

Brava Ending violence against women together

Formerly TERRE DES FEMMES Switzerland



Annual report 2024

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Brava is working towards ending violence
against women and sexism in Switzerland.

We focus especially on people in vulner-
able situations, such as women refugees.

Our vision is a just society where all
people—independent of their gender—
can live a self-determined life without
violence.

Editorial

2024 showed once again how quickly hard-won achievements for equality and against discrimination can come under threat. Globally, but also in Switzerland, the political discourse has shifted. Populist movements are gaining influence, right-wing parties are getting stronger and debates in society are increasingly characterised by reactionary forces. Misogyny is becoming socially acceptable and the dismantling of fundamental rights does not stop at democratic states.

In Switzerland, we can also observe some worrying developments, such as financial cuts in the social sector or tougher migration laws, which directly affect the work of Brava. Confronted with these challenges, our common commitment for a fairer society without violence is more important than ever. Our work reflects this. We were able to further increase our activities for women affected by violence who are living in vulnerable situations. We are particularly pleased that there is a growing interest in our training programmes—177 women took part in empowerment workshops and 221 professionals received further training.

Following the successful revision of the law governing sexual offences in the previous year, in 2024 we focused on its implementation. We could also finally celebrate the adaption of article 50 AIG—an important milestone that will enable migrants affected by violence to separate from their spouses without endangering their residence right.

Our team has also grown: new members of staff are bringing valuable perspectives to our organisation. We also expanded our counselling service due to increased demand.

Without the active support of our network, these accomplishments would not have been possible. The state of the world might look bleak, but our commitment is unbroken. We will continue to work towards a Switzerland where all people can live freely, in safety and self-determined. We thank everyone who supports Brava—through their commitment, donations or solidary actions. Together we will continue to be noisy, courageous and unwavering. Happy reading!



Barbara Krattiger, board member

2024 in numbers

177 migrant women reached in 9 empowerment-workshops

221 professionals and volunteers reached with trainings

12 meetings with about 40 participants organised for the Voices-Project

Counselling of 134 persons affected by violence

4 sessions and 1 extraordinary session attended

10 times mentioned in the media

10 000 people mobilised with a speech at Schützenmatte

30 000 people reached on social media with the campaign “Only 4 out of 100”



Empowerment-Workshops

2024 was a turbulent and positive year for our empowerment project. In 9 workshops, Brava reached 177 women from groups from Somalia, Türkiye, Kurdistan as well as Tunisia, Iraq, Syria, and Algeria. The events took place in Berne, Zurich, Winterthur, and Lucerne. They built on the trust that was fostered during our work over the years.

We welcomed the new key person in Berne and said good bye to Nushaba Hasanova and Hayat Ismail. We thank them very much for their unique work.

The workshops covered issues such as trauma, stress management, ADHS in children, pension plans, and asylum law. Professionals such as the psychologist Ezgi Didem Serap, the legal advisor Murat Özten, Susanne Spalinger (Head of the Specialist Department ADHS at Elpos), Anja Peter (expert for feminist perspectives in economics and care work), and Rita Schibli (child carer and expert on ADHS) added to the workshops with practical expert knowledge and valuable insights.

One participant said: “For us women who still live in asylum centres, it is extremely important to be part of such events. We can learn about issues that are very relevant to us. It is easy to participate in those workshops because they are very accessible.”

For us, accessibility means, among other things, that everything is translated into the respective language or taught by specialists with the same mother tongue—an approach that has proven to be particularly helpful, as it has led to greater participation and effectiveness. Brava also organises child care for the workshops so that mothers can concentrate on the event without any distractions. The workshops boost the knowledge and confidence of the women and gives them access to other services by Brava or other expert services that are present at the workshops. Especially women in the asylum procedure did not only get answers, but also found a supportive community.

Education: Trainings

In 2024, we continued working towards knowledge transfer on gender-based violence. We reached 221 professionals with nine expert trainings. Among them were members of staff and volunteers from organisations such as Asylorganisation Zurich (AOZ), the Migration specialist training course, Feministisches Streitkollektiv Winterthur and Solinetz Bern.

