

# Long-term and together for change!

Those who stand up for the concerns of trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people need a long breath. The postponed TSG reorganization, the slowness of social change, isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attacks from TERFs/trans\*phobic side, experience of discrimination in community contexts and unfortunately much more take away strength again and again. To respond to this challenge with new energy and inspiration, we invite you to the "Community-Werkstatt".

## "Community-Werkstatt"? What does that mean?

From 26th to 30th May 2021 Bundesverband Trans\* organizes the event "Community-Werkstatt" for the first time. In these times, when many community spaces and meeting points are not open, we offer a five-day online event series on Zoom. Through workshops, sharing sessions, lectures, and performances, we aim to open spaces where trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people can network, share experiences, and empower each other. Allies (cisgender people who stand in solidarity with trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people) are welcome - unless explicitly stated otherwise in the announcement of the respective event.

At this year's community workshop, the focus is on how we can work together for the rights, needs and visibility of trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people in the long term. In many places, however, the first step at all is about getting into conversation with people who have similar experiences. Therefore, we have created a number of separate exchange spaces - for example, for trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people who live in the countryside, identify as BIPoC, are under 27 or have responsibility for children. In addition to the personal exchange spaces, there are workshops on different aspects around long-term and joint engagement for trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.

## Diversity, anti-discrimination, and accessibility

Some of the events at "Community-Werkstatt" take up important discussions within trans\* communities about how forms of discrimination, such as racism or classism, can be reflected in our engagement and countered in solidarity. These discussions represent the process of making "Community-Werkstatt" more inclusive event each time. We are aware that there is not one trans\*community. Trans\*, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people organize in



different contexts. Their experiences, perspectives, and realities of life are diverse. This diversity is partially reflected in the program, but at the same time the selection of topics and the participation of the different speakers remains only a sample of how trans<sup>\*</sup>, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people advocate and care for their respective communities.

To enable (comfortable) participation for as many people as possible, there will be an online awareness team during the event that can offer support after overwhelming, challenging or hurtful situations or incidents of discrimination. To reduce technical barriers, there will be a technical support team to assist if there are any problems using Zoom. Some of the workshop offerings will be translated into English spoken language, which is marked accordingly in the program overview. When registering, we ask that you let us know if you need a translation into English spoken language so that we can assess the need in advance. The possibility of organizing interpretation into German sign language (DGS) for a part of the events exists and can also be indicated when registering. We will collect the registered needs for interpretation to German sing language until May 19th and then communicate with the interested participants which events will be translated.

#### Where can I register?

The registration for the Community-Werkstatt is open until 05/24.

You will find a detailed description of each event that is offered in English or will be translated on this page. <u>Here</u> you can find a short overview.

The registration takes place via this page: https://eveeno.com/community-werkstatt

Copy this link into your browser. You will find the German program at first. Click "Anmeldung" (on the right side or above). There you will find the registration.

You can use the event numbers as a guide when registering. The events that are in English/ with English translation are titled in German and English.

Participation in the event is free of charge. For most of the offered workshops and exchange sessions there is a limited number of places. Therefore, it is best not to wait too long with your registration.

We look forward to sharing, discussing, learning with each other and telling stories at "Community Werkstatt"! We are looking forward to having you with us!



#### WEDNESDAY

# Prelude Long-term and together for change! – Kick-off for five days of networking, exchange, and empowerment

On 26.05, from 19.00h to 20.30h

Here we go! Five days with more than 15 events for networking, exchange and empowerment for trans\*, non-binary and gender non-conforming people are ahead of us. We want to start this online event series together and will be artistically accompanied by <u>Sherryaeri</u> (Talk & Poetry) and Smooth Operator (Performances).

Sherin Striewe (@sherryaeri) is an activist, DJ, spoken word artist, trainer in political education work, part of feminist community projects, and currently studying sociology at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main in the Master's program. As a fat, non-binary queer femme with German and Egyptian parents, Sherin deals with identity, anti-discrimination and decolonial approaches in an artistic and activist way.

