

## **Solidarity with the FZ in Vienna**

**The FZ - Association Communication Centre for Women, Lesbians, Migrants and Girls - in Vienna is acutely threatened with lockout and eviction.**

**Support the FZ with letters of protest to the City of Vienna and the WUK board - as an individual and/or as a group, association, organisation - and spread the call for solidarity.**

### **The herstory:**

The FZ (FrauenZentrum/Women's Centre) association emerged from the autonomous women's movement in the 1970s. In 1981, the FZ association and the WUK (Werkstätten und Kulturhaus/House for workshops and culture) association took possession of the unused building complex at Währinger Straße 59 in Vienna. Since then, the FZ association on staircase 6 and the WUK association on staircases 1-5 have used it.

**The FZ** has been an autonomous, feminist public women's centre for a variety of feminist activities and groups all these years. It is an important women's space for the autonomous women's movement in Vienna, Austria and internationally. The FZ is one of the oldest self-organized, autonomous, feminist women's centres that still exist in Europe.

### **Rental contract, renovation, lockout and eviction action**

In 2020, the WUK association concluded a rental agreement with the City of Vienna as the owner for the WHOLE building. The FZ does not recognise this rental agreement because the FZ has always been independent in its spaces, legally and de facto never part of the WUK association and therefore cannot be subordinated to the WUK association. The FZ protested against this in many ways. Towards the end of the renovation work on the building, the FZ was locked out of her spaces by the City of Vienna on 11 April 23! On the end of the renovation work, the City of Vienna handed over the complete FZ area to the WUK board at the end of April 23! They installed their own locks and continued to block the FZ's entrance to their spaces! In May 24, the WUK board also initiated an eviction action against the FZ!

**The FZ fight** for the continuation of the independent, unlimited use of the spaces through public relations work, campaigns, demonstrations, an "action for disturbance of possession" and an appeal against the eviction action.

**Support the FZ with letters of protest to the City of Vienna and the WUK board:**

### ***Letter of protest***

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The lockout of the FZ and the eviction action are attacks on the autonomous women's movement. We say no! FZ stays!

I demand/we demand an immediate end to the lockout of the FZ and the cancellation of the action for eviction!

I/We call on the City of Vienna to continue to guarantee the independent, unlimited contract of use for the FZ that has existed since 1981 and to continue to finance the operating and energy costs from public funds.

I /We demand that representatives of the City of Vienna immediately enter into negotiations with the FZ.

The FZ must stay!

The FZ is an important women's space for the autonomous women's movement in Vienna, Austria and internationally. The preservation, lively presence and organization of autonomous feminist women's spaces in self-government were and are an essential part of the collectivity and self-organization of women. They are important feminist structures for women's liberation and women's self-defense against sexist and patriarchal violence. The presence and continuity of autonomous feminist women's spaces are of great importance in terms of women's politics, also for future generations!

**Name:**

Contact/email address:

and/or

**Group, association, organisation:**

Contact/email address:

**Letter of protest to:** \_\_\_\_\_

+ Mayor Michael Ludwig

[michael.ludwig@wien.gv.at](mailto:michael.ludwig@wien.gv.at)

+ City Councilor for Housing, Housing Construction, Urban Renewal and Women, Kathrin Gaál

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+ WUK Chairwoman Margit Wolfsberger

[Margit.Wolfsberger@wuk.at](mailto:Margit.Wolfsberger@wuk.at)

+ and please send a **copy to:**

[fzbleibt@posteo.com](mailto:fzbleibt@posteo.com)

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**For more informations:**

**Online-petition FZ-stays (in German and English):**

<https://mein.aufstehn.at/petitions/fz-bleibt>

**Further details about the FZ (in German):**

<https://frauenlesbenzentrum-wien.at>

**For information about the protests of the FZ (in German) see:**

<https://frauenlesbenzentrum-wien.at/f-z-b-l-e-i-b-t//>

**For the feminist renovation concept of the FZ (in German) see:**

[https://frauenlesbenzentrum-wien.at/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Konzept\\_LF\\_kl.Datei\\_.pdf](https://frauenlesbenzentrum-wien.at/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Konzept_LF_kl.Datei_.pdf)

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