The demand for trainings has been growing among actors of civil society since the laws on asylum and migration have become more restrictive. New tools and exercises, for example on pathways for refugees and the experiences of violence by refugee women, now complement Brava's approaches.

Particularly successful has been the close cooperation with groups from the educational and counselling sector. Members of staff from asylum organisations as well as persons affected by violence use our counselling service. Thus, the knowledge flows directly from the counselling service to our mediation work and vice versa. This helps to further strengthen the protection and support of women affected by violence, for example in collective accommodation centres. This is urgently needed, because the situation in asylum and collective accommodation centres continues to be very precarious and persons affected by violence are insufficiently protected.

Our year was also characterised by personal changes: in June, we said good bye to our much valued, long-standing colleague Flurina Peyer during a brunch with partners and friends of Brava. Lea Riedener has complemented our team with new impulses and a lot of commitment since last September.

The training has made us stronger
The speakers created an energetic atmosphere and effortlessly underpinned it with theory."

Feedback from a training participant



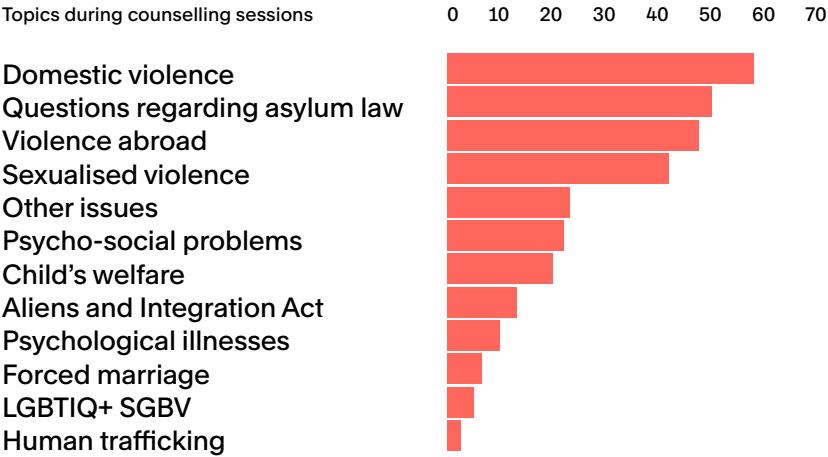
Counselling

Since the beginning of 2024, Tea-Vanja Radovanac and Rozë Berisha support our counselling team and give a voice to persons affected by gender-based violence. We were able to triple the number of counselling sessions to 134 by creating a second post in this department.

Tea-Vanja has many years of experience in individual case work and specialised in working with young FINTA persons. Parallel to her work at Brava, she is completing an interdisciplinary master in “Family, children and youth studies”. It is particularly important to her that clients feel taken seriously, because many still experience discriminations when approaching authorities and expert services and thus do not get urgently needed support.

They often find themselves in situations characterised by years of powerlessness due to the restrictive migration and asylum policies of Switzerland. Tea-Vanja works with them to develop perspectives and to strengthen their self-effectiveness. In 2024, Brava was able to finance German language classes, professional integration measures (e.g. care assistant trainings) and legal counselling.

A recurring issue was the “crime scene abroad”. Many clients fled from gender-based violence, either on their own or with children, or suffered violence during their journey to Switzerland. In those cases, the focus was on strengthening them and getting them legal counselling for their asylum procedure. The greatest challenge remains to strengthening these people in a restrictive asylum system. During psycho-social counselling they are given the necessary space to work through their experiences and develop coping strategies. But often, the asylum procedure destabilises them once more—be it through threats of forced repatriation to insecure countries of origin or Dublin transfers in countries where they have experienced violence. This leads to re-traumatisation and makes finding a way to a safe life more difficult.



Tea-Vanja Radovanac joined Brava's counselling team at the beginning of the year.

Voices project

The project “Voices of refugee women” continued its work in 2024 with great dedication and put the focus on the rights of refugee women. 12 meetings and campaigns with about 40 participants centred around issues such as women’s health, racism, and discrimination.

Some of the highlights were workshops on asylum law and sexual rights, as well as two workshops on self-empowerment with Estefania Cuero, who showed the participants strategies on how to deal with racist structures. A further milestone was the participation at the seminar “Reproductive justice in the context of flight”. On a political level, the year was determined by measures for the action week against racism and the campaign “16 days against violence against women”.

