

Brava

Ending violence
against women !
together

Together against
sexism

Together with
refugee women

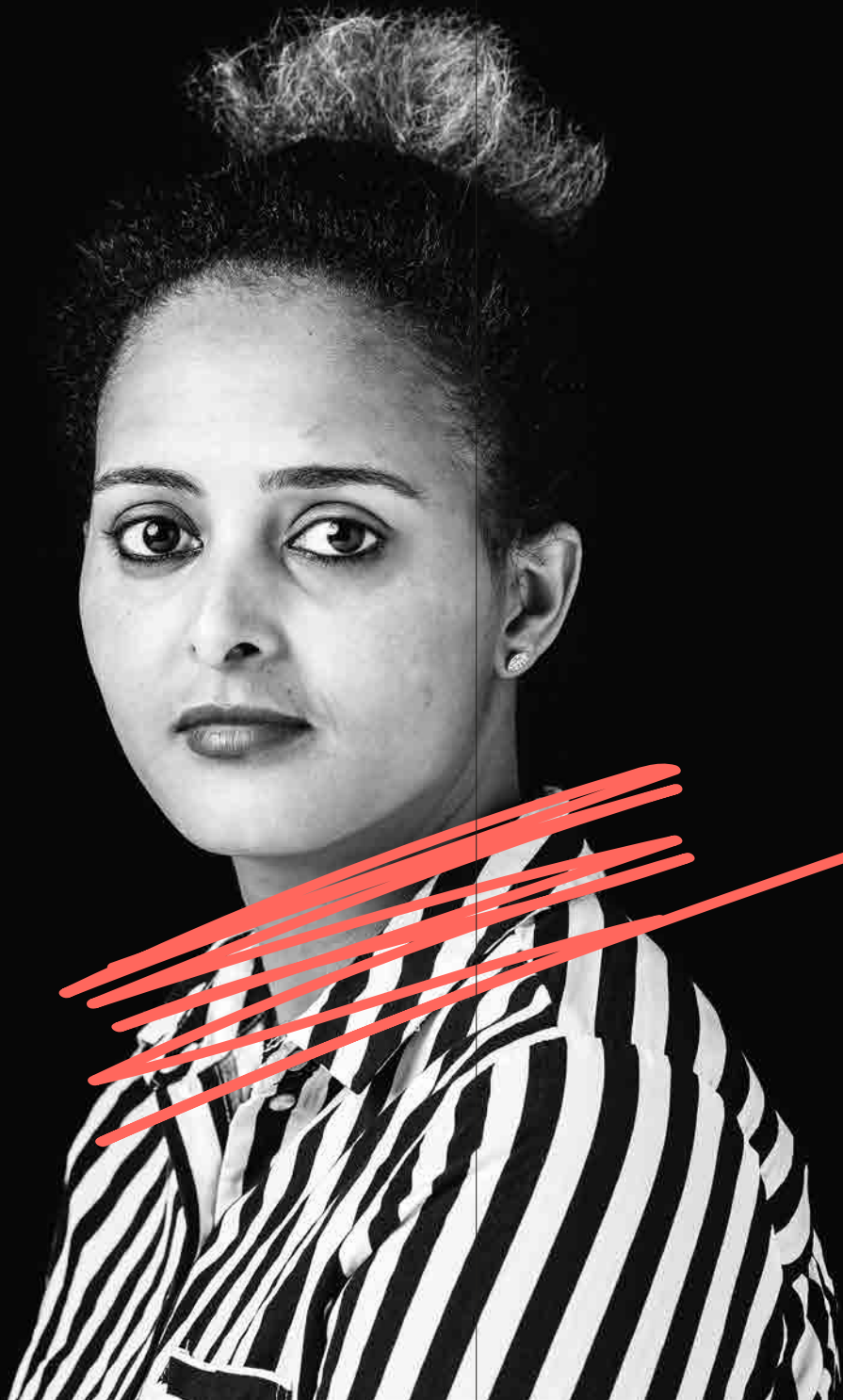
Together against
sexualised violence

Together for a life
without violence

Formerly TERRE DES FEMMES Switzerland



Annual report 2021





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Brava combats violence against women and sexism in Switzerland.

In so doing, we pay special attention to people in particularly precarious situations, such as women refugees.

Our vision is a just society where all people, regardless of gender, live free of violence and in a self-determined manner.

