers and pathologising positions, which evoked almost a politicisation of the causes, namely structurally embedded dynamics of violence and politically motivated dominance relations in gendered bodies. A gender informed trauma therapy implies therefore being careful of original biographical aspects, besides which being aware that neither the causes from traumatisation nor the processing are singular and individual as subjective experiences comprehensible without a process - and contextual view for social risks particularly in conflict regions characterised by genocide and gendercide.

— **Martin Hautzinger**

Eberhard-Karls-University, Tübingen, Germany, Department of Psychology, Institute of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, Major in Psychology (Ruhr University Bochum, Free University Berlin), PhD 1980 (Berlin), Habilitation 1987 (Konstanz), Professor of Psychology, Director Institute of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University of Tuebingen

Actual Research Project

Information Processing of Emotional Cues in Affective Disorders	German Research Council (DFG)	2012-2016
Psychophysiological Mediators of Mindfulness and Sustained Attention in Never Depressed and Recurrently Depressed Subjects	German Research Council (DFG)	2013-2016
Perception of social information in subjects with an antisocial personality disorder: Deficits and Interventions	German Research Council (DFG)	2015- 2018
Care Giver Training is Problem-solving. Dissemination of Intervention to Reduce Burden among Care Givers of Stroke Patients.	National Assembly of Health Insurance Companies	2013-2018
Adjuvant Psychotherapy in Early Stage Bipolar Disorder (Research Net Bipolife)	German Government (BMBF)	2015-2019
Depression in Late Life: Cognitive Behavior Therapy Versus Supportive Psychotherapy	German Government (BMBF)	2017- 2021

Abstract

Helping mass trauma survivors to overcome their „hopelessness and depression“

Individual and mass traumata are a major risk factor for the development of depression and suicidal behavior. The presentation will review some relevant studies to develop a psycho-biological model to understand depression. Based on psychological mechanism like loss of control, helplessness, avoidance, shame, guilt, and skill deficits the presentation will show where and how cognitive-behavioral interventions can help to overcome resignation, hopelessness, and

depression. Some intervention elements will be presented in a practical and concrete way. Own studies related to the outcome of such a psychological approach will illustrate the general efficacy and fit to results of several meta-analyses about psychotherapy of depression.

Within the IPP and the training courses this successful intervention is taught and applied by our students under regular supervision.

— **Karen Jungblut**

Karen Jungblut, Director of Global Initiatives, oversees and manages a global portfolio of partnerships for the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education at the University of Southern California. She has been in charge of expanding the existing Visual History Archive of 50,000 Holocaust survivor and witness testimonies, with testimonies of survivors of genocides and crimes against humanity. She led the collection and acquisition of testimonies from survivors and witnesses of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Cambodian Genocide, Armenian Genocide, Guatemalan Genocide, and the Nanjing Massacre, including the documentation of more current events of mass violence.

With the USC Shoah Foundation since 1996, Karen has led an international and multilingual staff to successfully index the existing archive of 50,000 video testimonies, develop and implement approaches and methodologies to include other genocide video testimonies, as well as oversaw the production and piloting of USC Shoah Foundation’s program New Dimensions in Testimony, a collection of interactive biographies that enable people to have conversations with pre-recorded video images of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses to genocide.

Abstract

Survivors of Genocide and their story lives on digitally

Documenting the stories of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and genocides for the past 20 years, provides perspectives that are on the one hand illuminating, encouraging and inspiring, and on the other hand, proving the depths of human cruelty and human suffering. At the core of USC Shoah Foundation’s work of the past 24 years has been developing methodologies and efforts to document survivor and witness testimonies – life histories – on video, digitizing and indexing these video biographies so the individual stories can be viewed and heard long into the future, and be a compelling voice for education and action.

This presentation addresses the development of USC Shoah Foundation’s collection of video life histories for the past 24 years and provides insights into

these challenges, and the approaches and processes established to address those challenges. They include issues around re-traumatization, as well as the challenges related to vicarious trauma from interviewing to archiving such stories. How do you now when you think you are doing good but you are actually doing more harm? Ethical challenges can be overwhelming and how do you address them on a global scale and geographically as well as culturally specific and nuanced?

— Jan Ilhan Kizilhan

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan is a psychologist, author and publisher, with research interests in psychotraumatology, sexual violation, trauma, terror and war, transcultural psychiatry, psychotherapy, clinical psychology and psychotherapy, migration research and socialization-war research.

