

# Annual Report 2016

Who we are  
What we want  
How we work



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# What We Want

Fostering democracy and upholding human rights, taking action to prevent the destruction of the global ecosystem, advancing equality between women and men, securing peace through conflict prevention in crisis zones, and defending the freedom of individuals against excessive state and economic power – these are the objectives that drive the ideas and actions of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. We maintain close ties to the German Green Party (Alliance 90/ The Greens) and as a think tank for green visions and projects, we are part of an international network encompassing partner projects in approximately 60 countries.

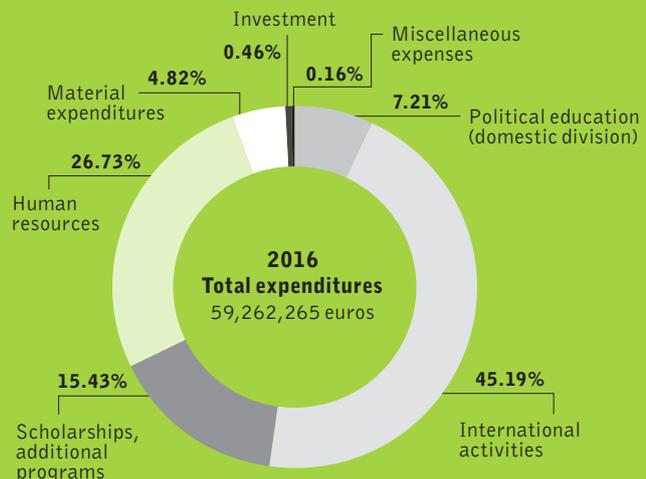
The Heinrich Böll Foundation works independently and nurtures a spirit of intellectual openness. We maintain a worldwide network with currently 32 international offices.

We cooperate closely with 16 state-level Böll Foundations in each of Germany's federal states, and we support talented, socio-politically engaged undergraduate and graduate students in Germany and abroad.

We gladly follow Heinrich Böll's exhortation for citizens to get involved in politics, and we want to inspire others to do the same.

## Sources and Allocation of Funding

The Heinrich Böll Foundation e.V. is mainly funded through public grants. In 2016, the Foundation's income increased by 8.4% and reached 62 million euros (preliminary figures). Over two thirds of the Foundation's overall worldwide spending is targeted toward our program work and scholarship program, and our international activities continue to account for the largest share of expenditures. Investment expenditures declined substantially as expected, due to the above-average costs incurred in the previous year for several large-scale IT projects.



# Heinrich Böll Foundation Worldwide



## Africa

- 1 Cape Town (South Africa)
- 2 Abuja (Nigeria)
- 3 Nairobi (Kenya)
- 4 Dakar (Senegal)\*

## Asia

- 5 Bangkok (Thailand)
- 6 Kabul (Afghanistan)
- 7 Islamabad (Pakistan)
- 8 New Delhi (India)
- 9 Beijing (China)
- 10 Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
- 11 Yangon (Myanmar)

## Europe

- 12 Belgrade (Serbia)
- 13 Berlin (Germany)
- 14 Brussels (Belgium)
- 15 Istanbul (Turkey)
- 16 Kiev (Ukraine)
- 17 Paris (France)
- 18 Prague (Czech Republic)
- 19 Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 20 Tbilisi (Georgia)
- 21 Thessaloniki (Greece)
- 22 Warsaw (Poland)

## Latin America

- 23 Bogotá (Colombia)
- 24 Mexico City (Mexico)
- 25 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- 26 San Salvador (El Salvador)
- 27 Santiago de Chile (Chile)

## Middle East and North Africa

- 28 Beirut (Lebanon)
- 29 Ramallah (Palestine)
- 30 Rabat (Morocco)
- 31 Tel Aviv (Israel)
- 32 Tunis (Tunisia)

## North America

- 33 Washington (USA)

## Russian Federation

- 34 Moscow (Russia)

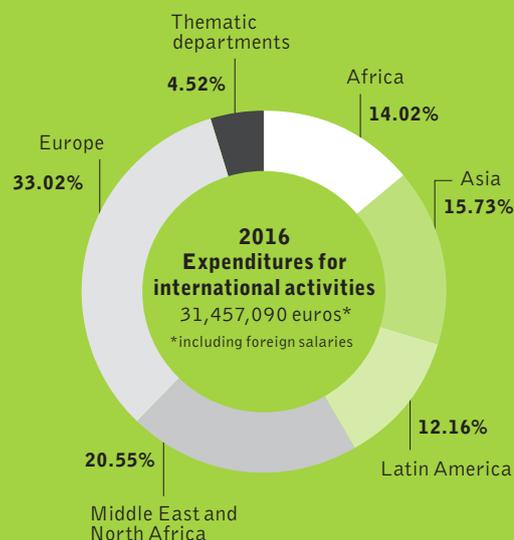
\* planned

## International Cooperation

In 2016, the Heinrich Böll Foundation received approximately 25 million euros in funding from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, including roughly 945,000 euros for measures to mitigate climate change in developing countries. Approximately 340,000 euros in additional funding from the ministry's Transformation Partnership program was targeted toward projects in Morocco and Tunisia, and roughly 190,000 euros in special funding from the ministry's One World, No Hunger initiative was directed toward projects in Kenya.

Our International Cooperation Division received approximately 4.5 million euros from the Federal Foreign Office. In addition, the Federal Foreign Office provided roughly 540,000 euros in special funding for activities in Tunisia and Morocco.

European Union funding totaling about 1.5 million euros was targeted toward projects in the Middle East and North Africa as well as toward multi-regional projects in the Caucasus region and within the framework of the EcoFair Trade dialogue.



# Foreword



Ralf Fücks Image: Julia Baier



Barbara Unmüßig Image: Bettina Keller

2016 was not a good year for democracy. The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States, Turkey's move towards a despotic authoritarian regime, pervasive restrictions on civil society in numerous countries – all of these events and trends are signs of a major anti-liberal backlash. These developments go hand-in-hand with a far-reaching shift in international power relations. Rising powers – most of all China – are asserting their voice. All around the world, multilateral cooperation and the universal application of human rights are being challenged. The old world order is gone, but a new one has yet to take its place.

As a political foundation, we are needed more than ever. Promoting democracy and the rule of law are two of our core tasks. As the scope for civil society initiatives becomes increasingly restricted, this means that we also have to find alternative ways to support the work of our partners. Another one of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's central tasks is to provide background information on international developments and to explain key trends to German audiences.

Europe is experiencing rough times. Burgeoning nationalism obstructs the project of political union. A common refugee policy appears to be out of reach. The latent, smoldering euro crisis is dividing Europe into debtors and creditors. High levels of youth unemployment in southern Europe and the associated lack of prospects for an entire generation create a heavy burden for the future. Our vision is a Europe that combines social participation and environmental modernization and that opens up prospects for the younger generation. We want a Europe that strengthens our ability to take joint action and that leaves room for difference and diversity. Fortunately, last year also spurred many people to take a greater interest in politics and to demonstrate a willingness to resist the trends that are undermining European unity.

One of our leading priorities is to foster the social and environmental transformation of economies and societies. Here we seek to link technological innovation with political governance and individual responsibility. Social participation and environmental sustainability are inseparable from the question of democracy. Our studies, policy recommendations and discussion forums help to sharpen people's awareness that this great transformation is both necessary and possible. One of our major successes in 2016 was the book *Iss was?! Tiere, Fleisch & ich* ("Had enough?! Animals, meat and I"), which targets young readers. We took special pride in the book's nomination for the 2017 German Children's Literature Award in the non-fiction category.

Our work would not be possible without our staff and partners in both Germany and around the world. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for their dedicated and responsible efforts, often in countries and regions where taking civic action requires working under inhospitable conditions. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to the many people who are members of the Foundation's volunteer boards and commissions. We look forward to forging our shared onward path.

Berlin, April 2017

**Ralf Fücks**

**Barbara Unmüßig**

Presidents, Heinrich Böll Foundation



Moscow, February 2016: Thousands march in honor of Boris Nemtsov, the opposition leader murdered in 2015.  
Image: picture alliance/NurPhoto

## **Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights**

Democracy is not something to be taken for granted. It must be fought for, filled with vitality, and repeatedly renewed. Supporting and advancing democracy and democratization worldwide is one of the core priorities of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's international work. In our view, universal human rights are both the wellspring and linchpin of democracy. Based on this conviction, we support people in their efforts to have an impact on political processes, we organize public debates, and we fight for gender equality and minority rights. A free political culture must be able to grow and flourish. To this end, we support the work of civil society organizations, journalists and the media. We also work with our partners to resolve conflicts and to build civilian strategies of dispute settlement in order to prevent the erosion or even collapse of democratic practices.

## Civil society under pressure

Today, the repression of civil society is intensifying around the world, even in countries that are assumed to possess consolidated or firmly established democratic systems. The scope for civil society action is being curtailed – through bureaucratic hurdles, legal restrictions, defamation, the criminalization of civil society organizations and activity, and even physical violence. As a political foundation with strong ties to civil society actors in our partner countries, we are experiencing first-hand the far-reaching violation of fundamental democratic rights, along with policies that make it nearly impossible to engage in political action. Many of our international offices and local partners are working under difficult conditions but are still managing to have an impact.

### **Our office in Istanbul:**

#### **Expressing opposition from a garage**

In the aftermath of the failed coup attempt in July 2016, hardly a day goes by in Turkey without reports of journalists being arrested. While some small media outlets bravely continue to voice opposition, Turkish television is largely dominated by stations loyal to the government. However, a new oppositional media has emerged, and the heartbeat of one of its leading outlets emanates from a garage located in an industrial section of Istanbul. This is where the journalist Ruşen Çakır, who was fired by CNN Türk under government pressure, has set up Medyascope, which broadcasts daily political talk shows online. Medyascope uses the Periscope livestream app, which is especially popular among young people in Turkey. Every evening, Çakır and his team discuss current political issues with invited guests. But it's not just about politics – there are programs focusing on sports and culture too. Program guests naturally include well-known opposition figures, but also others, including one of the co-founders of the ruling Justice and Development party (AKP), who has since fallen out of Erdogan's favor. The stand-out feature of the programs is their lively culture of debate. Discussions are pointed, but they remain objective and fair. Every day, approximately 100,000 people who want more than the state's version of the truth tune in to the programs. Our office in Turkey supports the Medyascope team through the joint development of programs on issues such as human rights and foreign policy. Medyascope now features English-language programming as well.

