

The communication centre for women, lesbians, girls and female migrants, in short FZ (Frauenzentrum = women's centre) is an autonomous, feminist public space for women, lesbians, girls and female migrants and was founded 40 years ago as a Verein (club). The FZ is therefore one of the oldest women centres in Europe!

For 38 years are the premises of the FZ in the 9th district in Vienna, Währinger Straße 59 on Stiege 6.

In all these years worked here countless women/lesbians and women/lesbians-collectives, perceiving it as a centre point of the radical women/lesbians movement with most various subjects and focus with e feminist viewpoint and fought against the repressions and resistances coming with it.

Many feminist projects and clubs were developed, which are still actively involved in solidarity for a better life in the women/lesbian-movement and/or engaging in the LGBTIQ-movement.

The FZ was financed and is maintained with the money and unpaid labour of many women/lesbians over the years.

Political content was worked on in autonomy and democratically.

Our goal is as always the abolition of patriarchy and the creation of a society without exploitation and oppression worldwide.

Also in Vienna backlash and neoliberal politics jeopardize not only immediately the location of the FZ, but erase the visibility of the FZ as political subject and impede our ongoing work in the current times.

The city of Vienna – as owner of the premises Währinger Straße 59 will reach a tendency agreement as soon as possible with the WUK (Verein zur Schaffung offener Werkstätten und Kulturhäuser) for the whole building.

However for this building are **two independent** manager: The FZ (Stiege 6) and the WUK (Stiege 1-5).

The City of Vienna is exclusively negotiating with the WUK concerning this tenancy agreement.

By finalizing this agreement the FZ shall be robbed of their independency though a contract.

Corner points of the planned tendency agreement:

- 1.) Die City of Vienna connects the restoration of the building Währinger Straße 59 on the condition to contract the tenancy agreement.
- 2.) A part of the refurbishing costs of € 22.3 million shall be „refinanced“ through rent.
- 3.) According to the business group of the City of Vienna (housing, building, city renewal and women) this means that the FZ must pay € 60.000 per year!

- 4.) In addition the contract allows the city of Vienna participation who the rooms may be rented out to.
- 5.) The tenancy agreement shall be limited to 20-25 years with an approximate refurbishing time of 10 years during ongoing concern.

The WUK-chair has informed the town of Vienna that there are **two managements** , the city of Vienna insists however to have only one contract partner. Such a contract agreement would be the end of the independence and the autonomy of the FZ.

So far **no negotiations** with between the FZ at the city of Vienna took place.

The plans of the City of Vienna have the intentions to commercialise and to gain political control over the object and as a result the erasure of an autonomous, non-commercial, collective left-feminist women/lesbian space.

For the FZ it is irrevocable that the WUK stands for the fact that there are **two managements (WUK & FZ)** in Währinger Strasse 59 and negotiates with the city of Vienna with this in mind.

It is an attack via structural violence against the still needed women liberation work and left feminist politics. It is needed to prevent these attacks with your help and solidarity!

It is like many things our collective fight!

Also we stand on the shoulders of giantesses – and we know it!

Support us with a protest mail to:

Kathrin Gaál (leading council woman for living, housing, town renewal and women):

kathrin.gaal@gws.wien.gv.at

Michaela Moser, MA (office leader of the leading council woman):

michaela.moser@wien.gv.at

Mag.^a Andrea Mautz-Leopold (consultant for equality and MA 57 – women service):

andrea.mautz-leopold@wien.gv.at

Ing. Peter Kovacs (MA 34, building-management):

peter.kovacs@wien.gv.at

Dr. Michael Ludwig (mayor of Wien):

michael.ludwig@wien.gv.at

Birgit Hebein (vice mayor and vice governor):

birgit.hebein@wien.gv.at

Please send a copy to:

fzbleibt@riseup.net

Our protest mail suggestion:

For an autonomous women/lesbian/girls/female migrants centre!

The City of Vienna is stealing public space!

We are indignant to hear that the city of Vienna threatens the existence of an autonomous women/lesbians/girls/female migrant's centre!

We are showing solidarity with the Autonomous feminist women/lesbian/girls/female migrants centre Vienna (FZ).

In addition I demand/we demand that the City of Vienna acknowledges the FZ as an independent management/legal subject with its autonomous and self-administration without making financial demands.

Further I demand/we demand from the City of Vienna to distance themselves from the neoliberal capitalising politics of usage/collective

In times of antifeminist backlash is a feminist and autonomus organised centre absolutely essential!

For every football ground an autonomous women's centre!

Less commerce – more self-organised free spaces!

The city belongs to everyone!