Before studying at Georgetown (USA) and becoming a research assistant in the Human Right Law Project in Los Angeles (USA), Professor Kizilhan studied psychology and sociology at the University of Bochum (Germany). He holds a Doctorate in psychology from the University of Konstanz (Germany). Since 2006, Professor Kizilhan is a project leader of the working group on Migration and Rehabilitation at the Institute of Psychology of the University of Freiburg. He is also a Professor at the Cooperative State University Villingen-Schwenningen, the Head of Department Mental Health and Addiction at the Cooperative State University Baden-Württemberg and of the transcultural psychosomatic department of the Medicline Donaueschingen in Germany.

In 2014, he joined the New Iran and Islamic Studies department at the University of Göttingen, hold a Doctorate in New Iran and Islamic Studies, and became the founding Dean of the Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at Dohuk University in Northern Iraq. Professor Kizilhan is the chief psychologist of the Special Quota Project for Vulnerable Women and Children in Northern Iraq, funded by the State Government of Baden-Württemberg.

Since 2016 he founding Dean of the Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology at the University of Duhok in Northern Iraq.

Since March 2018 he is the director of the new Institute for transcultural Health Science at the State University Baden-Württemberg in Germany.

He published more than 24 book and more than 120 researches in international journals.

He is awarded many times nationally and internationally for his work.

— **Phil C. Langer**

Prof. Dr. Phil C. Langer is a professor of social psychology and social psychiatry at the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin and associate member at the Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies at the Humboldt-University in Berlin. His current research interests focus on experiences of violence and suffering in war contexts, especially in the Near and Middle East. Recent publications include a textbook on qualitative methods in the political sciences and articles on biographical approaches in psychology and sexualized violence in the military.

Abstract

Living in and through traumatic landscapes – cultural memories, identity politics, and therapeutic perspectives in the Kurdish region of Iraq

What in a “Western” generalized perspective is routinely referred to as the Near and Middle East can be characterized as an overlapping patchwork of “traumatic landscapes“, shaped by multiple and sometimes decade-long wars and conflicts and fueled by often conflicting collective memories of past violent struggles, political oppressions, and societal injustices. Living in and through these landscapes requires an ongoing struggle with everyday experiences of chronic violence and insecurity, stark inequalities, and a far-reaching destruction of social fabric and trust. The paper aims at adding to the rich debate on dealing with traumatic experiences on the individual, social, and political level by outlining the concept of traumatic landscape that has been developed in Cultural and Post-Colonial Studies and probing its epistemic value for understanding individual and collective processes of remembering and belonging in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

— **Lena Larsson**

Lena Larsson joined ICMP as the Head of the Iraq Program in September 2017. She has more than 20 years of experience working for international organizations such as the UN and the OSCE, in the Balkans, the Middle East and Asia, managing programs related to ceasefire agreements, border management, and human resources. Before joining ICMP, Ms. Larsson held various leadership roles including Deputy Head of Mission of the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories, Head of Region at EU JUSTLEX in Iraq, and Director of the Department for Education, Training and Exercises for the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), a Swedish agency for peace, security and development. Ms. Larsson graduated from Lund University with a degree in international human resources and management.

Abstract

Towards a sustainable strategy for missing persons in Iraq

The number of persons missing in Iraq as a consequence of decades of conflicts, human rights violations and other atrocities, ranges from about 250,000 to one million. The issue of missing persons has significant consequences for society and security in Iraq as families suffer the anguish of uncertainty regarding the fate of their relatives. ICMP program aims to support Iraqi government institutions in their effort in building a legislative framework, technical capacity and cooperative relationships among them, as well as with an active civil society and families to effectively address the missing persons issue in Iraq.

— **Andreas Löpsinger**

Andreas Löpsinger holds a Master's degree in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies. During his studies he focused on the role of collective identities in conflicts, peacebuilding and reconciliation processes. During and after his Master, he collected first practical experiences in the Western Balkans and in Rwanda, where Andreas joined the Civil Peace Service as intern. Since March 2016 he is based in Amman (Jordan), working for GIZ's regional program "Psychosocial Support for Syrian and Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced People".

— **Sybille Manneschmidt** _____

Sybille Manneschmidt, PhD, MSc, MA, FCCP

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services during a humanitarian crisis:
Focus on successes and challenges for training and capacity building in Duhok
Governorate, KRI

Abstract

The presentation will be on training and capacity building during crisis and examples from their work in Duhok

Typically, humanitarian crises in a country or region lead to an increased number of stakeholder interests at a national and international level. Over the last 20 years, these interests have been reflected by an amplified number of programs in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. This is the case for programs taking place in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) since the arrival of refugees and internally displaced persons in 2012. Programs have mostly been implemented through local and international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies. In KRI, many of these services focus on training and capacity building of national staff. In crises situations, national or local governments have usually not the capacity to assess the quality, monitor and evaluate these services and programs. Reasons may be overstretched human resources, lack of expertise and funding as well as a focus on other aspects of the crisis that deem to be of higher importance than MHPSS services. This presentation aims to identify accomplishments and challenges related to MHPSS services and programs.