### **Our office in Tel Aviv:**

#### **Lobbying for civil society rights**

In July 2016, Israel's right-wing nationalist government, which has been in power since 2015, passed a law requiring non-governmental organizations that receive over half of their funding from foreign sources to disclose this support. Stiff fines are to be imposed on groups that violate the new policy. In addition, representatives from such NGOs are required

to wear special tags when they visit the Knesset. The provisions of the law are milder than what was originally planned, but they still constitute an attack on leftist organizations that are critical of the government, especially those working on issues connected to human rights and the occupation. Right-wing groups, which are often financed through private donations, are not affected. Prior to the law's adoption, Germany's political foundations – first and foremost our Tel Aviv office – expressed their firm opposition to the legislation in a joint position paper and in letters to members of the Knesset and the government. This international pressure, especially from Germany, was one of the factors that led to the enactment of a softer version of the original bill.

### **Our office in Thailand:**

#### **Promoting freedom of expression in Southeast Asia**

Participation rights and the freedom of expression are explicitly enshrined in the constitutions of Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. However, government censorship and intimidation remain ever-present in all of these countries. This was the conclusion arrived at by the authors of a study on freedom of expression and the right to information in countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was published in 2014. Because of the restrictions that exist at the national level, the study's authors recommended that international organizations intensify their focus on fostering regional networks of activists who advocate for political participation rights and freedom of expression. In response, our office in Southeast Asia joined forces with the Thailand-based Foundation for Community Educational Media (FCEM) to set up an exchange program for scholars, activists and artists from the entire region, with the aim of spotlighting issues of civic engagement and political participation. The program's first events took place in 2016 and included various seminars and roundtables that formed part of the project series "Skylines with Flying People 3". Artists and scholars from the entire ASEAN region came to ex-

change views on pressing regional issues such as the conditions facing ethnic minorities, media coverage of protest movements, and the role of women in the cultural sector.

#### **Our office in Moscow:**

##### **Supporting dedicated young people**

Russia's "foreign agent" act, which requires NGOs that receive foreign funding and engage in "political activity" to register as "foreign agents", was made even more stringent in 2016. Previously, the term "political activity" had been defined only vaguely. In fact, many civil society activists had long criticized this ambiguity and demanded a more precise definition. However, the new definition that took effect in 2016 – in the form of a legislative amendment made at the behest of President Putin – did nothing to improve the situation facing NGOs. According to the new definition, all public activities focusing on such matters as governance structures, legal compliance, defense policy, foreign relations and socio-economic development are labeled "political activity", regardless of whether such activities take the form of protests, public discussions, election monitoring, publications, opinion surveys or political theater performances. So it is that much more crucial and fortunate that a vibrant civil society continues to exist in Russia.

Our office in Moscow supports long-term partners that have all now been designated as "foreign

agents". In addition, we support new activists who have formed loose associations that are not affected by the rules applied to NGOs. These new activists focus on less-prominent issues such as urban policy and work in unconventional formats such as art projects. In November 2016, we invited some of these partners to Berlin to take part in the "Russian Alternatives" conference that we organized in cooperation with the German Association for East European Studies.

#### **Our office in Sarajevo:**

##### **Expanding the scope for civic action**

The unstable societies of the western Balkans have not escaped the trend toward "shrinking spaces". A good overview of recent developments in the region is provided in the publication "Shrinking Spaces in the Western Balkans", which was issued by our Sarajevo office. The brochure features articles by authors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia, who report on the intimidation, discrimination and criminalization of journalists and civil society activists in their countries. They illustrate the complex mechanisms of pressure and intimidation while also highlighting ways to resist, for example by creating alternative media channels. To help civil society actors expand their scope for action, the publication cites numerous international agreements and instruments – such as UN resolutions – that NGOs and activists can invoke in their encounters with repressive forces.

## **Confronting the past**

When a dictatorship ends or a violent conflict is resolved, a path opens up that makes it possible to give voice to survivors, compensate victims and call perpetrators to account. These processes of ascertaining the truth constitute efforts of remembrance that can enable a country's people to develop a shared understanding of the past. This is difficult when resentments persist, when the conflict continues to smolder, or when perpetrators and victims must continue to coexist. For this reason, we support efforts to reach an understanding of the past, to grapple with conflicting memories, and to combine the documentation of crimes with the assertion of human rights. Here are two examples:

#### **Cambodia: Women in the Khmer Rouge**

One quarter of Cambodia's population was killed under the rule of the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979. Women also worked for the regime and participated in crimes. Their reasons for doing so varied. Some hoped to receive food during a time of famine. Others followed the appeal of the king, who was collaborating with the Khmer Rouge in an effort to depose the dictator Lon Nol. Still others became involved because family members had joined the Khmer Rouge. Although the Khmer Rouge's ideology touted equal rights for women, traditional gender roles still pre-

dominated in practice. Many women were deployed in kitchens or in the few hospital wards that existed. However, they also participated in combat units or served in prisons and torture centers. Even today, the process of coming to terms with the past remains a politically sensitive topic. In 2016, our partner organization Kdei Karuna launched a project with women who had worked for the Khmer Rouge regime. Two of the women had been cooks, and two others had been leaders of combat units comprised of women. Some of the women manifested symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. They had endured

forced marriages or had lost family members under the Khmer Rouge. These women were not exclusively perpetrators. Our Cambodia office supports projects that examine and process women's history, because these efforts show that thinking in simple terms of victims and perpetrators is not historically accurate, and also because historiography in Cambodia remains a male-dominated field.

#### **Tunisia: Processing the legacy of dictatorship**

Tunisia's Truth and Dignity Commission has been conducting public hearings since 17 November 2016, in the face of fierce public altercations. Numerous victims of the dictatorial regime under Ben Ali have testified, along with others who were victims of human rights violations, nepotism and corruption in

the period after Tunisia gained independence. The Commission has heard and documented over 60,000 cases to date.

The public hearings are broadcast on television and represent a milestone in dealing with crimes committed under the dictatorship. Full-length video recordings of the hearings are available on the Commission's website. To coincide with the hearings, the Tunisian legal network Mufakkira Qanuniya Tunis (Agenda Legale) launched a quarterly journal bearing the network's name. Modeled after the Lebanon-based Legal Agenda and supported by our office in Tunis, the new journal publishes incisive articles focusing on issues such as judicial independence, coming to terms with the past, and the fight against corruption.

## **Advancing women's and LGBTI rights**

In a vibrant democracy, no one should be persecuted on the basis of her or his sexual orientation or identity. But this is precisely what happens in many societies. Together with our partner organizations, we are working to change this. Our main objective here is to strengthen women's rights and advance legislative initiatives to protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and inter\* (LGBTI) individuals.



Turkey: Graffiti expressing opposition to early marriage in Beyoğlu, a district in Istanbul. Image: Abdullah Coskun / picture alliance / AA

#### **Turkey: Hair rollers against early marriage!**

In Turkey, it is not unusual for underage persons to marry. No exact figures are available, but NGOs estimate that many tens of thousands of marriages involving minors take place every year. The legal age of marriage in Turkey is 18. However, like in Germany, marriage is permissible at age 17 with parental consent, and at age 16 if a court adds its

approval. Despite these rules, many early marriages continue to be conducted informally by imams, even though this practice has long been outlawed. Official registration then takes place when the individuals in question reach legal age. With the support of our Istanbul office, the women's cooperative Yaka-Koop, which is based in the southeastern city of Van, started a campaign to combat early marriage. As part

of the project, women social workers visit schools or engage directly with families. They provide parents with information on the legal consequences of marriage and help them to obtain stipends or other forms of support that enable their daughters to stay in school and receive an education. This is because poverty is often a major factor that forces girls into early marriage. In recent years, the project has made contact with over 4,000 girls. In many cases, Yaka-Koop's efforts have led parents to cancel planned marriages. Yaka-Koop has also established contacts with village leaders, imams, bridal wear shops and physicians. The organization recently made headlines when its members got all of the hair salons in Van to promise not to make any more appointments for elaborate hairstyling and make-up sessions – a mandatory ritual for all Turkish weddings – with girls under the age of 18. Since then, all of the hair salons have hung large signs advising against early marriage. The campaign is now seeking out a new ally, namely the traditional bands that are commonplace at weddings – the aim is to make them pledge to perform only at weddings where both bride and groom are at least 18 years of age.

#### **India: greater social participation for transgender individuals**

Sexual minorities – especially transgender groups such as hijras and jogappas – have traditionally had a place in Indian society. In everyday life, however, they are subject to numerous forms of discrimination and usually live on the economic margins of society as beggars or sex workers. In 2014, India's supreme court issued a ruling recognizing transgender individuals as a "third gender". This means that they can now demand better access to government services – such as health care – that cater specifically to the needs of transgender persons. In order to optimize the social inclusion of transgender people in India, the Bangalore-based Solidarity Foundation – along with other organizations in five Indian states – documents the living conditions of affected persons and identifies their needs. The Heinrich Böll Foundation supports the work of these organizations. Their activities include public outreach and events to dispel prejudice and stereotypes. Two concerts in 2016, one in Bangalore and one in Mumbai, were a particular highlight. At these events, jogappa musicians performed together with the well-known Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna, providing an enthusiastic audience with a fusion of Indian folk music and South Indian classical music.

