



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

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Sr. Lea Ackermann, Foundress and president of SOLWODI

Violence against women

According to international studies and estimates, 80 percent of all refugees, 70 percent of all people suffering from starvation and 64 percent of all illiterate persons are female. Women do over 60 percent of the unpaid work worldwide. In developing countries they produce nearly 80 percent of the staple foods without payment. Two thirds of the working poor worldwide are women. Women only get 10 percent of the worldwide income and possess only 1 percent of the global capital. According to the United Nations, 143 million women and girls have become victims of female genital mutilation. In A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in February 2009, it was stated that “The most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. The victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls”. According to the UNO, domestic violence against women and children is the most common way of violence used by humans to torture and oppress other people. Worldwide at least one out of three women becomes a victim of abuse by a male attachment figure during the course of her life, reports the UNO. According to the European Council, domestic violence is the most frequent cause for health problems or the death of women aged between 16 and 44 in Europe, which claims to be so educated and democratic. In her speech, Sr. Dr. Lea Ackermann describes the varied forms of physical, mental and structural violence against women, asks for the causes and points out possible solutions. And she talks about how she and her aid organization SOLWODI fight against “male violence and misogyny”: “For the human dignity of female humans!”