— **Karin Mlodoch**

Dr. Karin Mlodoch is a psychologist with 27 years of work and research experience in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. She is co-founder of the German based NGO HAUKARI e.V., that supports psychosocial and memory projects for women survivors of social and political violence with a specific focus on the Germian region in Kurdistan-Iraq. She received her PHD from the Institute of Psychology at the University of Klagenfurt/Austria and has extensively researched and published on topics related to violence, trauma and dealing with the past in Kurdistan and Iraq. In 2014 she published the book “The Limits of Trauma Discourse – women Anfal Survivors in Kurdistan-Iraq”, a long term psychological study on women Anfal survivors’ individual and collective coping strategies with violence and loss.

Abstract

From Victims to Survivors: The example of women Anfal survivors in the Germian region, Kurdistan-Iraq and their struggle for recognition

Based on her longstanding work and research with women Anfal survivors in the Germian region, psychologist Karin Mlodoch focuses on the specific experience of women during and after Anfal. Tracing the women’s memories and narratives and their transformation throughout the political, social and economic changes in Iraq and Kurdistan in the last three decades, the presentation describes the women’s suffering and stigmatization as well as their individual and collective strengths and coping strategies. It shares experiences from the „Anfal Women Memorial Forum Project“ in Rizgary. Here women Anfal survivors engage for a memorial site that shall represent their gendered experience of violence during and after Anfal and serve them as a space of remembrance, social center and forum for bringing their political demands of justice and acknowledgement into the political realm. The project combines psychosocial support with memory work and empowerment and gives an example of a survivor-driven collective approach to dealing with extreme violence and trauma.

— **Ali Nasser Muthanna** —

Dr. Ali Nasser Muthanna has held the position of the AMAR International Charitable Foundation Regional Manager since June 2014. He had been the Iraq Country Manager of AMAR ICF for the period (20 April 2003 to 12 June 2014). Before 2013, he worked as a Medical Doctor, Manager of a Health Centre in a Refugee Camp relevant to the AMAR ICF.

He holds a Bachelor degree in Medicine and General Surgery in 1995 from the University of Basra. He is a Member of the Iraqi Medical Association.

He got training courses in Health Management, Health Management in Reproductive Healthcare Services/ Faculty of Health Sciences/ The American University in Beirut/ Lebanon/ 13-17 September 2010 and in Qualitative Research Methodology in Rumania.

He is a Member of the administrative committee/ “Marsh Bulletin” Scientific Journal/ issued by the Basra College of Science, Marine Science Centre, and the AMAR International Charitable Foundation. And a Member of the organizing committees of many scientific conferences of the Basra College of Science and Marine Science Centre at the University of Basra.

— **Terry Porsild** _____

Terry Porsild, Psychotherapist/Trainer for The Center for Victims of Torture, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, in collaboration with Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, Sulaimaniyah, KRI. Working in KRI since February 2017 Master of Clinical and Health Psychology 25 years of experience as a practicing clinician, trainer and manager.

Abstract

Psychotherapy in a Humanitarian Setting: Current practice in Iraqi Kurdistan
Large numbers of people who have been displaced and have to live in refugee and IDP settings, have been shown to have mental health problems. Humanitarian aid provides MHPSS in their services, but these seldom encompass psychotherapy with a curative aim. Why is there so little psychotherapeutic treatment being done in humanitarian settings and how can we increase its availability? Presented here is the case of Iraqi Kurdistan.

An assessment was done of the psychotherapeutic interventions and other tools being used by therapists in 2 local mental health organisations. Network workshops with various INGOs were a further source of information.

We saw many good resources available, many psychology graduates being trained, but the application into actual practice is insufficient. The challenges are: lack of personal supervision, lack of personalization of training (per center, per therapist), very challenging cases, enthusiastic staff feeling overwhelmed, lack of continuity of care due to high turnover of staff and organisations, cultural differences.

As the refugee crisis continues, humanitarian organisations need to invest more in longer-term, capacity building projects. There are definite possibilities to provide quality psychotherapeutic treatment, what is needed are continued postgrad training, experienced clinical practitioners for supervision, and cultural adaptation of approaches.