#### **Thailand: Gender reports – critical analyses under difficult conditions**

In Thailand, restrictive media laws and constraints on digital communication rights have led to the increasing stigmatization of gender-related political issues. Journalists feel intimidated, and self-censorship is on the rise. Our Bangkok office works to-

gether with critical and independent media outlets such as Isaan Record, iLaw, and especially Prachatai, whose reporting includes coverage of gender-related issues with regional significance. Their articles are published in both Thai and English. In 2016, their reports focused on issues such as sexual self-determination among women with disabilities, sexual violence against transgender inmates in all-male prisons, human rights violations against female prison inmates, and the living conditions of Thai women who have become migrant workers around the region.

#### **Russia: Gender – watch and listen**

From January to June 2016, an online course on gender-related issues was produced in Moscow, comprised of a series of film clips featuring mini-lectures by leading Russian experts, scholars, practitioners and sociologists. Their contributions focused on gender equality and the rights and responsibilities of men and women. Each speaker placed a spotlight on a particular topic of current interest, such as "Feminism in Russia and around the world", "Family policy", and "Role models, problems and stereotypes of men and women in the northern Caucasus". Answers were given to fundamental questions like "What is gender, really?" as well as to questions concerning sexual identity, masculinity and violence (how do we identify what violence is, and how do we resist it?). Each clip is five to eight minutes in length and features montages of illustration and animation. The gender policy mini-films were posted from April to June on the website of our Moscow partner colta.ru. In just the first two months, each clip was seen by 10,000 to 40,000 viewers. Numerous viewers urged that the project be continued with a second series of presentations. Since December 2016, the online gender course has also been available for viewing on our Moscow office's website.

## **Gunda Werner Institute – Feminism and Gender Democracy**

Gender policy, together with feminist analyses and strategies, are firmly embedded in the overall activities and internal structure of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. In this connection, the Foundation's Gunda Werner Institute (GWI) plays a special role: The GWI pools gender policy themes and fosters the discourse relating to feminism and gender democracy. The Institute conducts public outreach to counteract blindness to gender issues in international peace and security policy, identifies emancipatory gender policy strategies in other countries, and assesses the transferability of these strategies to policy-making processes in Germany and the European Union.



Gdańsk, March 2017: Demonstrators show their support for Donald Tusk's reelection as President of the European Council. Tusk received 27 votes from EU member state governments. Only Poland's government voted against him. Image: picture alliance / NurPhoto

## **Tackling the Challenges Facing Europe**

The European Union is experiencing difficult times: it is threatening to unravel, the common currency has turned into a stress test, a common stance in foreign policy matters is lacking, and there is no shared policy on refugees and migrants. The Union is failing to deliver bold responses to its central challenges, and this exacerbates its crisis of legitimacy. In many member states, populists on both the right and left propagate simplistic solutions: they want their countries to leave the Union and call for the closure of borders. These demands have gained significant traction among disaffected segments of the population – in Germany, France, Poland, Hungary and many other countries. Sixty years after the adoption of the Treaties of Rome, Europe needs to draw closer again, turn the current crisis into an opportunity, and defend its model of liberal democracy. As a common project, the European Union has brought its members prosperity, freedom and peace. These are the values that are currently at stake. Together with our partners, we continue to strive for a strong European Union.

## Refugees and migrants

Over 60 million people around the world have fled their homes. A growing number of people from crisis-ridden areas in Syria, Iraq and North Africa are seeking sanctuary in Europe. Yet Europe remains deeply divided over issues of refugee and asylum policy. There is significant disagreement over how to deal with people who are seeking protection, even with regard to the question of how to achieve a fair distribution of refugees among the member states. The lack of consensus and coordination at the European level places the Schengen regime of internal borders at risk. Even worse, it is tearing at the fabric of European unity and exacerbating a tendency toward the re-nationalization of European policy.



Moria, Greece: Thousands of refugees are still stranded on the island of Lesbos in an initial reception center that resembles a detention camp. Image: Erik Marquardt

### **International conference in Berlin: Crossing boundaries in European asylum and refugee policy**

Despite their highly divergent positions on refugee policy, European governments can agree on one thing: solutions to the causes and long-term consequences of the refugee crisis are unlikely to be found at the national level. In May 2016, the Heinrich Böll Foundation's annual European Conference looked at the crucial questions affecting efforts to elaborate a European asylum and refugee policy. It quickly became apparent that far-reaching common solutions such as the shared, equitable distribution of refugees do not stand a chance under current political conditions. Instead, many participants expressed hope that a European approach could gain new momentum through the creation of a yet-to-be-defined "coalition of the willing" that could encompass not just states prepared to take joint action but also cities, civil society organizations and businesses. While there was a general consensus that burden-sharing is needed at a European level, most discussants were opposed to imposing fines on countries unwilling to accept refugees. Instead, they recommended placing a greater emphasis on positive financial incentives

to support communities that receive refugees and to encourage local populations to see refugees as more than a burden. Nevertheless, there was considerable skepticism that such approaches – which have produced positive results when attempted on a smaller scale – could be put into practice within a much more complex European framework.

### **Warsaw office: Conference on refugee flows and migration in Europe**

In April 2016, a conference organized by our Warsaw office and held in the Polish city of Poznań focused on the "refugee crisis" and its implications for Germany and the European Union. Guests from Germany drew on the experiences of the German states of Brandenburg and Berlin to report on the organizational challenges posed by the task of integrating refugees, and the policy frameworks that are being put into place in response. Discussions with Polish government representatives, scholars and activists were passionate and contentious, and they revealed a certain degree of distrust in Germany's approach toward European-level solutions. In order to engage with this distrust, we plan to keep conducting such matter-of-fact discussions in the future.



Berlin, October 2016: Tomás González Castillo, friar from Mexico, reports on the dramatic conditions facing migrants at the Guatemalan border, where he operates a shelter.

### **Prague office: Exhibition – “Fear of the unknown”**

Our Prague office provided support for an event program accompanying the art exhibition “Fear of the Unknown”, which was shown in the Kunsthalle Bratislava and curated by Lenka Kukurová. In the exhibition, works by artists from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Austria and Germany grappled with the experiences of people forced to flee their homelands and reflected on the ways in which European policymakers and societies are reacting to the “refugee crisis”. The accompanying event series featured panel discussions, guided tours, training seminars for teachers, and workshops for schoolchildren and university students. Against the background of the charged debates surrounding European refugee and asylum policies, the exhibition served as an important venue for an open and nuanced dialogue.

### **Washington D.C. office: “Welcoming Communities” exchange**

In 2016, our office in Washington D.C. started a transatlantic exchange program for groups and organizations working on integration policy. Our aim is to foster an effective “welcoming infrastructure” for migrants and refugees and to improve communication with local populations. In April, a delegation from Germany attended a national integration summit in Atlanta and visited their counterparts in St. Louis (Missouri), Boise (Idaho), Clarkston (Georgia), Columbus and Dayton (Ohio). The guests from Germany were highly impressed by the efforts of US organizations to help refugees achieve vocational and financial independence. They were also impressed by the way in which refugees in the US are encouraged to retain their cultural heritage while simultaneously becoming “new Americans”. A US delegation then completed the exchange by visiting Germany in September. They were particularly affected by visits to

the towns of Pirna and Altenberg, where courageous mayors and volunteers are working with great commitment to integrate refugees despite tremendous hostility from parts of the local population. At a concluding symposium in Berlin, the communities participating in the exchange program presented a local integration action plan and established an alumni network to keep up contact in the future.

### **International conference in Berlin: The right to legal migration routes**

More and more, both the European Union and the United States are engaged in efforts to seal themselves off from refugee flows. In an attempt to evade responsibility, they are shifting their external borders to third countries. At the borders of Europe and the US, activists have established civil society networks that offer solidarity and support to people on the run. In addition to providing emergency aid, these networks are also calling on governments to fulfil their political, legal and moral responsibilities. At an October 2016 conference in Berlin, activists discussed their work and explored ways to cooperate. Our guests included Tomás González Castillo, a friar from Mexico who runs a shelter for migrants near the Guatemalan border. His sanctuary provides protection from police violence, deportation and criminal attacks. Crime cartels such as the Zetas abduct migrants with the aim of demanding ransom payments, forcing women into prostitution, or using abductees as drug couriers.

**“In my opinion, we should save human lives wherever they can be saved.”**

Heinrich Böll, in a 1981 interview with *Spiegel* magazine

## Foreign and security policy

Matters of foreign and security policy have once again risen to the top of the European agenda. The main challenges currently confronting the EU and its partners include violent conflicts in Europe's immediate neighborhood, ongoing tensions over migration, Russia's pretensions to power, and the threat of violence-prone extremism. At the same time, the EU's stature as a global player is diminishing. This increases the risk that Europe itself could become a pawn in geopolitical power struggles.



Wolfgang Ischinger (Chairman of the Munich Security Conference)



Dr. Angela Stent (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.)

### Berlin: Annual Foreign Policy Conference

A new arc of crisis has emerged on the borders of Europe. In particular, the confrontation with Russia, the war in Syria, and large numbers of refugees present the European Union with major challenges. At our 17th Annual Foreign Policy Conference, international experts focused on the overarching question: What strategies should the EU adopt to meet these challenges? Common ground was found relatively quickly at least with regard to one normative goal: the EU must pursue a foreign policy that is based in equal measure on international norms, Western values and European interests. The current confrontation with Russia was viewed by many as the most critical test facing Europe. On the one hand, Moscow's push for the recognition of Russian spheres of influence in the post-Soviet space calls into question not only the sovereignty of individual states but also the foundations of the entire European security order. On the other hand, security in Europe cannot be built without Russia.

There was also clear agreement that Europe cannot simply cordon itself off from the current problems affecting North Africa and the Middle East. Omid Nouripour, foreign policy spokesperson for the Green Party in the German Bundestag, argued that an effective EU strategy requires not only more humanitarian aid and enhanced efforts to combat jihadism but also measures to promote the rule of law, good governance and economic growth throughout the region. In his view, this is the only way to help legitimate political institutions take root and thereby to eliminate a key deficit considered to be the main cause of chronic instability in the region.