The participants also left their marks at several marches. During the feminist strike, Tahmina Taghiyeva denounced the discrimination of refugee women in the labour market. At the National March against violence and suppression, three participants held a speech pointing out the exclusion, discrimination, and violence against refugee women in Switzerland.

Apart from the political activities, the project also strengthened the community with social activities such as picnics, Salsa workshops and exhibitions. Networking with other initiatives was also increased. Tahmina Taghiyeva presented the project at meetings of experts such as the Network for Asylum and Migration of Amnesty Switzerland and the festival of Women in Exile in Berlin. During the latter, she led a workshop on the challenges for refugee women in receiving countries.

The participants were also very active in the media. Articles in “Der Bund”, “Augen auf” and “Hauptstadt” showed the difficulties of families and children in return centres putting the stories of participants of the project at the centre.



Political activities

Let's start with some good news: during the summer session, the Parliament voted in favour of a change to the laws on foreigners and integration. In future, migrants affected by violence can separate from their spouses without jeopardising their right of residence. A giant step in the fight against domestic violence and for consistent victim protection. For decades, various organisations such as Brava have fought for it—now the change to Article 50 AIG has finally become reality.

Last year we celebrated the long overdue reform of the law governing sexual offences. But the implementation is still flawed. Clear guidelines from the authorities and the judiciary are needed for the new regulations to be put into practice consistently and professionally. That is why Brava supports SP women at cantonal interpellations to ensure that the reform does not only exist on paper, but also in practice.

Furthermore, the interim report of the National Action Plan was published in 2024. The Network Istanbul Convention provided a chapter on implementation and emphasis, which states: "Gender-based violence is a serious human rights violation. This is why the implementation of the Istanbul Convention must have highest priority for Switzerland."

But there were also setbacks: during the winter session, there were massive budget cuts, also in relation to gender-based violence. This is not what real progress looks like, but we keep working towards it. Brava is also still trying to bridge the gap in the support for persons affected by violence abroad. We are also lobbying for "stalking" to become a criminal offence in itself. The National Council and the Council of States cannot agree on the wording—we will keep at it to make sure that there will be real protection for the victims.

The cooperation with other organisations is essential to effectively fight against gender-based violence and defend human rights. An important milestone in 2024 was the launch of the "Swiss coalition for the rights of sex workers", where Brava also participated. Within the network Istanbul Convention, Brava is working intensively with partner organisations to push political



measures in a coordinated way and to ensure the full implementation in Switzerland. Brava is also part of the NGO Plattform Menschenrechte that is fighting against attacks on human rights. This was recently demonstrated by the frank statement on the political reaction to the ECHR judgement, which calls into question Switzerland's credibility as a human rights state.

We are pleased that the department of political activities is fully staffed again with Alexandra Gnägi joining us at the beginning of 2025.

Sim Eggler, Julia Meier, Samira Marti, Marianne Binder-Keller, Nina Lanzi, and Georgiana Ursprung at the Bundeshaus.

Campaigns

Only 4 out of 100
If all the women who, according to the Police, were raped would gather in one place, they would make up a whole village such as Läuelfingen. But surveys show that eight out of 10 women do not even go to the police. Which means, we should not be talking about 1371 women, but about 11 000—instead of a village like Läuelfingen of a town the size of Lenzburg. But the truth is even more disturbing. If we calculate how many rapes actually lead to the conviction of the perpetrator we find: of 100 raped women only four see the perpetrator convicted.

With the campaign “Only 4 out of 100” we show the violence behind the numbers and highlight that Switzerland has still no reliable statistics. This obscures how widespread this kind of violence is, who is affected by it and what it looks like. We are left with a huge number of unrecorded cases, and: the higher the risk of violence, the higher the number of unreported cases. We spread our message to over 23 000 household with flyers and received 550 orders for flyers through our website. On social media we reached more than 30 000 people with this campaign.

Bullshit Bingo – Feminist Edition
“And what do you do for men?” In our work against gender-based violence we are often confronted with this kind of questions or remarks. With our “Bullshit Bingo” at the Feminist Strike on 14 June we took it with a grain of salt and gave witty answers on our website.