— **Nezar Ismet Taib**

Dr. Nezar Ismet Taib, has held the position of the Director General of Health in Duhok governorate – Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 2012. Dr. Nezar is a member of the high committee of Emergency response to Crisis in Duhok Governorate. He is a founder and program supervisor of Survivor Center for Medical and Psychological services provision for women and girls' survivor from ISIS. He has received his Bachelor degree in medicine, from the University of Duhok in 1998 and specialized in child and adolescence psychiatry in 2005, awarded the title of Senior consultant in C&A psychiatrist 2018, also currently is enrolled as part time PhD student at Uppsala University, Sweden, where he is conducting his doctoral research on Street Children. His previous professional experience includes, International licensed counsellor from UN-CISMU for all international staff working with UN agencies in Iraq, working as a consultant with World Health Organization (WHO) in Iraq. In addition, Dr. Nezar was one of the founders and director of the Child and Adolescence Mental Health Center in Duhok Governorate for more than five years, this center is the only center in Kurdistan that provides mental health services for the mentioned target group. Furthermore, Dr. Nezar is also one of the social activists on women and child rights since 2001 in Kurdistan Region of Iraq mostly promoting women and child rights in areas of gender equity and child protection and a founder of Child Rights committee at Governorate level.

— ***Sherri Kraham Talabany***

President and Executive Director

SEED Foundation

Sherri Kraham Talabany is the President and Executive Director of the Kurdistan-based SEED Foundation and U.S.-based SEED for Change, charitable organizations that promote social, educational, and economic development in Kurdistan. SEED provides comprehensive mental health and psycho-social services to survivors of violence and those at risk, and works to promote education and training at the Center for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services at Koya University. Sherri worked in the United States Government in Washington, D.C. for almost fifteen years, from 1998 – 2012, working on foreign policy, humanitarian assistance, and international development, in a variety of positions overseeing policies and programs worldwide, including in Iraq. Sherri is a lawyer who earned her Juris Doctorate in 1999 from George Mason University School of Law. She currently resides in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. She has been involved in volunteer activities, serving on non-profit boards and advocating on behalf of the poor and underserved, including vulnerable minorities and displaced people. She was recognized by multiple awards from several Secretaries of State and awarded DevEx's 'Top 40 Under 40' Leaders in International Development.

Abstract

SEED's MHPSS program in crisis and MH center with Koya university as an example.

The mental health crisis in the Kurdistan Region, results not only from the recent war with ISIS, but is due to decades of conflict, violence including sexual violence, torture, and genocide. Local capacity to respond to the complex psychological and social needs is overwhelmed, and access to quality mental health and social services is extremely limited. Before international partners shift their focus - and their resources - from Kurdistan, we need to focus on transitioning our mental health and psychosocial support services from crisis response to a long-term, sustainable approach. SEED Foundation's President, Sherri Kraham Talabany, will speak to a framework for this transition including 1) building a strategy and standards of care to govern services; 2) an integrated, comprehensive approach to care; and 3) building capacity of service providers through human resource development and professional development, professional standards, and organizational development.

— **Sotheary Yim** —

Psychologist, Cambodia

Abstract

Forty years after the Khmer Rouge (KR) rose to power, a wide gap in knowledge and understanding still remains in Cambodian society between those who experienced the times of the regime and those who were born later. Since almost 70% of the Cambodian population is under the age of 30 years, the post-war generation constitutes an important target group for a transformative process of dealing with the past that sustainably builds up conflict transformation capacities in order to address some of the root causes and the consequences of violence while contributing to healing, justice and non-recurrence. In parallel, because of the restricted social norms and gender norms; violence and crimes committed on sexual and gender bases are not easy to discuss and express. The sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) committed under the Khmer Rouge rule were kept under silence until very recently. The belief was that such crimes could not exist because of Khmer Rouge's rules of conduct prohibiting such offenses.

When researchers started to document the occurrence of such violations, not many people listened to the stories without judgment and blame. Instead of receiving care and support, victims/survivors received criticism and stigmatization. Instead of holding perpetrators responsible, victims had to hold the burden of responsibility to justify themselves.

