




# **SPEAKING OUT LOUD**

Empowerment through community based media



Examples of best practices from  
AUSTRIA, CYPRUS and the UNITED KINGDOM

# SPEAKING OUT LOUD

## Empowerment through community based media

Community-based media is an important way to make voices heard. It is the media produced by the community for the community. Using the medium of radio, everyone can get involved. Our Erasmus+ project aims at building the capacities of people who are involved in community media (volunteers as well as staff members). As the three participating organisations have expertise in gender, migration, and conflict resolution there was an intense exchange on those topics and on how to incorporate them into our work.

One main outcome of the project was the exchange of knowledge and practice between the organizations on the topic of working with volunteers and different training methods. Therefore we met in Vienna (Austria), Nicosia (Cyprus) and London (United Kingdom) and organized workshops and meetings. We created sustainable partnerships and contacts as we set common ground on how to work jointly on building the capacity and significance of community media. During our transnational meetings we interviewed each other, as well as other organizations that work in the three fields. We used our media skills and produced short broadcasts to get a broader picture on gender, migration and conflict resolution.

Now we want to share it with you. Listen to the broadcast, begin a conversation about the topics and become a community media activist by yourself!

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Women's rights and  
feminist perspectives –  
on a global level

AUSTRIA

## The Global Feminist Movement(s)

The recognition that “women’s rights are human rights” grew out of the global feminist movement’s efforts to make women’s voices heard as part of all global agendas for peace, development, and human rights. As the international feminist movements began to gain momentum during the 1970s, the UN General Assembly declared 1975 as International Women’s Year, organized the first World Conference on Women, held in Mexico City and declared the years 1976-1985 as the UN Decade for Women. Three further World conferences on women were held – in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995) – but despite their success there was no sequel. Challenges remain: The gap between women whose economic and personal status has improved and those who have been left behind has widened as did the gap between rich and poor, connected and powerless. So there is still a need for strong global feminist coalitions – aware of differences by social class, race, ethnicity, or sexual preference.

**References:** UN WOMEN, [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org) // Baksh, Rawwida/Harcourt, Wendy (2015): The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements // Bunch, Charlotte: [www.vidc.org/news/news-252013/womens-human-rights-20-years-after-vienna](http://www.vidc.org/news/news-252013/womens-human-rights-20-years-after-vienna)

**Produced by Petra Pint** (Frauen\*solidarität)

## Frauen\*solidarität/Women's\* solidarity

For more than 35 years now, Women's Solidarity has been providing information, education and publicity on women's rights in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as on global power relations from a feminist perspective. The work of Women's Solidarity focuses on three main areas, which are the library and documentation centre, the media work, (magazine, radio programme & media workshops) and the hosting of events, such as lectures and panel discussions, exhibitions, film screenings, book presentations and readings. As the only journal on feminist development policy in the German speaking region "Frauen\*solidarität" is important for the exchange of information and knowledge for the voices of global feminist movements.

**Interview** with **Rosa Zechner** (librarian) and **Claudia Dal-Bianco** (editor)  
**Frauen\*solidarität** [www.frauensolidaritaet.org](http://www.frauensolidaritaet.org)

**Produced** by **Natalie Konyalian** (CCMC)

## WIDE

As an Austrian network with the focus on gender and development, WIDE provides information, training and discussions on women's rights and global development issues to its members and the interested public. WIDE aims to raise issues of economic, political, social and cultural power relations from a feminist perspective, and is committed to contribute to global justice. WIDE's main goal is to connect engaged people and organizations, to share analysis and advocate for women's rights in the development context. For the next two years WIDE will put the emphasis on women's rights and sustainable development goals through information, educational work and advocacy towards policy makers.

**Interview** with **Claudia Thallmayer** (coordinator of the network) and **Edith Schnitzer** (chairwoman of WIDE)  
**WIDE** [www.wide-netzwerk.at](http://www.wide-netzwerk.at)

**Produced** by **Ann Kaye** (Desi Radio)



# CYPRUS

Peace building  
and conflict resolution

## CYPRUS – A DIVIDED ISLAND

### The ongoing challenges faced due to political conflict

Since 1974, Cyprus has remained a divided island, with the southern areas of the Republic of Cyprus predominantly inhabited by Greek Cypriots, and northern occupied Cyprus mostly Turkish Cypriots. The island is divided by a United Nations Buffer Zone, also known as the Green Line, which divides the capital city, Nicosia, the last divided capital in the world. Since 2003 and then in 2008 however, two main crossing points in Nicosia were opened, and until today, allow citizens from the two sides to cross freely. Several bicommunal NGOs have since been established in Nicosia, the CCMC and the AHDR being two examples. Both of these organisations are located in the Nicosia buffer zone, which has become a thriving area for people from both sides to meet, and engage in bicommunal activities on a daily basis.