### Genshagen: Conference to improve Franco-German cooperation in North Africa

European foreign and development policy faces new tasks in the Maghreb following the upheavals of 2011. These include democratization, the fight against terrorism and the "refugee crisis". So far, however, no comprehensive long-term strategy has been put into place. In June 2016, we teamed up with the German Development Institute (DIE) and the Genshagen Foundation to host a symposium where a small group of decision-makers and experts from Germany, France and North Africa convened to identify ways to improve cooperation between the various stakeholders. It became clear during the discussions that many European projects are being carried out in Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco, but they tend to be separate and uncoordinated, with players carrying out duplicate efforts or even working at cross purposes. This wastes money, time and energy. Furthermore, the North Africa policies pursued by Germany and France are too often geared toward short-term results and thus frequently address symptoms rather than root causes. Working to secure borders instead of counteracting the factors that lead people to flee their homes is just one of many examples here. The symposium found that European foreign policy requires a radical rethink. Political strategies in North Africa need to complement each other better, and coordination must be improved. Otherwise France and Germany will be exacerbating precisely the things they want to prevent, namely instability and uncertainty.

### **Warsaw office: Explaining the world in two days**

Our Warsaw office's two-day event "World in focus: Warsaw international gathering" drew an audience of over 500, who came to find out more about the international challenges facing the globe. High-level experts from 15 countries participated in numerous panel discussions that focused on topics such as the future of the West, the US presidential election's ramifications for Europe, Russian propaganda in the West, and Islamism in multicultural European societies. Teachers attended workshops on migration, and on multicultural education in schools. A "living library" gave people the opportunity to make personal contact with refugees and migrants living in Poland.

### **Mobilizing for a global ban on nuclear weapons**

To date, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences of the United Nations have failed to advance the process of nuclear disarmament. In response, a growing number of activists and nuclear-weapon-free states are trying to give the movement new impetus by using the instruments of international law and highlighting the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. And in fact, negotiations have regained momentum as a result.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a relatively new civil society organization launched in 2007, deserves a good deal of credit for this positive development. ICAN has rekindled public awareness of the nuclear threat and calls for a global ban on nuclear weapons. ICAN campaigners also played a crucial role in pressing for negotiations on a nuclear weapons ban under international law. These negotiations have now started in New York – a historic development in nuclear policy. In two rounds of negotiations, the United Nations aims to adopt an international treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. This would close a gap in international law: nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction that are not subject to a ban. The United Nations would thereby establish a political counterpoint to the recent announcements by Russia and the United States that they intend to upgrade their nuclear armaments.

Since 2014, we have provided financial and strategic support to the German branch of ICAN. For example, we have helped to forge contacts with Foundation partners and the German Bundestag.

### **Bringing young voices into the movement to control nuclear weapons**

For decades, debates over nuclear disarmament have been led mainly by the same group of men in the East and West. Our project "N.EX.T. | Nuclear Expert Talks", which we operate jointly with the Hamburg-based Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), aims to build a new pool of experts in this key field. In November 2016, a project group comprised of 15 members from countries including Russia, Ukraine, Romania, the United States, the

United Kingdom, Hungary and Germany held its initial meeting in Berlin. Their goal was to present and discuss strategies to overcome the standstill in nuclear disarmament efforts and to control the build-up of nuclear weapons. The forum provided an opportunity for young scholars to exchange views with recognized experts. The group's findings will be published in a report issued in cooperation with the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. Plans are in the making to present the publication at a series of 2017 events in Berlin, Brussels, Washington D.C. and Moscow.

### **The Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt) celebrates its 15th year**

Fostering trust and cooperation between policy-makers and civil society in the intersecting fields of peace and development policy: this has been the main mission of the Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt) for 15 years now. Founded by government organizations, faith-based relief agencies, civil society networks and political foundations, FriEnt embodies a unique partnership for collaboration and joint learning. The Heinrich Böll Foundation has been a member since 2007. The year 2016 showed us that peace-building is more important than ever. Many countries face severe problems: crisis, violence, corruption, state failure, poverty and a lack of security and future prospects. Millions of people have fled their homelands, and violations of human rights abound. These developments pose challenges to all actors working in the fields of development and peace policy. As a bridge between state and civil society and between policy-makers and practitioners, FriEnt provides a forum where diverse stakeholders can contemplate and discuss peace-building strategies. The basic question is this: How can people who are actively engaged in the areas of development and peace policy continue to make constructive contributions in an increasingly complex and multipolar world?

## **GreenCampus – Practicing successful politics**

GreenCampus – the political training academy of the Heinrich Böll Foundation and its affiliated foundations at the federal state level – pools our diverse spectrum of advanced training programs in the field of political management. GreenCampus offers skills development, capacity-building, and management consulting for people active in politics – whether they work as volunteers, in political parties, or in organizations. In this way, we make a key contribution toward building and upgrading the skills that people need to engage in successful political work and effective social participation.



Germany, Lausitz lignite mining region: The Ende Gelände ("Stop coal!") movement engages in civil disobedience to protect the climate.  
Image: Jannis Große/Flickr.com (CC BY-NC 2.0, <http://bit.ly/2p5BC0B>)

## **Giving Shape to the Great Transformation**

The Heinrich Böll Foundation wants to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy. Because this is the challenge of our time: the simultaneous fight against poverty and unemployment on the one hand, and climate change on the other. This is why we advocate a green energy revolution, environment-friendly agriculture and sustainable urban development. Germany is already making this attempt and, for a number of years now, has been forging a path towards a green transformation of the economy. Germany's transition toward a clean energy system, or *Energiewende*, shows that a country with a successful export-oriented economy can phase out the use of fossil fuels while simultaneously creating new jobs. But this is not enough. Other key sectors of the economy – such as transport, housing, chemicals and mechanical engineering – are now beginning to make the transition.

We support social and environmental transformation everywhere – here at home in Germany and around the world wherever our international offices are located. We fight for drastic reductions in resource consumption, for transparent contracts in the commodities industry, and for accountability on the part of major mining companies. We want to find solutions that enable natural resources to be used in a way that respects the ecological limits of our planet while simultaneously strengthening human rights and democracy.

## Climate crisis, the Energiewende and green mobility

Severe storms, droughts, melting glaciers – our changing climate calls for urgent action. There is hardly a government in the world that can still afford to deny this reality. The business world too is starting to take steps. Nevertheless, the voluntary commitments formulated at the Paris climate summit (COP 21) fall short. Even though the use of renewable energy is currently making tremendous advances, the global economy still runs on fossil fuels. Phasing out coal – the number one fossil fuel – remains a top priority.



Marrakech, Morocco: UNFCCC “family photo” organized by Greenpeace, taken during the climate conference.  
Image: Takver/Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0, <http://bit.ly/2p0TfDk>)

### The climate summit in Marrakech: international climate diplomacy ↗

The 22nd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22) took place in Marrakech, Morocco on 7–18 November 2016. In general, the conference’s main priority was to interpret the agreements reached at COP 21 in Paris and to work out the details of the Paris Rule Book – a type of “user’s guide” for putting the various decisions into action. For international civil society activists, one question in particular was crucial: To what extent will the international community succeed in creating the conditions to ensure that the hard-fought formulations enshrined in the Paris Agreement – on human rights, gender equality, equitable social change and other key principles cited in the preamble – are incorporated into specific measures and instruments? And which countries are willing to fight for these principles? Apparently not many: for example, only minor advances were made on the issue of human rights at the Marrakech summit.

We took a delegation of 48 staff members and partners from 14 countries to COP 22 to monitor the proceedings. One of the main priorities of our activities there was to call attention to the technological fixation of proposed solutions in the areas of climate change and climate finance. We put this issue on the agenda of numerous events in Marrakech, which we organized in collaboration with our offices in Rabat, Washington D.C., Brussels, Belgrade and Kyiv. In the run-up to the summit, we also published the report

“A change of course: How to build a fair future in a 1.5 world” together with Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) and Misereor. The report highlights the risks of strategies that are frequently cited as purported solutions to climate-related problems and compares these approaches with sustainable and equitable alternatives.

### Taking climate change to court: legal proceedings gain prominence ↗

Around the world, an increasing number of claims against climate-related damage are being lodged in court. Together with the Climate Justice Programme (CJP), we published a report in 2016 that documents the rising number of climate-related lawsuits. In June 2016, we organized a symposium in Thailand together with our Bangkok office and CJP where legal specialists, NGO activists and other experts from 20 countries (mainly from the ASEAN region) traded ideas and advanced new legal initiatives to promote climate justice in the region. A similar meeting in Africa is planned for 2017. Another event, held in Jakarta in October 2016, brought together climate experts and lawyers from Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The discussions there produced various strategies that our office in Thailand can use to support regional climate initiatives. For example, we will study the possibility of conducting legal proceedings against parties whose slash-and-burn practices cause air pollution in Indonesia.

↗ [Online dossier on the COP 22 in Marrakech](http://www.boell.de/en/dossier-climate-change-conference-cop-22-marrakech)  
[www.boell.de/en/dossier-climate-change-conference-cop-22-marrakech](http://www.boell.de/en/dossier-climate-change-conference-cop-22-marrakech)

↗ [Publication “Climate Justice”](http://www.boell.de/de/node/291493)  
[www.boell.de/de/node/291493](http://www.boell.de/de/node/291493)

### Stressed and fissured: the state of the nuclear power industry in the world today

The “World Nuclear Industry Status Report” (WNISR), published since 2007, provides an in-depth yearly analysis of the nuclear power industry. The report is coordinated by a team of authors led by energy and nuclear power expert Mycle Schneider. In November 2016, it was presented in Germany for the first time at a panel discussion hosted by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, which co-finances the report. At the event, Schneider outlined the study’s main findings, one of which was: there is little money to be made with nuclear power anymore. Compared with energy sources such as solar and wind power, nuclear power is losing its economic competitiveness.