**Smooth Operator** aka Sheila is an androgynous Kenyan, living in Munich for 6 years now and working as a geriatric nurse. She is also an actress, loves dance and quiet moments. "Call me Quing." Sheila is an active member of the queer group "Beyond Color" (BIPoC LGBTIQA+ with experiences of racism, discrimination and migration). Sheila is a queer activist, gives talks on racism, and is a drag king performance artist\*.

Facilitation: Kalle Hümpfner (BVT\*)

#### THURSDAY

#### Workshop

1 Helpful Skills for Trans\* and Non-Binary Activism - How to better work together as a team.



#### On 27.5.2021, from 17.30h to 19.30h

Maybe you know the situation: You want to promote activist topics in the team, plan concrete actions and events and there is a lot to organize. Shortly before the deadline there is time stress, important things are forgotten or all of a sudden most of the work rests on a few shoulders... People argue and/or leave the team. There are long discussions, sometimes without a decision.

In this workshop you will get impulses on how to improve organization processes and communication in the activist team with simple methods and tools: For more motivation, joy in doing things together and perseverance for activist successes.

What is going well? What are you still dissatisfied with? Feel free to bring concrete issues and challenges of collaboration, and we will apply the workshop content directly to your activist challenges.

Allies who are committed to the rights of trans\* and non-binary people are welcome.

#### Offered by:

K\* Stern (without pronoun) is a non-medical practitioner for (body)psychotherapy, individual and couples therapy practice in Hamburg. K\* leads seminars, trainings, and supervision in the field of gender identity and body-oriented resilience approaches for LGBTIQA+, especially trans\* and non-binary people. K\* brings to this workshop about 20 years of experience from queer activism as well as useful experience from the agile work world.

Limited number of participants

#### FRIDAY

Input

# 4 Information event on the project "Sexual health in trans and nonbinary communities" for interested trans and non-binary people

On 28.05. from 17.00h to 17.45h

Would you like to participate in the research project? We are available to answer your questions and inform you about our various participation options. <u>https://www.aidshilfe.de/trans-abinaer</u>

About us: Alexander Hahne (er), trans activist working at Deutsche Aidshilfe

Unlimited number of participants



# Playshop 5 Radical Rest and Recuperation - a QTIBIPOC only playshop

#### On 28.05, from 19.00h to 20.30h

Day to day living with a myriad of intersectional experiences takes its toll on QTIBIPOC (queer transgender intersex Black indigenous People of Color) peoples. Yet still we strive, and we not only survive but we even thrive! I think we are experts at living and I'd like us to create a relaxed, safer space online where I will introduce playful activities and participants can share experiences of practices that allow them rest and recuperate in a world focused on labor and oppression. Bring only yourselves because you are enough! This online event is only for QTIBIPOC people.

#### About the facilitator:

Fimi Biscuit (Instagram @fimi.biscuit) is a Black trans nonbinary artist and educator, age 55. Born and raised in London, UK by migrant parents, Fimi lived and worked there until 6 years ago. Now in the Netherlands, they continue their art practice, education work, organising amongst the QTIBIPOC community across Europe and helps organise a monthly online hang-out called @qtibipocgenerations www.qtigenerations.wordpress.com

Limited number of participants Translation into German spoken language

#### SATURDAY

## Input 8 Critical Whiteness - an introduction

On 29.05, from 10.00h to 12.00h

With critical "whiteness" we accomplish a change of perspective and take full responsibility for our heritage, our society and especially our personal actions. I consider addressing this to be the foundation of sustainable, constructive, and anti-racist trans\* activism. The two-hour talk will include both interaction and non-interaction. For example, we practice listening first and foremost. It is in this process that our boundaries make themselves felt in our minds and we



learn to deal with them. The lecture provides an initial introduction, but has also proven to be a useful review of what we have already learned. This input is conceptualised for white people.