KdK works to promote Dialogue. We are working with the Past crime then addressing the possible links to the present and future. We make sure the past/history is learned and remembered well for the better future. We work on the complexity and inclusiveness of stories and experiences by and through providing safe space for survivors and younger generations to exchange. We believe this is the Dialogue for Change. Since the last three years, KdK facilitated Family Dialogues and Dialogues on SGBV between survivors and university students. KdK observes additional opportunities and high relevance to continue these activities. Indeed, participants have reported that these Dialogues are uniquely well-thought and designed, thus contributing to healing for survivors and creating a learning atmosphere for students. Survivors have a safe space to

share their stories and they feel empowered because they feel their experience is respected by students, while students could debate some gender stereotypes that are persisting until today. Youth are the main agent of change; therefore KdK targets them to have dialogues on Sex and Gender, taking forced-marriage and sexual abuse in the past as the starting point to initiate dialogue and critical thinking on gender attitudes in the present and future. KdK believes that what we are doing in 2018 is a leverage to bring women and men to be ally to promote gender equality and being critical about the topic. Discussion on the topics related to sex and gender is still highly needed because it remains sensitive and still surrounded by a culture of silence. KdK's activities aim at breaking this silence for the survivors and sharing their stories with the hope that it can contribute to the reduction of SGBV crimes in today's society. These objectives were well captured by a Khmer Rouge

Survivor participating to KdK's Dialogue in 2016: "I came to talk about the embarrassment and shame because I want others (including younger generations) to hear me. I share because I want other survivors to break their silence. I hope change happens before we lose our life" said one survivor from Pursat province.

— **Debora Eunice Yancoba** —

Deborah Eunice Yancoba, Guatemala

Abstract 2

Genocide, violence and reconciliation in Guatemala

Guatemala experienced an internal armed conflict for 36 years (1960 - 1996), which resulted in serious violations of the human rights of the population, based on the premise of "taking water from the fish", the Guatemalan Army carried out attacks against the populations of areas that allegedly supported the guerrilla forces against the government. In 1994, in Oslo, an agreement was signed to set up a truth commission to investigate the crimes committed, known as the Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH), which in 1999 submitted its final report "Memories of Silence", stating the documented facts: more than 200,000 people were murdered, including 45. More than 600 massacres were documented, 400 villages were completely destroyed and 1,465 cases of sexual torture.

As part of the peace process, the National Reconciliation Act was enacted in 1996, which established an amnesty for war actors but explicitly excluded crimes of genocide, torture and crimes against humanity from the scope of the amnesty. In 2007, the Guatemalan Congress voted to install the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), an entity created by the United Nations and the Guatemalan government to investigate crimes perpetrated by illegal groups and clandestine security groups. Although its mandate covered only the crimes of the past and not those of the present, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, together with the Office of the Public Prosecutor, was involved in the fight against impunity for crimes against humanity committed during the internal armed conflict. In 2013, when those most responsible for the crimes committed during the internal armed conflict were brought to justice. Guatemala's First A Highest Risk Court sentenced former dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt to 80 years in prison for crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity's dignity in a historic decision.

The aim of the survivors is to ensure that what happened is not simply an individual memory that remains in intimate spaces. Survivors face both the

impunity of the legal system and the amnesia of a society that demands oblivion and silence. In addition, living with the pain and aftereffects generated by the traumatic experiences to the present, due to the terror mechanisms implemented which are evident at the individual, family and social levels. Such as the fear of denouncing the consequences, the mourning of human and material losses, the guilt and shame of women victims of sexual violence who are stigmatized by society, the effects that have been developing in the new generations because of disinformation, the culture of silence or the direct coexistence with the victims.

Abstract 2

Psychological intervention for genocide survivors in Guatemala

In Guatemala, care for survivors of the genocide has been developed with a psychosocial approach, a model of care that allows the effects of traumatic experiences to be addressed in a comprehensive manner, encompassing the individual, family and social spheres, but also taking into account the historical and political context of individuals.

This model of intervention implies understanding the psychosocial impacts from a political and socio-historical dimension, avoiding the privatization of harm, allowing the identification of the responsibility of the State and the social structure that sustained the genocidal strategy.

— **Prof. Dr. med. Barbara Wild** _____

Flieder Clinic, Stuttgart, Germany

Prof. Dr. med. Barbara Wild is a certified psychiatrist, psychotherapist and neurologist. She heads the Fliedner Day Care Hospital in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. She is Professor at Tübingen University. She has authored several books, teaches various aspects of neurobiology, psychiatry and psychotherapy, leads Balint groups, works as a coach and acts as court expert.

Her areas of work and research are in particular the function of humor in psychiatry and psychotherapy, trauma therapy, and neurological psychosomatics.

Further interests are reading German and foreign literature, fine arts, photography and yoga/meditation.

She teaches psychopharmacology and psychopathology at the IPP, Dohuk, Kurdistan.

Abstract

Neurobiology of psychological trauma

This lecture will give an overview of the neurobiological findings in patients and animal models due to psychological trauma. Known functional and structural brain changes due to trauma will be discussed, including factors increasing vulnerability. The talk will also look at memory formation and extinction. Finally therapeutic consequences will be discussed.

JOINT PARTNERS