### Improving energy efficiency through cross-border cooperation ↗

The European Commission wants to increase renewable energy’s share of gross energy consumption to 27% by 2030. Improved cooperation at the European level could help to meet or even exceed this target. Our Brussels office has established a new network that aims to foster the exchange of renewable energy among regions in Europe and around the world. Already in 2016, various events took place in Brussels that provided decision-makers with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with useful examples of energy cooperation in Europe’s border regions.

A study commissioned by our Warsaw office shows how regional cooperation can multiply the potential for efficiency at the local level. A German-Polish consortium looked at the benefits that could be achieved by improving the integration of electricity markets in the Baltic Sea region: What effect would this have on the competitiveness of the Polish electricity market and on European, German and Polish energy policy? The authors found that regional harmonization would significantly boost the efficiency and competitiveness of individual markets, not only in terms of transmission networks and capacity mechanisms but also in promoting renewable energy use.

### Women as change agents in Polish mining regions

Working together with the Collegium Civitas university, our Warsaw office has launched a multi-year project to promote greater awareness of sustainable development, particularly among women in the coal-mining region of Upper Silesia. The overarching objective is to encourage women to play a leading role in the socioeconomic transformation of Poland. The project is helping activists to forge stronger networks and expand their strategic capabilities. It also includes research on the social backgrounds and personal motivations of women who take part in civic ac-

tion. These findings will be captured in publications and educational materials and will also serve as the basis for events, all with the aim of (a) maximizing women’s potential for engaging in community action to promote sustainable development and (b) transferring insights and best practices to other regions.

### Study on energy poverty in Greece

More and more private households in Greece lack electricity because they are unable to pay their power bills. A study conducted by our office in Greece sheds light on ways to better coordinate the objectives of energy policy and social policy. Refurbishing buildings to improve energy efficiency and making the shift to clean energy must serve to ease the financial burdens faced by the growing number of Greeks who are becoming increasingly poor; instead, many measures are producing the opposite results. For this reason, it is worth looking at model European strategies such as (a) decentralized energy generation and (b) direct power supply projects for rental housing that combine social policy priorities with measures to mitigate climate change. The study provides government decision-makers with recommendations on how to fight energy poverty, outlines business models for local communities and energy companies, describes incentives that can help landlords and tenants improve energy efficiency in housing, and sets out strategies for the cost-effective use of power produced by renewable energy cooperatives.

### Series of expert talks on the future of air travel 🗉

The number of air passengers per year currently stands at roughly 3.3 billion. This figure – along with the number of aircraft – is expected to double over the next 20 years. Lower ticket prices and the growth of middle classes worldwide are the main factors propelling this trend. Air travel is a key driver of globalization and, for many people, an important part of our way of life. In 2016, the Foundation organized a series of expert talks that brought together aviation industry representatives, policy-makers and non-governmental organizations to explore ways of making air travel more sustainable. The discussions focused both on potential technological innovations – such as the production of alternative fuels, the possibilities and limits of reducing aircraft weight, and electric engines – as well as on issues of economic and social policy. The talks also highlighted the major gap between the aviation industry’s voluntary carbon reduction targets and the results that have so far been achieved in practice. All of this means that, in addition to new technologies, political solutions are urgently needed as well: these include the expansion of high-speed railways and effective global instruments to reduce the CO2 emissions caused by air transport.

↗ Study “European Power Market Integration”

<https://goo.gl/xqi9kN>

🗉 Publication “ALOFT – An Inflight Review”

<https://goo.gl/hUPH6h>

## Resource policy

A wealth of natural resources does not automatically lead to poverty reduction. On the contrary: in many resource-rich countries, economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few while environmental destruction continues apace and social inequities intensify. For this reason, it is crucial to ensure transparency and accountability in the commodities sector and to enhance public awareness of the risks and consequences of resource exploitation. Industrial agriculture is also a critical problem: industrial livestock production in particular has a significant impact on the climate and environment. Nature conservation takes a back seat to economic interests. As a result, more and more ecosystems are threatened with destruction, and species risk being lost forever.



Chile: The Country's most famous film and television actors supported the #SECOS-Campaign

### Chile: #SECOS – Campaign to reclaim water as a public good

Due to the privatization of water rights in Chile, tank trucks have become the only source of drinking water for an increasing number of communities. Our partner organization Modatima has launched a campaign, called #SECOS, that aims to restore public water rights. The initiative has secured the support of a good dozen of the country's most famous film and television actors. In addition, the renowned photographer Tomás Munita granted usage rights for a series of photographs depicting desert landscapes and dry river beds in Chile. The campaign incorporated these images into the short film "Secos". The film deploys chilling aesthetics to depict how Chile's avocado export industry has violated basic water rights. Posing in the formation of a chorus from antiquity, actors lament the perverse logic of the country's privatized water market and the scandalous inaction of the Chilean state. The film also includes interviews with small farmers. "Secos" premiered in Santiago de Chile in December 2016.

### Community Protocols to strengthen local community rights over resource extraction ↗

Many countries in Africa and other regions of the Global South view mining as one of the few ways to achieve economic growth. However, even though mining companies provide jobs, they rarely help to improve living conditions in the affected communities. On the contrary, communities in mining regions are often confronted with resettlement, pollution, and the destruction of their livelihoods and natural environment. They are rarely treated as legitimate negotiating partners. Instead, the policy agenda is set mainly by governments and corporations. "Community protocols" aim to change this state of affairs. Over a period of three years, our partner organization Natural Justice has worked with communities facing repercussions from planned mining and infrastructure projects in Argentina, India, Kenya and Zimbabwe, helping them to formulate community protocols that assert their priorities, values and preferred approaches. The protocols also specify rights and responsibilities under customary, national and interna-

↗ [Community Protocol Tool Box](http://za.boell.org/2016/05/10/community-protocols-toolbox)

[http://za.boell.org/2016/05/10/  
community-protocols-toolbox](http://za.boell.org/2016/05/10/community-protocols-toolbox)



South Africa: Masiko Somi and his wife Magumede are suing the mining industry, demanding compensation for the damage caused by silicosis. Image: Thom Pierce

tional law, in this way seeking to set a framework for the activities of external actors such as governments, companies and civil society groups. The project has not achieved the same level of success everywhere. However, it has shown that when affected communities express their voice collectively and systematically, it is harder for other stakeholders simply to ignore them. Our “Community Protocol Tool Box” provides a collection of booklets to help local populations write their own community protocols.

#### **South Africa: The price of gold – a class-action lawsuit against the mining industry**

South Africa’s gold mining industry is being taken to court. In a historic class-action suit, 56 plaintiffs – a group comprised of miners and the widows of deceased miners – are demanding fair compensation for damages from silicosis, a lung disease caused by exposure to mine dust. Silicosis is an incurable disease that can be prevented by wearing protective masks. The plaintiffs represent hundreds of thousands of afflicted workers in an industry that, for over a century, neglected workers’ health rights and provided minimal compensation when they got sick. The companies saddled the already impoverished families, particularly women, with the burdens and costs of medical care. Sonke Gender Justice, one of our project partners in South Africa, is acting as an approved *amicus curiae* in an effort to require mining companies to transfer compensation payments to widows and their families after the miners themselves pass away. This is a legal claim that has brought the mining industry before the country’s highest court of appeal. Sonke’s aim is not simply to provide legal assistance to individual claimants, but rather to draw public

attention to the hidden aspects of the silicosis pandemic. The organization has launched a broad-based media campaign, organized photo exhibits, and held demonstrations to highlight to the public that the high price of gold on commodities markets is paid with the desperation and poverty of thousands of women in southern Africa.

#### **Mexico: Giving women a bigger say in mining projects**

In Mexico, the municipality of Capulalpam succeeded in preventing the reopening of the local mine. A study supported by our office in Mexico documents the experiences that this community gained during its campaign. One of our primary objectives here is to enhance women’s opportunities to gain representation in community administrative and decision-making structures, which are often organized in accordance with indigenous customary law. The study also served as a way to reach out to the many non-governmental organizations in Mexico that work on issues connected with mining and resource extraction. In workshops, we explored possibilities and mechanisms for placing gender issues on the political agendas of these organizations. We plan to continue this project in 2017.

#### **Mexico: We need diversity – biodiversity conference in Cancún** ↗ ↗

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) represents an attempt to conserve biological diversity, to use it sustainably, and to ensure a fair and equitable balance in sharing the benefits resulting from the utilization of genetic resources. In December 2016, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

↗ Online dossier on the  
CBD COP 13 in Cancún  
<https://goo.gl/pPYcvd>

↗ Online dossier on  
synthetic biology  
<https://goo.gl/agN7jd>

CBD was held in Cancún, Mexico. One of the main bones of contention at the conference was synthetic biology. The potential risks of this extreme form of genetic engineering have not been adequately researched and could undermine all three objectives of the convention. Another area of dispute was geoengineering – i.e. intervention in the Earth’s geochemical and biochemical cycles.

The Foundation put together a small team that conducted activities in the run-up to the event and on-site during the conference in Cancún. For example, we organized a capacity-building and strategic workshop on synthetic biology that was specifically targeted toward civil society organizations and developing country delegations. Our main aim here was to provide them with a stronger basis for engaging in negotiations with industrialized countries and their powerful biotech lobbies. We also teamed up with the Civil Society Working Group on Synthetic Biology to monitor the actual negotiations. In addition, we issued a variety of publications in German, Spanish and English on the topics of synthetic biology, geoengineering and the new economy of nature.

#### **South Africa: Who is the rightful owner of rooibos?** 🇿🇦

Rooibos tea is popular around the world, thanks to its antioxidant properties and appealing flavor. But few people know that the Cederberg region in South Africa is the only place where rooibos grows. Historically, its cultivation is tightly linked with the indigenous Khoi and San people, who have cherished the plant for centuries because it can be used for a wide variety of purposes. However, a multi-million dollar tea industry has developed in recent years, with few of the profits accruing to small producers, many of whom belong to the Khoi and San communities. With the support of our partner organization Natural Justice, the National Khoisan Council is currently engaged in negotiations with the rooibos industry to secure a contractual benefit-sharing agreement. The Council is not simply appealing to the conscience of the tea industry but is basing its arguments on existing legislation that entitles owners of traditional knowledge to compensation for third-party commercialization of traditional products. So far, the negotiations have been arduous and the outcome remains uncertain. Nevertheless, getting all of the stakeholders to convene at a single table represents an important first step in the right direction.