Produced by **Natalie Konyalian** (CCMC)

## Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC)

Established in 2009, the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC) works to empower civil society organisations and community groups with the tools to communicate their message to a wider audience. Through training and dedicated production support, equipment loan and access to a state-of-the-art production studio, CCMC promotes the benefits of community-based media by giving people the skills to be in control of their own messages.

Based in the heart of Nicosia's Buffer Zone, CCMC is accessible to all communities across Cyprus. It aims to act as a bridge between mainstream media and civil society, and to facilitate the development of sustainable relationships between the media across the Cyprus divide. Through its work, CCMC strives to be inclusive, collaborative, transparent, equitable and nonpartisan, promoting the creation broadcasting of productions that contribute to reconciliation, diversity and multiculturalism.

**Interview** with **Magda Zenon**, Peace and Human Rights Activist, Founding Member of Hands Across the Divide.

**CCMC** [www.cypruscommunitymedia.org](http://www.cypruscommunitymedia.org)

**Hands Across the Divide** [www.peace-cyprus.org/womenbridges](http://www.peace-cyprus.org/womenbridges)

**Produced** by **Ann Kaye** (Desi Radio)

## Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)

Founded in 2003, the AHDR has enlisted members from various ethnic, linguistic, and professional backgrounds working at various educational levels in Cyprus, making the first steps towards a greater effort to maintain a continuous, open dialogue about enhanced pedagogic practices that could encourage the values of the discipline of history.

The AHDR contributes to the advancement of historical understanding amongst the public and more specifically amongst children, youth, and educators by providing access to learning opportunities for individuals of every ability and ethnic, religious, cultural, and social backgrounds, based on the respect for diversity and the dialogue of ideas.

**Interview** with **Loizos Loukaides**, Educational Programmes Officer at AHDR.  
**AHDR** [www.ahdr.info/home.php](http://www.ahdr.info/home.php)

**Produced** by **Petra Pint** (Frauen\*solidarität)



# UNITED KINGDOM

migrants' rights,  
community building and  
representation

## SOUTHALL AND IMMIGRATION – A LONG HISTORY

How the face – and faces – of Southall changed over the last century

In 1801 only seven hundred people lived in Southall and it was a farming community. Then the Grand Union Canal and the railway came and its position on the edge of London made it a thriving hub of industry, including a famous pottery giving us Martinware. Now it's home to London's largest Sikh community with ten Gurdwaras including the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, the largest outside India. Many of its population work at the nearby Heathrow Airport, one of the largest in Europe. Even the signs on Southall railway station are in two languages, English and Punjabi.

Against this background, there is a large immigrant population – of Panjabis, Somalis and people from other countries. So it was a fitting place to hold our workshop looking at immigration and how it affects us all.

Produced by Ann Kaye (Desi Radio)

## The Panjabi Centre – Desi Radio

The Panjabi Centre in West London broadcasts 24 hours a day on satellite, on the web and on the radio, presenting Panjabi music and ideas to a wide audience in West London and across the world through its radio station, Desi Radio. Ajit Khera from the Panjabi Centre told Claudia Dal-Bianco about the history of the station and why it is important for the community to have its own radio station.

**Interview** with **Ajit Khera**, programme director of Desi Radio.

**Desi Radio** [desiradio.org.uk](http://desiradio.org.uk)

**Produced by** **Claudia Dal-Bianco** (Frauen\*solidarität)

## Wycombe Sound

Wycombe Sound is a multi-award winning community radio station in Buckinghamshire, England. One of its founder members is Philippa Sawyer – she's their programme director and an award winning presenter. She talked to Natalie Konyalian about how the station was set up and how they connect to local people.

**Interview** with **Philippa Sawyer**. She trained in radio production with Women's Radio Group and in the last 10 years has spent her time in Community Radio.

**Wycombe Sound** [wycombesound.org.uk](http://wycombesound.org.uk)

**Produced by** **Natalie Konyalian** (CCMC)





## AUSTRIA/Vienna

1. The Global Feminist Movement(s)
2. Frauen\*solidarität/Women's\* solidarity
3. WIDE

## CYPRUS/Nicosia

4. Cyprus – A Divided Island
5. Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC)
6. Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)

## UNITED KINGDOM/London

7. Southall and Immigration – A Long History
8. The Panjabi Centre
9. Wycombe Sound

### A PROJECT OF

Frauen\*solidarität (Austria),  
Cyprus Community Media Centre (Cyprus)  
and Panjabi Centre – Desi Radio (UK)



**frauen\***  
**solidarität**



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