Reform of the law governing sexual offences:
important progress
The revised law governing sexual offences marked an important milestone in 2024. Finally, No means No. We called attention to this new development with an online campaign, through newsletters, social media and a reel that reached more than 10 000 people.



Bullshit Bingo Feminist Edition

Und was macht ihr für <u>Männer?</u>	Not all men! !!	Gleichstellung ist doch schon <u>lange</u> erreicht.
<u>Entspannt</u> euch mal!	Männer erleben <u>auch</u> Gewalt.	Warum gibt es keinen Internationalen <u>Männertag</u> ?
Was darf Man(n) denn <u>heute</u> noch sagen?	Wenn ihr Gleichstellung wollt, geht erst mal ins <u>Militär</u>	Warum gibt es keinen Männerstreik? !
Geschlechts-bezogene Gewalt ist ein <u>Aus-</u> <u>länder</u> problem!	Warum darf ich nicht an der <u>Demo</u> mitlaufen?	Gibt es keine wichtigeren Probleme auf <u>der Welt</u> ?



Tahmina Taghiyeva talks about courage and solidarity after the preview of "A Sister's Tale".

Public Relations

In 2024, Brava continued to be present in the media: the organisation was mentioned in about 10 articles, among others in "Der Bund" and "Tagesanzeiger". We were also present at various events and podium discussions. One highlight was the film "All you see" by Niki Padidar, which we showed at the Human Rights Film Festival Zurich. During the subsequent podium discussion, we spoke about everyday racism. The award-winning documentary contemplates the uncomfortable feeling many people have when they come to a strange country. The director skilfully stages how the protagonists' own identity blends with the projections of their fellow human beings. The preview of the film "A Sisters' Tale" in Zurich during the campaign "16 days against violence" was also sold out. The film tells the story of Nasreen Amini, who follows her dream of singing in Iran despite being prohibited to do so. During the following podium discussion, the director Leila Amini spoke with Tahmina Taghiyeva about the courage to raise one's own voice, the meaning of solidarity and concrete ways of support.

Brava was also active on the streets. During the Feminist Strike Tahmina Taghiyeva held an impressive speech at the Bundesplatz, where she talked about discrimination and challenges for refugee women in the job market. Participating in such events continues to be an important part of our work, even if the focus lies on structural changes and political activities.

The increased social media activities during the past year showed results: Brava gained 811 new followers on Instagram and reached more than 94 000 people. In 2025 the focus will be on improving our LinkedIn account in order to better reach institutions and professionals.

Balance sheet (in CHF)

ASSETS	2024	2023
Petty cash	49.50	46.60
Postal cheque	39 107.68	155 692.08
Banks	1 239 203.80	625 226.09
Forward investments	0.00	700 000.00
Liquid assets	1 278 360.98	1 480 964.77
Accounts receivable	0.00	10 751.25
Short-term loan	3 239.40	1 634.50
Accounts receivable	3 239.40	12 385.75
Inventory	664.95	1 792.70
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	59 341.35	115 051.87
Current Assets	1 341 606.68	1 610 195.09
Fixtures and Fittings	0.00	339.00
IT, office equipment	4 234.65	880.00
Fixed assets	4 234.65	1 219.00
Total assets	1 345 841.33	1 611 414.09
Liabilities	2024	2023
Trade payables	135 998.76	108 647.50
Bank liabilities	8.90	0.00
Accrued expenses and deferred charges	113 328.13	403 964.54
Short-term borrowed capital	249 335.79	512 612.04
Short-term borrowed capital	249 335.79	512 612.04
Organization capital	1 096 505.54	1 098 802.05
Total liabilities	1 345 841.33	1 611 414.09

The full annual statement can be found on our website.