#### **Online dossier: The new economy of nature** 📄 ↗

The economic valuation of nature is the subject of contentious discussions worldwide. The debate inflames passions, because the stakes go beyond the

protection of the environment. Rather, it raises the question of how we want to live in the future, how we will share finite resources with each other, and what makes up the “good” life. The Foundation has been working on this issue for many years, for example by organizing events and publishing studies and reports. In 2016, we launched a multimedia online dossier in German and English that features critical analyses and viewpoints and that explains the concept of a “green economy” and why this idea has sparked widespread interest among policy-makers and the business community, particularly in recent years. The dossier identifies key actors and institutions that are shaping the discourse; it also highlights contradictions and questionable assumptions that are being made within the discourse itself.

#### **Berlin: Doing agriculture differently – our own Green Week**

Every January, representatives from the agriculture industry gather in Berlin for the International Green Week, the world’s largest annual agricultural trade fair. This event gives us a regular opportunity to cast a critical glance at the state of agriculture today. During our event series “Doing agriculture differently: our own Green Week”, we discuss alternative strategies in global agriculture policy, provide background information on key policy issues, and advocate sustainable livestock production. On the day of the annual mass demonstration *Wir haben es satt!* (“We’re fed up with the agro industry!”), we provided an open house for thousands of people who came to our offices after the protest to continue their discussions over a warm bowl of soup.

#### **Publication: “Iss was?! Tiere, Fleisch und ich”**

More and more people – including children and teens – want to know how the animals that ended up on their dinner plates lived, how they were slaughtered, and how they were fed. We picked up on this important issue and, in March 2016, published the children’s book *Iss was?! Tiere, Fleisch und ich* (which translates roughly as “Had enough?! Animals, meat and I”). Easy to understand and visually appealing, the book outlines key facts about meat and shows that personal decisions often have far-reaching consequences. Using simple questions and colorful images, it explains in a matter-of-fact way how our consumption of meat is connected with the environment, health, climate, animals, justice and hunger. Nominated for the 2017 German Children’s Literature Award, the book and its individual charts and graphics are also well-suited for use as instructional material. It is currently available only in German.

📺 Video  
<https://goo.gl/niWFVM>

📄 Publication  
<https://goo.gl/AXPrj3>

↗ Online dossier  
<https://goo.gl/fo25Qp>

## Urban planning and sustainable development

Cities pose a serious challenge to principles of sustainable development, in economic, social and environmental terms. With their spatial density, cultural diversity, innovative potential and vibrant civic discourse, cities possess all of the prerequisites for a better future. At the same time, major urban centers can be incubators of crisis and conflict. Cities can be both: places of human misery and hubs of social advancement, individual freedom and political participation.



Brazil: Construction of an express bus link to the international airport in Rio de Janeiro. Image: Tânia Rego – AgBr (CC BR BY 3.0, <http://bit.ly/2pbNejx>)

### Conference: Co-producing sustainable cities?

#### Habitat III

By the year 2050, two-thirds of humanity is likely to be living in cities. Shaping the process of global urbanization in a sustainable way is an enormous challenge, but it also offers major opportunities for building a livable future. In October 2016, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development – or Habitat III – took place in Quito, Ecuador, with a primary focus on the challenges posed by urbanization. We used the conference as an opportunity to host our own event, “Co-producing sustainable cities?“, which sought to shed light on the necessary conditions for sustainable urban development. Featuring panel discussions on issues such as housing policy, waste management and mobility, the conference brought together 150 participants, including civil society and local government representatives from India, Brazil, South Africa and several European countries, who discussed their various strategies to ensure that urban development takes place in a manner that is compatible with both social welfare and the environment.

#### The Rio Olympics: The other side of the medal 📄 ↗

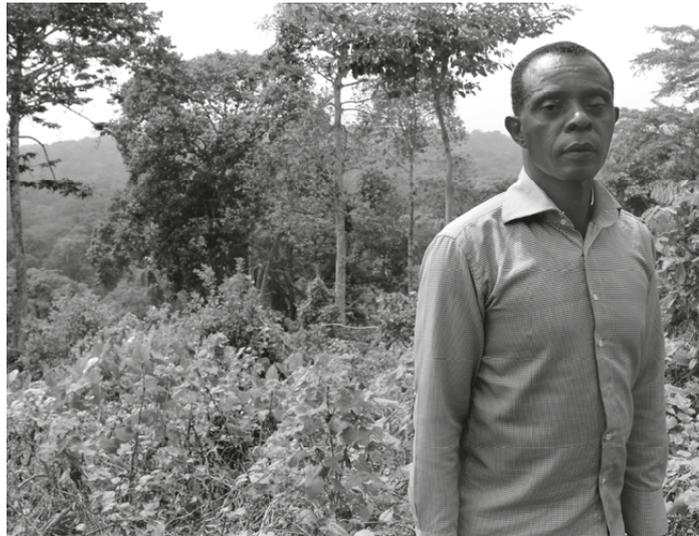
The 2014 World Cup in Brazil delivered a sobering final score: Ultimately, the mega-event cost the country over €8.5 billion euros, but the anticipated boost

to the national economy never materialized. Rather than spurring growth, the World Cup led to massive public spending on construction projects, huge profits for FIFA and (multi-)national construction firms, housing evictions and police violence. Hosting the Olympic Summer Games in 2016 gave Brazil the chance to learn from the World Cup’s mistakes and to demonstrate that large-scale sporting events can deliver positive outcomes for the general public. Unfortunately, the Olympics simply continued the pattern set by the World Cup. The city of Rio de Janeiro became a playground of political and private business interests. Once again, politics and power shovels pushed aside the needs and priorities of socially vulnerable groups.

The Foundation put together an extensive online dossier to track and analyze the Rio Olympics. In three languages (German, Portuguese and English), it features articles, videos and infographics on issues such as costs, security, evictions, sustainability and the role of women in elite sports. The director of our Rio office, Dawid Bartelt, published the essay “The other side of the medal“, which provides a detailed analysis of the various impacts caused by the World Cup and Olympic Games. He shows how sporting mega-events have established themselves as a business model at the expense of marginalized groups and human rights.

📄 Essay “The other side of the medal”  
<https://goo.gl/cKMftp>

↗ Online dossier on the Olympic Games  
<https://goo.gl/jrZKSZ>



Nigeria: Chief Edwin Ogar of the Ekuri community. The government plans to cut down rainforest in order to build a new highway. Blog: <http://supercrossriver.blogspot.com.ng/>

### Resisting the construction of a planned highway through eastern Nigeria's rainforest ↗

In eastern Nigeria, the governor of Cross River State wants to build a six-lane highway through the rainforest. To this end, in January 2016, he confiscated a strip of land 20 km wide and over 250 km long stretching from the Atlantic Ocean into the interior of the country. At first, many of the adjacent communities took a positive view of this "development project", because they equated road construction with economic growth. However, after many discussions at the village level, many local residents began to realize that the planned highway threatened to take away their livelihoods. Building the highway would mean sacrificing over 180 communities and nearly 25% of the land in Cross River State – a catastrophe for biodiversity in a region that is home to hundreds of unique fauna and flora. Our office in Nigeria worked to assist environmental activists and media outlets in getting out the message about the project's potential consequences. At the same time, we offered state government officials our expertise on decentralized renewable energy systems and the economic and social benefits of biodiversity protection. Our infographics, fact sheets, documentary films and maps were used by international media and by local activists, some of whom were subject to threats for opposing the highway. A year later, in January 2017, the government narrowed the strip of confiscated land from 20 km to 100 meters. Nevertheless, some NGOs continue to warn against the devastating effects of cutting a swath through the centuries-old primeval forest.

↗ Link

<http://ng.boell.org/cross-river-super-highway>

### Counter-summit during the Istanbul meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee ↗

When the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015, the protection of the world's artistic and cultural heritage – long one of UNESCO's central tasks – became one of the international community's key objectives for ensuring a livable future. This objective poses a particular challenge for Turkey, a country that possesses an abundance of ancient Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman sites and remnants of some of the world's earliest civilizations. The duty to protect this cultural heritage frequently clashes with the Turkish government's neo-liberal growth policies. Furthermore, in Kurdish regions, world heritage sites have come into the line of fire during confrontations between the PKK and Turkish armed forces. For example, parts of Diyarbakır's old town were destroyed during heavy fighting between Turkish forces and Kurdish insurgents. The government razed what remained and plans to build a tourist attraction in its place, and residents now fear that their old town will come to resemble some type of ancient Disneyland. Yet there was barely a mention of any of this in the Turkish government's official reports to the 40th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which was held in Istanbul in July 2016. Working together with Turkish partner organizations and World Heritage Watch, our Istanbul office organized a civil society counter-summit and published a shadow report on the state of world heritage sites in Turkey, which was submitted to UNESCO. The proceedings and final document of the civil society conference are available for download on the World Heritage Watch website.