Editorial

2021 was a significant year for our organisation. In April we relaunched as Brava—with a new look, a new website and everything that comes with a completely new appearance. We were particularly pleased about the positive feedback on our visual language. The portraits with red scratches painted over their faces are symbolic for violence against women and gender-based violence. But they do not depict the persons as victims. Brava stands for empowerment and our pictures were understood that way—a really successful start. If you missed our launch, you can find impressive videos about it on our YouTube channel.

We also managed to start the project “voices of refugee women”. A group of active refugee women have joined together for this project. It will be a bridge between the refugees and the media, authorities and politics. Because women refugees hardly ever get the chance to make their concerns heard by a broad public.

Our education team also celebrated a success. The Federal Office for Gender Equality decided to support our workshops and seminars financially. A vote of confidence that we appreciate.

On the political level we celebrated the parliamentary “yes” to a national 24-hour counselling service for survivors of violence. Finally, a longstanding demand of Brava will be implemented. But there is still a lack of po-

litical will and money to comprehensively combat gender-based violence in Switzerland, which last year's report of the Istanbul Convention Network clearly showed. Brava was heavily involved in the work of this alternative report for the Council of Europe.

We closed the year with the impressive documentary "The Case You" at the Human Rights Film Festival Zurich. The film evening was our contribution to the "16 Days against Violence against Women". Find out more on page 18.

Enjoy reading our report!
Nicole Niedermüller, Board Member



Brava in numbers

9 empowerment workshops
with and for migrants

75 migrants benefitted
from workshops 

8 trainings carried out

170 experts benefitted
from trainings 

50 persons received advice

12 new foundations
gained as donors

578 new private
donors gained

“Network continually increased”

Amal Naser is engaged as key person at Brava. She worked many years in Syria on the issues of women’s and family rights and was politically active. In Switzerland she continued her commitment, for example with the project HelloWelcome of the city of Lucerne, a meeting point for refugees.

Brava: Amal, you organised together with your migrant community and Brava an empowerment workshop. How did you get access to the community in Switzerland?

Amal: As a refugee woman I was myself in a refugee centre. That’s where I met some of the women. I then built up a network together with them, made contacts, for example with the Swiss Refugee Council. At the refugee centre I was punished because I had been absent without permission due to my commitment. That’s why they stopped my financial support.

Where do you know the women from who participated in the workshop?

One of the women I know from Syria. I my flight I met her again in Lucerne and also got to know her relatives. She has a large family who also lives in Switzerland. If you know one person you can get in contact with the whole family. This is how I have steadily increased my network.

How did you get the idea for the workshop?

The Syrian labour law is coupled with family law. I worked towards making women aware of their rights and fought with other women for equal rights. We have achieved many improvements. That is why I also wanted to deepen this issue with the women in Switzerland. Women migrants must be informed and able to work. Everyone is talking about integration. But there is no integration without a job.



“It is important to communicate at eye level”

Sevim Yavuz worked for eight years as a lawyer in Turkey. In Switzerland, she studied law again. Since 2013 she is working as legal counsel for the labour union Unia and holds empowerment-workshops for Brava as specialist.

Brava: Sevim, how did you become a specialist for Brava?

Sevim: I once participated in a Brava workshop myself. When they asked me, I immediately said yes.

You migrated from Turkey to Switzerland. What are the obstacles for migrants who arrive in Switzerland?

You arrive and you are blocked. You feel precious, but the others don't see you like that. Everyone should get information on the bureaucratic system in Switzerland. If you know what your rights and your duties are, you feel at home more quickly. When I know my rights, I can recognise what is harassment and what isn't. That way, I don't take things personally.

And where are the obstacles when accessing the Swiss labour market?

The language and the professional training. Migrants often worked in their profession without a specific professional training. In Switzerland, however, certificates are very important. Migrants don't have these certificates.

Brava works against violence against women. Where do you see the connection to labour laws?

Women endure domestic violence because they depend on their husband. If they are independent, they can defend themselves better. A job brings financial independence and facilitates social integration.

What does empowerment mean for you personally?

That the woman discovers herself as an individual. That she has the same rights as all the others. She has the right to be respected. She is valuable.





She took her life into her own hands

Rahel Meran (name changed) is a survivor of violence who came to our advisory service for support. As a child, her father and her brothers used to beat. “With 14 years I was married against my will to a man 30 years older than me. He also beat and threatened me regularly,” she tells us.

After fleeing to Switzerland, the violence by her husband increased. Rahel found the advisory service of Brava online and came to us.

