

The VIDC understands its work as an emancipatory contribution to a solidary society against any form of discrimination or racism. In this sense, the VIDC tries in its different departments: Global Dialogue, kulturen in bewegung, Parliamentary North-South Dialogue and fairplay, the VIDC tries to change the life situation of marginalised and excluded people and to support their self-organisation.



VIDC Global Dialogue has been working on masculinities and the involvement of boys and men in gender equality programmes and projects since 2010. Since 2016, VIDC has been conducting Gender Tandem Workshops in cooperation with various Afghan associations, with around 400 participants to date. Since 2019 the Gender Tandem Workshops are also offered for women and girls.

Based on the experience gained so far, the manual "Teaching Intercultural Gender Competence in the Context of Flight. Experiences from working with escaped boys and men from Afghanistan in Austria" (VIDC, 2019) was created.

Gender Tandem Workshops

The Gender Tandem Workshops are a format that has already been tried and tested at the VIDC. Tandem means that an **intercultural tandem** is formed for each workshop, consisting of an Austrian and an Afghan trainer. The tandem principle is not only the innovative element of the workshops, but also a success factor. The cooperation of the trainers at eye level makes it possible to dispense with external interpreting, as well as ensuring cultural sensitivity and facilitating access to the group.

Gender Tandem Workshops form men from Afghanistan

What's wrong, man?!?

How does a man become a man? What is expected of men? How different can men be? What is a good, respectful relationship? How can men actively work for gender equality? How can men live without violence? What can men do against racism? How can we live together respectfully and how do we want to?

These and similar questions will be discussed in a series of workshops using a variety of methods and constructive approaches with the aim of achieving more gender justice and non-violence for the benefit of men, women, children and society in general.

Content

- **Module: When is a man a man?**

The aim of this module is to give participants the opportunity to reflect on their own ideas of masculinity and to consider how these ideas and realisations influence their own realities. This will include a critical reflection on the privileges as well as the costs of masculinity..

- **Module: Different together (intersectional masculinity)**

The aim of this module is to explore together with the participants how the construction of masculinities is influenced by other structures and relationships. Intersectionality means: the overlapping of different forms of discrimination in a person. This module aims to generate attention for diverse life realities and common emancipation possibilities.

- **Module: Love and respect**

The aim of this module is to sensitize the participants on the one hand to the different forms of violence, especially gender-based violence and violence in relationships, in order to jointly develop approaches for a non-violent, caring life. On the other hand, this module offers the opportunity to reflect on different relationship models and ideas of love and romance.

- **Modul: Where do you come from?**

The aim of this module is to shed light on the various forms of discrimination, marginalisation and racism with the participants. Racism in everyday life and in the media, structural racism (e.g. when looking for housing and work). In addition, this module can be used to show how these inequalities are in turn related to male forms of extremism - in order to subsequently develop common resilience and strategies for prevention.

Key data

Target group: Afghan men aged 16 - 35

Location: in a larger room

Duration: 4 workshops of 3 hours each

Number of participants: 10-16 (for orientation purposes)

Contact: Lena Gruber (gruber@vidc.org)



Gender Tandem Workshops for women from Afghanistan

Self is the woman

In a women-only-space there will be space to talk together about gender conceptions, experiences, taboo topics and fears. Knowledge is imparted on relevant topics such as health or gender-based violence, and strategies for dealing with violence and discrimination are developed together.

The aim is to strengthen the participants at different levels: self-confidence/self-image, knowledge and networking. This is done with the help of different methods in a series of workshops.

The group is led by a female trainer tandem, consisting of an Afghan and an Austrian trainer.

Content

- **Module: Gender und Empowerment**

In addition to getting to know the group, the aim of this module is to discuss concepts such as gender as opposed to gender, as well as empowerment, and to reflect on them in one's own context.

- **Module: Feeling comfortable with your own history and in your own body**

In the examination of one's own life experiences and those of the other participants it is conveyed that no woman is alone with her experiences. Subsequently, strategies for strengthening are developed together.

- **Module: Relationship and domestic violence**

Starting with the question of what an ideal relationship should be like, the participants will discuss the reality of relationships together and address the topic of violence in relationships, as well as develop strategies for dealing with it. In addition, information about relevant contact points and support facilities will be provided.

- **Module: Influence and Participation**

The aim of this module is to encourage women to feel strong and important and to network. In the process, their own place in society is reflected upon, their own strengths are analysed and possible perspectives and future plans are discussed.

Key data

Target group: Afghan women aged 16 - 35

Location: in a larger room

Duration: 4 workshops of 3 hours each

Number of participants: 10-16 (for orientation)

Contact: Lena Gruber gruber@vidc.org