↗ Link

<http://world-heritage-watch.org>

## Global and alternative economic governance

The world has become closely interlinked in economic terms. But most of the earnings from production, trade and services flow in one direction because there are not enough fair and internationally binding treaties to ensure greater equity. In bilateral agreements, too, the rule tends to be “might makes right”. We therefore need greater international cooperation, effective rules for financial markets, and equitable and environment-friendly investment and trade policies. The G20 and BRICS comprise the two leading pillars of global governance. But this is not enough. We place a central focus on analyzing the policies that these two forums pursue, with a particular emphasis on how their investment policies affect our partner countries. ↗



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, welcomes Chinese President Xi Jinping Image: picture alliance / AP Photo

### Monitoring the BRICS summit in India

The annual BRICS summit took place in October 2016 in Goa, India. Several of the world’s five largest emerging economies that comprise BRICS are experiencing major economic troubles, but this has hardly put a dent in the expectations directed toward BRICS – particularly in India. The group has now established its own development bank, the New Development Bank (NDB). Our offices in the various BRICS countries are working together with project partners to monitor how the NDB carries out its work, especially in terms of compliance with environmental and social standards. Our aim is to ensure that the NDB follows – and where possible expands – the best practices that have been put in place in the field of development financing. In 2016, our office in India supported the Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI) in its efforts to forge networks among civil society organizations at the Civil BRICS Forum that was funded by the Indian government and that took place in Delhi during the run-up to the summit of government leaders. A number of Foundation partner organizations were also present at the People’s Forum on BRICS, a counter-event in Goa that served as a venue primarily for organizations that take a critical view of the expansionary growth strategies being pursued by the BRICS states.

### ASEAN infrastructure projects: advocating transparency and sustainable investment

For many years now, our office in Thailand has been working together with Inclusive Development International (IDI), an organization that analyzes economic trends and financial transactions that have important ramifications for infrastructure investment in ASEAN countries. Given the high levels of Chinese investment in Southeast Asia, we decided to team up with IDI to produce two studies analyzing China’s role as the most influential investor in the region. The first report provides information on the development banks, funds and political initiatives that China uses to implement infrastructure projects. The second study contains information on the social and environmental standards that are attached to Chinese investments. We translated key sections of the reports into regional languages including Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese and Burmese and made these texts available to local activists. In addition, in response to requests from grass-roots groups from various ASEAN countries, we produced 22 analyses of investments in environmentally and socially sustainable projects. These analyses aim to provide local communities with a basis for preparing campaigns and legal actions. We also provide an interactive website that helps activists and lawyers to plan initiatives, lawsuits and other activities.

## Art and Culture

Art too can be an instrument of civic education. Art sharpens our perceptions, trains our sense of intuition, and inspires us to creative action. Heinrich Böll, who lent his name to our foundation, was an artist and public intellectual, and we will be honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth for an entire year in 2017. He declared many years ago that “getting into the fray is the only way to stay realistic”, and this statement remains true today.



Etgar Keret, Israeli writer known for his short stories, graphic novels, and scriptwriting for film and television.



Dorit Rabiyan, Israeli writer and screenwriter. Her love story between an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Muslim became the center of a political scandal in Israel when the Ministry of Education banned the book from the high school's curriculum.

### **Berlin: German-Israeli Literature Festival**

The 10th German-Israeli Literature Festival took place in early November 2016. The event is jointly curated and organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Goethe Institute. The theme for 2016 was “In the new land / uncharted territory”. Writers from Israel, Germany and Austria read excerpts from their works and discussed issues relating to refugees and migration. In particular, they explored the meaning of “arrival” and the experience of a new life in a “foreign home”.

### **Beirut: Jogging – a performance by Hanane Hajj Ali**

“Jogging” is the title of a theater performance by the renowned Lebanese actress Hanane Hajj Ali. The piece was staged to great acclaim in Beirut in 2016. The storyline: during her daily run through Beirut, Hanane reflects on her love-hate relationship with the city. This leads her to recall the ancient figure of Medea, who killed what she loved the most – her children – out of hate for her husband. Asking the question “Can a mother kill her children?”, she morphs into three different roles: herself, confronting her seven-year-old son’s cancer diagnosis; Yvonne, a Christian woman from Mount Lebanon who poisons her daughters to spare them the fate that she has suffered; and Zohra, whose three sons died as martyrs in Lebanon and Syria. “Jogging” is an extraordinary

one-woman-show that breaks taboos in Lebanon and has sparked heated – but mostly very positive – reactions. Our Beirut office provided funding for the production and is currently co-financing its tour through Lebanon.

### **Moscow: “NOW. Constructing Contemporaneity” festival**

In Russia, free spaces for open social and political discourse have become increasingly constricted. But younger Russians in particular are searching – and not just online – for answers to urgent local, national and global questions. This was clearly on display at the NOW festival, which took place at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow in November 2016. Over 3,000 people attended the three-day marathon of ideas and discussions, and thousands tuned in online. Co-sponsored by our Moscow office and its partner colta.ru, the festival sought to find answers to such questions as: Why have national and religious identities become so important? How do new forms of communication and work shape our consciousness? And what will tomorrow bring us?

## Scholarship and Fellowship Program – Giving a Lift to Young Talent

We provide support to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from both Germany and abroad, in all fields of study. Our aim is to discover promising talent and to enhance its potential. In this way, we hope to encourage young people to become globally engaged in the pursuit of the Foundation's objectives: more democracy, solidarity, environmental action, sustainable policies, and human rights.



Participants at the kick-off seminar "Views of a foundation", in April 2016.

### Who receives support?

In 2016, the Foundation's Scholarship Program selected 196 new fellows in a three-stage selection process involving 1,760 applicants. Last year, a total of 1142 students – 927 undergraduate and graduate students and 215 doctoral candidates – received financial support. 61% of these fellows were women. 31% of our fellows came from countries outside the EU. The largest national contingent of international fellows was from Russia (14), followed by Syria (9), Ukraine (6) and Egypt (5).

### Advice – Training – Networking

The event program that we organize for our fellows aims to spur political debate, impart crucial skills, encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, provide career preparation, and foster social and political activism. In particular, we strive to cultivate our fellows' ability to think, act and organize their activities independently. As part of our efforts to nurture conceptual development and cultivate ideas, we advise fellows in planning their course of studies and plotting out their professional careers and help them to build networks. A key role in this respect is played by our "Green networks" mentoring program. Here, mentors advise students and doctoral candidates in the final stages of their degree programs. In addition, they help alumni work toward their goals in a more targeted manner by guiding them in their personal and professional development.

### Highlights of the event program in 2016

We design our event programs with the interests and priorities of our fellows in mind, and fellows collaborate with us in planning and implementing the programs. Many fellows are currently focusing on the issue of refugee policy. This was the main topic at our annual "Alumni Salon", which drew over 150 participants in 2016. The salon explored a wide range of subjects in connection with refugee policy, including the root causes that lead people to flee their homelands; the living conditions of refugees; activism, integration and participation; and the future of European immigration and refugee policy. Most events are open to all fellows, because we want to promote dialogue and joint learning among the heterogeneous study groups. However, some events are geared toward specific groups, such as "Medienvielfalt, anders" ("Putting the 'multi' into media"), which is targeted toward young journalists in the scholarship program. And some popular events take place every year, including the one-week "Campus" summer academy in the town of Bad Bevensen, which in 2016 focused on the most pressing current challenges confronting Europe, including terrorism, the refugee crisis, the "Brexit" process, and more. The Campus event provides fellows with the opportunity to spend a concentrated week exploring various topics, both with experts and in self-organized activities.

## Heinrich Böll House Langenbroich

Our stipend program at the Heinrich Böll House in the village of Langenbroich provides international artists and writers with the opportunity to engage in creative work – undisturbed, without financial concerns, and free from persecution and censorship – for a period of several months. The association that operates the program is financed by the Heinrich Böll Foundation together with the city of Düren and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Since 2012, the majority of our guests at the Heinrich Böll House have been Syrian artists and their families. Large swaths of their homeland have been destroyed, and most of them cannot return. Our guests from Yemen, Iraq and Bangladesh are also living in exile in Germany.



Fellows at the Heinrich Böll House (from left to right): Omar Al Jaffal, Taqi Akhlaqi, Raed Wahesh and Ahmed Katlish

### Our guests in 2016

**Sura Alloush** (born in 1980) is a Syrian author, journalist and literary translator who writes for international newspapers and websites, including *Abwab*, an Arabic newspaper published by and for refugees in Germany. She published collections of poetry in Syria.

**Colette Bahna** (born in 1961) is a Syrian author, journalist and scriptwriter. She is the recipient of major literary awards in Syria, and her collections of short stories have been translated into numerous languages. She has served as a jury member for the Nile documentary film festival and the Adoni festival for Syrian television dramas.

**Galal Alahmadi** (born in 1987) is a Yemeni writer who works as an author and journalist and as an editor for various Arabic newspapers. Born in Saudi Arabia, he is a well-known young poet in Yemen and is already the winner of numerous awards, including the Yemeni president's prize for poetry in 2011 and the Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh prize for poetry in 2014.

**Noor Kanj** (born in 1990) studied computer science and economics in Syria. She has written for various Arabic newspapers. Her poetry was published in the Arabic-language anthology "New Syrian Poetry".

**Mahmudul Haque Munshi** (born in 1987) is a blogger and online activist from Bangladesh. He is a founder of the Shahbag movement in Bangladesh, which advocates a ban on faith-based political parties. He calls for the return to a secular society in his home country and campaigns for the rights of minorities and indigenous populations. Five of his co-bloggers were brutally murdered in public by Islamist radicals.

**Sayed Mohammad Taqi Akhlaqi** (born in 1986) is an Afghan author and journalist. He writes for a daily newspaper that is critical of the Taliban. His "Afghan Diary" for the German public broadcaster NDR, along with interviews, publications and the staging of his plays, have brought him renown in Germany as well.

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## Award Winners in 2016

The Heinrich Böll Foundation issues numerous awards and co-sponsors various additional honors. Our most important awards are the Peace Film Award, the Anne Klein Women's Award, the Hannah Arendt Prize, and the biannual Petra Kelly Prize. The latter two prizes were not awarded in 2016.