Profit and loss account (in CHF)

	2024	2023
Membership contributions	3 050.00	2 500.00
Donations without a specific purpose	456 535.33	275 264.53
Donations for a specific purpose	102 706.00	0.00
Income from projects	0.00	378 102.90
Income from patrons	931 957.00	848 446.00
Other income	5 266.00	0.00
Total income	1 499 514.33	1 504 313.43
Labour expenditure	583 607.81	630 204.64
Travel and hospitality	5 582.90	2 655.30
Expenditure	168 530.04	186 401.16
Material expenditure	1 668.15	777.33
Direct project costs	759 388.90	820 038.43
Patron acquisition costs	334 454.85	291 367.22
Donation acquisition costs	138 966.84	75 798.43
Institutions acquisition costs	20 070.10	63 708.48
Fundraising	493 491.79	430 874.13
Labour expenditure	162 414.79	95 849.51
Travel expenses	14 950.55	13 968.26
Material expenditure/Further education	38 667.73	38 576.68
Maintenance costs	32 943.73	29 815.09
Collective costs	0.00	11 896.07
Depreciation	1 668.15	777.32
Total Administrative Expenses	250 644.95	190 882.93
Operating Result	-4 011.314	62 517.94
Financial profit/Bank charges	1 314.80	-1 070.30
Total Financial Result	1 314.80	-1 070.30
Result before adjustment of fund capital	-2 696.51	61 447.64
Allocated Funds	0.00	-38 000.00
Withdrawn Funds	0.00	12 032.40
Total Fund Adjustment	0.00	-25 967.60
Annual Result	-2 696.51	35 480.04
Extraordinary Revenue	0.00	496.75
Extraordinary Results	0.00	496.75
Profit for the Year	-2 696.51	35 976.79

About us

2024 was characterised by change. We said goodbye to several long-standing members of staff and gained new committed people. We very much thank our board members Christine Hotz, Marwa Younes, Flurina Peyer, Nathalie Jufer, Muriel Günther und My Hang Thai, whose huge commitment and work shaped the organisation significantly.

We welcomed the following people in 2024: Alexandra Suter and Malou Cornelsen are the new fundraising team. Tea-Vanja Radovanac and Lea Riedener support the Education and Counseling Circle. Lisa Briner is now responsible for our finances, and Lara Horisberger for communication. For the committee we welcomed Barbara Krattiger, Julia Maisenbacher, and Mejreme Omuri.

Since its creation in 2024, the coordination circle has turned out to be an important interface between the three circles. By revising processes and updating regulations it is now helping to reduce the workload of the overall team.



Part of the team at the national demonstration against violence in Bern.

Thank you

Thanks to the support of our sponsors and donors we were able to continue our work against gender-based violence and sexism in 2024. Our goal remains to create a future where all people in Switzerland can lead a free and self-determined life. A great thank you goes to our loyal donors. With their support we can secure our independence and do our work. We cherish the trust they place in us and thank you that you will work with us towards a fairer society.

“I am extremely thankful to everyone at Brava that they courageously, effectively and continuously stand up for making injustices visible and are committed to strengthening the law and human dignity. That is why I happily continue to support Brava with my donation.”

Isabelle Schönauer

Thank you

We thank

Claire-Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre Foundation

Anna Maria and Karl Kramer Foundation

Foundation «Perspektiven» by SwissLife

David Bruderer Foundation

T. & H. Klüber Foundation

St. Anna Foundation

Karl Popper Foundation

GABU Foundation

Stiftung für Kirchliche Liebestätigkeit im Kanton Bern

Department of Health, Social Affairs and Integration of the Canton of Berne

OAK Foundation

Federal Commission on Migration

Reformed parish of Möhlin

Charlotte and Nelly Dornacher Foundation

Foundation Robert and Yvonne Peter-Aeby

Foundation Temperatio

Stiftung für Erforschung der Frauenarbeit

Evangelical Reformed Parish of Lauterbrunnen

Parish of Siselen-Juchen

Ref. parish of Brugg

Parish of Lenk

Evangelical Reformed Parish of Canton Zug

Evangelical Reformed Parish of Canton Lucerne

Evangelical Reformed Parish of Köniz

Catholic vicarage Maria Himmelfahrt

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Become a sponsor now

Become a sponsor now and send a clear sign against gender-based violence by helping us to implement concrete and comprehensive long-term projects for persons affected by violence. We sincerely thank you!



www.brava-ngo.ch/en/support-us/donate

Do you have any questions?

Please contact us: 031 311 38 79

spenden@brava-ngo.ch



