



### **My experience at the German YWCA and Esslingen** **(Nelly Hope Lukale World YWCA)**

My short trip to the YWCA of Germany made a great impact in my life as I learnt so many things. And staying with Hanne at her house with her family was a great experience since this was the first time I stayed with a German family and the first time to live in a home since I came to Europe. Their hospitality and love that they showed me made me feel so much at home, singing with her mother and sharing meals with the whole family was very good for me. Most of all Hanne taking time to show me around Stuttgart and Esslingen was so amazing.

At the German YWCA Most of the staff are volunteers who offer their time and energy to serve the community especially young women and girls. I was privileged to be hosted by Hanne Braun the former German YWCA president and who has been a member of the YWCA movement for more than 30 years including serving as an executive board member of the World YWCA.

Some of the programmes that they run for young women are just fantastic and so empowering. The first program that really inspired me was **the Bahnhofs Mission** / travellers aid which is run by German YWCA / internat. Youth work and the Catholic Socialwork for young women/ IN VIA, it stands at the Stuttgart train station. It is open for information exchange for the young and old people who arrive at the train station and need assistance on how to get around Stuttgart. They provide travel assistance, information, counseling, referral and emergency crisis. They also give special support to different kinds of people with difficulties in travel such as people in social distress like; migrants, mentally ill, drug addicts, homeless families, women and children who have experienced violence, blind people, and the program kids on tour.

These mission is make the station accessible and acceptable. They work closely with special institutions like social workers, Federal Railways and the Federal Border Guard. They also cooperate with institutions for the youth, the homeless, women's shelters, mental health counseling centers, offices and senior services for people with an immigrant background.

The other program is the **Women's Information Centre in Stuttgart (FIZ)** which is a counseling service for migrants from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe. Its work focuses on the psycho-social counseling and support for women who have come as marriage migrants to Germany. The second target group is the actual or potential victims and witnesses of human trafficking and forced prostitution. This includes crisis intervention, follow-up of court cases, help in developing and

implementing a self-determined life planning and support for women returning to their home countries. This is funded by the state of Baden-Württemberg, city of Stuttgart, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg and various foundations and donations.



### **Voluntary home work support**

For over 40 years the German YWCA has been supporting children of foreign workers with their homework. These children are faced with language problems in German schools. The staff took the initiative and supervises children from emigrants and refugee families. They go into the homes of refugees and help the children with homework. The interest is great and most children work hard and are willing to learn.

### **Hostels**

The girls' hostel in Stuttgart is located in the center of Moser Road 10, just ten minutes from Central Station. Despite its central location makes it a quiet residential area. There are girls and young women from all nations and religions, between the ages of 16 and 25 who are in schools, colleges or work and want a safe and secure place to live in Stuttgart.

The hostels have fully furnished single or double rooms with shower, toilet, Internet and cable TV connection. In addition to the usual community facilities, the hostel also have games rooms.

### **Integration courses**

this consists of a course to teach sufficient language skills and an orientation course for imparting knowledge of law, history and culture in Germany. Every young woman is given up to a maximum of 945 hours of learning and its mandatory for all people with an immigrant background who do not speak the German language. For those who cannot read or write extra 300 hours are offered for special classes. When these young women are in class their children are taken care of by volunteers who offer their services everyday of the week

### **Senior Consultancy**

the German YWCA and the Association for International Youth Work provides appropriate caregivers to enable older people or people with disabilities continue to live in their own home environment and participate in society.

Employees were represented by Myosotis on both days and clarified on their work, which puts its emphasis on living in familiar surroundings. Our presence at the booth of a large number of visitors to the possibilities of supporting and home care has been brought closer.

### **International prevention, counseling and support program for young women**

many young Women from Africa, Eastern Europe and other parts of the world see the migration to Germany as a way to escape poverty, unemployment, inadequate access to education, traditional gender roles, discrimination and corruption. These young women also have high hopes of being able to support their families or themselves. Due to lack of enough information and sufficient language skills, these women are at risk of being exploited or forced into prostitution. This project helps such people

with Information and protection from labor exploitation and human trafficking, about volunteer services, internships, study visits and Au Pair counseling. They are also advised about their stay in German and where to report in case of crisis or emergency situations. Those who are willing to return to their home countries are also assisted to do so.

### **Au-pair**

This is a program for young women aged between ages 18 and 24 years from all over the world. They live in a selected host family and help with light house work and taking care of the children for up to 30 hours a week. they stay for free in the host family in a separate room, get free meals and pocket money of 260,- € per month. They also attend a language course and if you stay for a whole year you have four weeks paid holiday. It's a great opportunity for young women to improve their language skills and expand their cultural horizons

### **Club International**

This is a club for young women Au-pairs in Stuttgart. They meet every Sunday, Monday and Friday from 18.00pm to 22.00pm. The club offers a scope for joint activities and the opportunity for the Au-pairs to learn and share. The trained staff are available to visitors during the club meetings.

during my visit, my host Hanne Braun who stayed with me at her house was able to take me round Stuttgart and see different places and scenes and also meet the sex workers who are mainly young women who do this not because they want to but because they want to support their families and are unable to get jobs. German YWCA also has a program with the sex workers where they are taken through counseling sessions and helped to get alternative jobs. It was a life time experience for and to learn all that they do was so great.



Finally participating at the **Oben Bleiben** demonstration ( Montagsdemonstration gegen Stuttgart 21) was the climax of all.

Thank you Hanne, Ursula family for bringing me to Germany and thank you German YWCA for hosting me and being so friendly to me.