The social worker of Brava is specialised in gender-based violence. In case of language difficulties, an interpreter will help. Which was also the case with Rahel. Our social worker listened to Rahel und gave her information on her rights and her options. In a second step, she accompanied Rahel to a specialised service for psychological and legal aid.

This particular case has no connection to the persons in the picture. The pictures stand symbolically for violence against women.



“Brava helped me to take my life into my own hands again.”

Closing the gaps

What was politically in the offing at the end of 2020 actually came through in May 2021: The Swiss Parliament agreed to a national 24-hour service hotline for persons experiencing violence. A long-standing demand of Brava is finally being implemented! Now it is important that the 24-hour helpline will be inclusive: Whether sign language, Somali or Easy Language, whether by telephone or online—the advisory service must be accessible to all!

Where does Switzerland stand in its fight against gender-based violence? In June, the Confederation published its report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Switzerland. The Network Istanbul Convention reacted to this state report with an alternative report. This NGO report makes clear that there is a lack of political will and money in this country to combat gender-based violence. The NGO Network called for more funding and protection of all victims of violence. Brava worked in-depth on the alternative report and put a spotlight on refugee women. Because “Switzerland usually puts asylum and migration law concerns before adequate support for women refugees who have experienced violence,” says Georgiana Ursprung, Brava member of staff.

Failings addressed
Brava campaigned for a number of political issues last year. For example, there is an obvious gap in the protection against violence, where victims cannot detract themselves violent situations without endangering their right of residence. A legislative change is urgently needed in order to close this gap.

Also, we shared our expertise with political actors who worked for a national campaign to prevent violence.

“I see in Brava an absolutely competent and reliable partner for my daily work in the National Council. Thanks to Brava I am not on my own working on issues related to gender-based violence and migration, but have a team behind me. Thank you!”



Samira Marti
National Councillor of SP

Project “Voices of Refugee Women”

In 2021 together with active refugee women we started our new project “Voices of Refugee Women”. With this project, Brava wants to build a bridge between refugee women and the media, authorities and politics. We encourage women to raise their voices and find their own voice. First meetings have already taken place. The women themselves decide the issues, as well as the activities and initiatives of the project. At the end of the year, the project group started to put concrete demands on paper.

Context

Refugee women hardly ever get a chance to voice their needs towards a larger public. Many of them are very isolated in their daily lives—be it in asylum centres or in their own homes where they have few contacts. Even though the gender perspective is slowly finding its way into the asylum and migration system in Switzerland, much remains to be done. Especially when it comes to including those directly affected. With the “Voices” project Brava is building a bridge between refugee women and the media, authorities and politics.

Do you want to know more?

If you want to know more about our project or want to participate in the project, please contact us: stimmen@brava.ch.

“A bridge between refugee women and the public”



refugee women during an exchange, December 2021

With “The Case You” present at the Human Rights Film Festival Zurich

Last year’s campaign “16 days against violence against women” of the feminist peace organisation cfd focused on “sexualised violence” as its main issue. Brava took part in the campaign and showed the documentary “The Case You” at the Human Rights Film Festival Zurich. Afterwards, we organised a round table with the director Alison Kuhn, actress Aileen Lakatos, specialist Agota Lavoyer, journalist Rafaela Roth. It was an encouraging evening.

About the film

Five actors approach us with determined steps, stop, look at us intensely. In a barren theatre hall, they confront themselves and us with a traumatic casting experience that has stuck with them to this day. Little by little, a perfidious case of abuse of power and sexualised violence comes to the surface.

“The Case You” goes far beyond acting and sheds light on sexualised violence and its immediate consequences. Absolutely worth seeing!

“... I was just there and, yes ... I was just hoping that someone would help me.”

Aileen Lakatos in “The Case You”



Actress Aileen Lakatos and director Alison Kuhn



Panellists after the film

Balance sheet (in CHF)

ASSETS	2021	2020
Postal cheque	351 261.42	157 776.62
Banks	815 579.67	705 054.38
Liquid assets	1 166 841.09	862 831.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00
Short-term loan	0.00	0.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00
Inventory	4 060.00	2 274.50
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	37 314.65	73 013.15
Current Assets	1 208 215.74	938 118.65
Fixtures and Fittings	1 284.00	3 921.00
IT, office equipment	4 269.00	10 235.00
Fixed assets	5 553.00	14 156.00
Total assets	1 213 768.74	952 274.65
Liabilities	2021	2020
Trade payables	101 108.17	47 390.12
Accrued expenses and deferred charges	109 405.41	104 172.40
Short-term borrowed capital	210 513.58	151 562.52
Short-term borrowed capital	210 513.58	151 562.52
Organization capital	1 003 255.11	800 712.13
Total liabilities	1 213 768.69	952 274.65

The full financial statements are available on our website.