#### Offered by:

Paul Geißdörfer is a heavyweight trans\*man. Social worker by profession, trans\*, fat and critical whiteness activist by passion. He leads workshops and lectures and organizes discussion panels, demos, but also cultural events. Among other things as ally of Beyond Color Munich, as board member of Viva TS e.V. and co-organizer of trans\*inter\*network munich.

Unlimited number of participants

# Exchange round 9 There is so much more than two genders! - Networking for nonbinary/abinary/genderqueer people

On 29.05, from 10.00h to 12.00h

Non-binary, abinary, genderqueer - even the umbrella terms of identities that see themselves between or beyond masculinity and femininity or completely reject gender as a category have multplied in the past years. As our non-binary, abinary, and non-binary identities are diverse, so are our life realities and experiences. Therefore, let's get into conversation: about commonalities and differences, about moments that cost us strength and those that give us energy, about changes that give us courage and demands for the future that we still want to work for.

Facilitation: Kalle Hümpfner (Policy officer at BVT\*)

Limited number of participants

# Social event **Do you want to have lunch together?**

On Sat 29.05, from 12.00h to 13.00h

Would you like to have lunch in community and talk with other participants of the Community Workshop beyond workshops and exchange rounds? Or would you like to make an online date with someone you know for a lunchtime exchange? We provide a Zoom room during lunchtime that you can join. On request, we also set up so-called break-out rooms, where an exchange in a smaller group is possible.



# Open information offer Sexual Health in Trans and Non-binary Communities Project

On Sat 29.05, from 12.00 to 13.00h

During the lunch break we will be available for everyone and answer your questions about participation possibilities, general questions or how you can help us raising awareness for the project. <u>https://www.aidshilfe.de/trans-abinaer</u>

About us: Alexander Hahne (er), Ewwe M. Barf (er), trans activists and staff of the German Aids Federation

Unlimited number of participants

## Exchange round **10 Detransition - retransition - non-linear transition path**

On Sat 29.05, from 13.00 to 14.30h

The image of the person who is regretting their transition has recently appeared in the media as a subject of controversy or even as a warning about the dangers of making the wrong decision regarding one's own gender identity. This portrayal usually does not do justice to the diversity of experiences that are hidden behind the terms de- or re-transition - especially when the transition path is not linear and one's own gender is not experienced as static. Often there are few or no contact points for the difficulties with the legal and medical system, but also for personal doubts and questions about one's own identity. Our own experiences show that the dichotomous divisions according to trans\*/detrans and also according to "regretter"/"in retrospect satisfied with transition" are mostly not helpful. The individual interests of a person and also difficult, sometimes contradictory feelings must be taken into account in networks of care and counseling as well as during the first transition.

The exchange is open to all trans<sup>\*</sup>, detrans<sup>\*</sup> and cisgender people who want to better understand the issue and want to see trans<sup>\*</sup> and detrans<sup>\*</sup> communities cohesive.

Facilitation: Andren, Artemis and Eli

Andren, 29, detransitioned in 2019 and since then officially lives as a woman again. In private contexts, Andren continues to situate himself/herself as gender diverse, uses he/she pronouns, and works as a trans counselor.



Artemis first transitioned at 19, lived as a man for 10 years, and detransitioned in her late 20s. "I tried to identify with the two binary genders, but never felt like I belonged there."

Eli, 28, advocates for trans\* rights and tells of her detransition to show that gender identity doesn't have to be set in stone

Limited number of participants

#### Workshop

# 12 Your transness does not erase your whiteness! - Racism in white trans spaces and structures

On 29.05, from 13.00 to 15.00h

This workshop is for white trans\* people involved in trans\* community spaces and structures who already have a basic understanding of their positioning as white within white supremacy.

The purpose of this workshop is to deepen the critical engagement of white trans<sup>\*</sup> activists/community organizers<sup>\*</sup> within their spaces/structures. Topics we will cover include performativity (performative allyship), lack of accountability, eurocentric concept of gender, reproduction of toxic cis-white structures, funding transparency, and white saviour complex.

#### PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Examine <u>the pyramid of white supremacy</u> and situate yourself (there are likely several points that apply to you). Some of the points are specific to the US, but 99% of the points apply in the German context as well. Participation in the Critical Whiteness input (Sat 10-12h) is recommended but not required.

#### About the speakers:

Tzoa: gender non conforming POC of mixed heritage. Co-founder and coordinator at Casa Kuà, Trans\* Inter\* Queer Community and Health Center in Berlin. Practices Daoist Chinese medicine and martial arts.

Lee Modupeh Anansi Freeman (stage name: Daddypuss Rex) is a Black and Trans poet / writer / stand-up comedian / community coordinator and facilitator. By day, Lee is a yoga teacher whose classes focus on BIPOC and queer / trans experiences, stories, and bodies of all shapes, sizes, and abilities. They is fluent in English, French, and German.

Limited number of participants



# 14 "Parenting is just a matter of luck." - Exchange round for trans\* parents

On Sat 29.05, from 15.30 to 17.30h

Are children of trans\* parents lucky? - A question of personal attitude, social environment and politics - if everything is right: YES!!! - Currently, however, in the best case only 2 of 3 of the answers are true. What do we do if we still want a baby, already have or live with children? We exchange ideas.

Facilitation: Jack Kaltepoth (43), dad of 2 self-born children, founder of <u>Queertischim Pott</u>, project management and coordination at <u>Queerflexiv</u>.

Limited number of participants

# Workshop / Input 16 Counseling during the pandemic - everything as usual?

On 29.05, from 15.30 to 17.30h

The Corona pandemic has intensified existing difficulties for LGBTIQA+ persons, but above all made them more visible. This is also reflected in the counseling work within the communities.

In this workshop, we would therefore like to take a closer look at certain problems that we encounter in our counseling work and discuss how these difficulties can be improved beyond the pandemic.

#### Offered by:

Samira Grabarz (pronoun: she) is part of the team of LesMigraS, the anti-violence and antidiscrimination section of Lesbenberatung Berlin e. V. and deals with materialist critique of our conditions outside the context of wage labor.

Unlimited number of participants

#### SUNDAY

Input

17 Trans\_forming Care. An ethnographic study on trans and nonbinary care work.

On Sun 30.05, from 10.30 to 11.30h



How is care designed beyond heteronormative binary gender norms? How are care and selfcare organized and lived in non-binary and trans spaces - beyond medical and family care contexts? There has been little research on this to date. Francis Seeck addresses this gap and interviews and accompanies people who provide care for other trans and non-binary people.

The ethnographic study deepens the understanding of the complex relationship between gender and care. It also draws attention to the importance of class in care relations. It shows how class differences and classism make access to care more difficult, but also that new forms of care emerge in zones of precarity.

**Francis Seeck**, born in 1987, is a gender researcher and cultural anthropologist working on classism, care and gender diversity. Francis Seeck received his PhD from the Humboldt University of Berlin in 2021 and is currently a substitute professor for social work science at the University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg. Francis Seeck has been active in antidiscrimination work since 2009. In October 2020, the anthology *Solidarisch gegen Klassismus. Organizing, Intervening, Redistributing,* which Francis Seeck edited with Brigitte TheißI was published at Unrast (currently 3rd edition).

Unlimited number participants

# Conclusions and feedback 18 Long-term and together for change! - Review and conclusion

On Sun 30.05, from 11.45h to 13.00h

The first Community-Werkstatt is coming to an end. Smooth Operator performs for us one more time. But before we leave the Zoom meeting, let's get together to talk about the highlights of the past days: What was great? What do you take away from the exchanges? What inspired you? Critical feedback is also possible and welcome, so we ask: What could be different next time?

We would like to look back on the past days and think about what we take away for our own engagement for trans<sup>\*</sup>, non-binary and gender non-conforming people. Last but not least, we would like to say thank you to all who have contributed to this event.

Facilitation: Kalle Hümpfner (BVT\*)

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