Gisela Burckhardt, advocate for women's rights in the global textile industry



Maher Abi Samra, filmmaker from Lebanon

### **Anne Klein Women's Award: Gisela Burckhardt**

The 2016 Anne Klein Women's Award was presented to Gisela Burckhardt for her many years of dedicated work in pursuit of women's social and political rights. Her organization FEMNET supports women in their fight for fair wages and working conditions in the textile industry, particularly in South Asia. Dr. Burckhardt's activism puts a spotlight on all stakeholders – this means corporations and policy-makers as well as consumers. Cheap blouses, pants and shirts have their price. The attractive styles go hand-in-hand with the ugly stain of exploitation: to make this clothing, millions of textile workers must toil under inhumane conditions. Thousands of people have lost their lives in the process: just two examples include the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh in April 2013 and the Ali Enterprises fire in Pakistan in 2012. Gisela Burckhardt has responded to the disgraceful conditions in textile factories with an outstanding commitment to bring about change. She is the fifth recipient of the Anne Klein Women's Award, which is endowed with 10,000 euros.

### **Peace Film Award: Maher Abi Samra**

The 31st Peace Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival was presented to the documentary "Makhdoumin" ("A Maid for Each") by Maher Abi Samra. With a population numbering four million, Lebanon boasts roughly 200,000 foreign domestic workers. "Makhdoumin" opens the door to an agency in Lebanon that procures female domestic servants for private households. The film depicts how human beings are treated like commodities. Samra discovers from the start that "good" domestic workers should perform their work silently and obediently. The women from Asia and Africa not only have their passports and personal freedom taken away from them, but are denied the right to their own existence. Deploying subtle imagery and technique, he sharpens the audience's awareness of a system that deprives individuals of their rights and that forces women to work around the clock, subserviently and invisibly. The Peace Film Award is endowed with 5,000 euros and is awarded together with a bronze sculpture by the artist Otmar Alt.

## Notable International Guests in 2016



Image: dpa

**Sadiq Al-Azm** – Celebrated philosopher who taught in Damascus, Beirut, Princeton and Berlin and whose work was honored with multiple awards. His books, which were published in Arabic and English, are banned in most Arab countries. He participated in an April 2016 panel discussion that included Navid Kermani (German-Iranian author, essayist and Middle Eastern studies expert) and Bassma Kodmani (political scientist and member of the Syrian opposition's negotiating team in Geneva). They discussed the Syrian civil war, its consequences, and the international machinations surrounding the conflict. Al-Azm, who spent four years in exile in Germany, passed away in Berlin in December 2016.



Image: Stephan Röhl

**Henri Tiphagne** – Lawyer and executive director of the Indian non-governmental organization People's Watch. For nearly four decades, he has provided legal representation for activists and served as a dedicated defender of human rights. In 2016, he was presented with Amnesty International Germany's Human Rights Award for his commitment to building a more just society in India. At our April 2016 event "Civil society in danger", he reported on the scope for civic action in today's world, citing the example of India.



Image: Stephan Röhl



Image: Stephan Röhl

**Marta Sánchez** – Organizer of the caravan of Central American mothers. For 17 years now, mothers from Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador have joined organized caravans to cross the border from Guatemala into Mexico. They trace part of the migrant routes where their sons and daughters disappeared, with the aim of drawing public attention to the plight of their children, and in the faint hope of finding a trace of their loved ones. Marta Sánchez was a guest at our October 2016 conference "The right to legal migration routes".



Image: Stephan Röhl

**Svetlana Gannushkina** – Dedicated advocate for human rights in Russia and recipient of the "Alternative Nobel" prize. Gannushkina serves as head of both the refugee assistance organization Civic Assistance Committee and the Migration and Law network in Russia. She also works with the Memorial human rights center in providing assistance targeting Chechnya. She signed the "Putin must go" petition in 2010 and has been nominated multiple times for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2016, she ran for the State Duma as a candidate for the opposition party Yabloko, representing the Chechnya region. She was awarded the "Alternative Nobel" prize in 2016 and was a guest at the summer school run by our office in Russia.

**Siyanda Mohutsiwa** – 23-year-old author and blogger from Botswana, also known as Siyanda-Panda. Using the hashtag #IfAfricaWasABar, she has shown that clever satire – expressed in 140 characters or less – can spark widespread enthusiasm and garner near-instant international attention. Her tweets have helped to stimulate inter-African discourse and have drawn an extraordinary range of participants into a joint dialogue. She was a guest at our panel discussion "LOL – Laugh out loud", which explored both the power and powerlessness of political satire in Africa.

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# The Heinrich Böll Foundation

## Mission Statement

### Who We Are, What We Do

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. Our main tenets are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. We place particular emphasis on gender democracy, meaning social emancipation and equal rights for women and men. We are also committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities and to the societal and political participation of immigrants. Finally, we promote non-violence and proactive peace policies.

To achieve our goals, we seek strategic partnerships with others who share our values. We are an independent organization, that is, we determine our own priorities and policies.

We are based in the Federal Republic of Germany, yet we are an international actor in both ideal and practical terms.

Our namesake, the writer and Nobel Prize laureate Heinrich Böll, personifies the values we stand for: defense of freedom, civic courage, tolerance, open debate, and the valuation of art and culture as independent spheres of thought and action.

#### We Are a Green Think Tank

- We promote democratic reforms and social innovation.
- We work on ecological policies and sustainable development on a global level.
- We provide space for presenting and discussing art and culture.
- We transfer knowledge and skills from experts to political actors.
- We provide a forum for open debate and promote dialogue between politics, business, academia, and society.
- We support talented students active on socio-political issues both in Germany and abroad.
- We document the history of the Green movement in order to promote research and provide political inspiration.

#### We Are an International Policy Network

- We are part of the global Green network and promote the development of the Green political movement on all continents.
- We focus especially on the broadening and deepening of the European Green movement.

- We work actively for the development of a political European public.
- We support the participation of civil society in politics and, within the framework of multilateral organizations, take part in conferences and negotiations.

#### We Are Active on Ecology, Democracy, and Human Rights Worldwide

- We consider ecology and democracy to be inseparable.
- We therefore support individuals and projects that are committed to ecology, human rights, democracy, and self-determination.
- We support respect for the rule of law and democratic participation in all parts of the world.
- We promote the abolition of conditions of dominance, dependency, and violence between the sexes.
- We consider ethnic and cultural diversity to be an essential part of democratic culture.
- We encourage civic and civil society activism.
- We train activists so that they can successfully self-organize and participate in political processes.

### Our Culture

Commitment, expert and social competence, creativity and flexibility are features of our employees, both in Germany and abroad. They are highly qualified, team-oriented and, with their high level of motivation, they constitute the most important asset of the Foundation.

Equality of opportunity and respectful dealings between women and men of different ages, religions, ethnic origins and sexual orientations are constitutive for the foundation. Inter-cultural competence and a productive engagement with diversity are part of our corporate culture.

Mutual respect and trusting co-operation among ourselves and with our partners are the bases of our business relationships.

We constantly evaluate and improve our work. We undertake and take seriously both internal and external evaluations. We handle the funds at our disposal economically and efficiently and assure transparent operations.

We work in close co-operation with our co-foundations in all of Germany's 16 states.

We are a reliable partner for volunteer work and for co-operation with third parties. As a political foundation, we act independently; this also applies in respect to our relationship with the German Green Party.

We are autonomous in selecting our executive officers and staffing our committees.

■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation, affiliated with the Green Party and headquartered in the heart of Berlin, is a legally independent political foundation working in the spirit of intellectual openness. ■ The Foundation's primary objective is to support political education both within Germany and abroad, thus promoting democratic involvement, sociopolitical activism, and cross-cultural understanding. ■ The Foundation also provides support for art and culture, science and research, and development cooperation. Its activities are guided by the fundamental political values of ecology, democracy, solidarity, and non-violence. ■ Heinrich Böll's call on citizens to meddle in politics is the example upon which the work of the Foundation is modeled. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation strives to stimulate sociopolitical reform by acting as a forum for debate, both on fundamental issues and those of current interest. The Foundation places particular importance on attaining gender democracy – signifying a relationship between the sexes characterized by freedom from dependence and dominance. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's educational activities have a political basis, an ethical outlook, and strive to promote various forms of cultural expression. The Foundation supports art and culture as part of its political education work and as a crucial element of each society's self-image. ■ By way of its international collaboration with a large number of project partners the Foundation aims to strengthen ecological and civic activism on a global level, to intensify the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to keep our sensibilities alert for change. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's collaboration on sociopolitical education programs with its project partners abroad is on a

long-term basis. Additional important instruments of international cooperation include visitor programs, which enhance the exchange of experiences and political networking, as well as basic and advanced training programs for committed activists. ■ The Heinrich Böll Foundation's Scholarship Program considers itself a workshop for the future; its activities include providing support to especially talented students and academicians, promoting theoretical work of sociopolitical relevance, and working to overcome the compartmentalization of science into exclusive subjects. ■ Ralf Fücks and Barbara Unmüßig are the current Presidents. Dr. Ellen Ueberschär will replace Ralf Fücks starting on 1 July 2017. Dr. Livia Cotta is the CEO of the Foundation. ■ The members assembly, comprised of 49 persons, is the Foundation's foremost decision-making organ; its responsibilities include electing the Presidents. Expert advisory boards (7–10 people each) are staffed by independent experts who consult with the Foundation and formulate suggestions regarding conceptual issues raised in the educational programs. ■ The Foundation's by-laws provide for a quota of women and immigrants on all the Foundation's bodies and among its full-time staff. ■ The Foundation currently maintains foreign and project offices in Brussels, France, Poland, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Greece, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Bosnia, Serbia, Israel, Lebanon, the Arab Middle East, Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, China, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, El Salvador and the United States. In 2016, the Foundation had about 62 million euros in public funds at its disposal.

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**Matiiseto Nong**  
(widow of Samuel Leponesa)

In South Africa, we have teamed up with our project partner, Sonke Gender Justice, to support a class-action lawsuit against the gold mining industry. 56 plaintiffs – miners and widows of deceased miners – are demanding suitable compensation for damages from silicosis, a lung disease caused by exposure to mine dust. Silicosis is an incurable disease that can be prevented by wearing protective masks (see p. 19).  
Image: Thom Pierce