Profit and loss account (in CHF)

	2021	2020
Membership contributions	6 800.00	17 600.00
Donations without a specific purpose	357 922.97	429 680.26
Donations for a specific purpose	1 640.00	7 370.00
Income from projects	388 889.62	343 610.19
Income from patrons	910 391.72	966 477.68
Total income	1 665 644.31	1 764 738.13
Labour expenditure	684 089.46	645 799.75
Travel and hospitality	4 818.70	7 561.63
Expenditure	141 829.08	108 019.67
Material expenditure	4 807.15	4 847.35
Direct project costs	835 544.39	766 228.40
Patron acquisition costs	151 751.51	160 026.16
Donation acquisition costs	118 571.42	204 652.87
Institutions acquisition costs	59 493.34	73 334.12
Fundraising	329 816.27	438 013.15
Labour expenditure	102 108.86	97 055.62
Travel expenses	17 108.52	11 208.43
Material expenditure/Further education	23 282.87	23 141.64
Maintenance costs	30 877.91	26 999.49
Collective costs	114 856.15	92 299.40
Depreciation	4 807.15	4 847.40
Total Administrative Expenses	293 041.46	255 551.98
Operating Result	207 242.19	304 944.60
Financial profit/Bank charges	-4 699.16	-5 943.47
Total Financial Result	-4 699.16	-5 943.47
Result before adjustment of fund capital	202 543.03	299 001.13
Allocated Funds	-154 000.00	-261 370.00
Withdrawn Funds	1 909.95	7 895.00
Total Fund Adjustment	-152 090.05	-253 475.00
Annual Result	50 452.98	45 526.13

About us

In the past year, we launched our new identity as Brava. Our organisation might look differently, but our commitment against violence against women and against sexism in Switzerland remains the same.

Brava is doing what TERRE DES FEMMES Switzerland used to do:

- Empowerment workshops with and for migrants
- Seminars for professionals in the field of migration and asylum
- Advisory service for people affected by violence, their families or professionals
- Lobbying for concrete measures against violence against women and against sexism
- Campaigns and awareness raising in order to make violence against women visible

The new sound of Brava

In the Brava podcast we talk about the activities and offers of our organisation. The podcast is made by Flurina Peyer. She is one of our education officers and, as an experienced radio presenter, the new voice of Brava. She talks to members of staff and external professionals. You can find the Brava podcast under: Soundcloud, Spotify, Spreaker and Apple Podcast.

“Of course I want to create a nice listening experience with content that is thought-provoking. And I want to show the powerful work that so many people are doing in the struggle against violence against women.”

Flurina Peyer, podcaster and education officer for Brava

Thank you very much

Our long-standing commitment to combating violence against women is only possible thanks to you as a member, donor, partner or representative of a foundation or public institution. We thank you very much for your precious support in 2021!

Shared vision

You all share Brava's vision of a world without violence. By supporting our projects against violence against women, you are joining us in addressing concrete failings in Switzerland. With Brava, you are also standing up for those whose living situations are particularly precarious.

Brava will stay independent

Brava is mainly financed by donations. As such, our organisation stays independent in its decisions and is free from political and economical interests of others.

We thank various supporters, such as:

- Burgergemeinde Bern
- Claire Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre Stiftung
- Federal Office for the Equality of Women and Men
- GABU – Stiftung
- Lotteriefonds Appenzell Ausserrhoden, financed by SWISSLOS
- Oak Foundation

Support us as private donor

Every two weeks a woman in Switzerland dies because of gender-based violence. They are mostly killed by their husbands, partners, ex-partners or lovers. Those femicides show how deeply engrained violence against women still is today—here in Switzerland.

With an annual donation you send a clear signal against violence against women. You help us to implement concrete, comprehensive and long-term projects in favour of women experiencing violence.

We thank you very much!

Become a private donor now



www.brava-ngo.ch/donate

Do you have any questions?
Please contact us: 031 311 38 79
spenden@brava-ngo.ch



Imprint
Editing: Angela Pertinez
Layout and type setting: Herendi Artemisio + Fabienne Wyss, Zurich
Photos:
Nelly Rodriguez (Cover and p. 2, 12, 17, 25), Anna Weber (p. 8, 10), Human Rights Film Festival Zurich / Michelle Ettlin (p.19)
Print: Tanner Druck AG, Langnau



