

femLENS

WOMEN TAKE PHOTOS

**Impact Report
2018-2019**



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INTRODUCTION

“ One of the rights that the powerful often assume is the power to dictate reality. ”

- Rebecca Solnit “Whose story is this”

Founded in 2015 as a volunteer-driven organisation, femLENS works as a capacity builder delivering free workshops to teach women and girls from economically and culturally diverse backgrounds documentary photography techniques to tell stories visually by using easily available tools such as mobile phone cameras.

Today's cultural and media representation of women is not inclusive and diverse. Men and women are often portrayed in stereotypical ways, and traditional roles in society are emphasised. This misrepresentation and the message behind needs to change, so that a political, economic, and social equality of the sexes is possible.

During our workshops women and girls not only use reflective photography to create a visual project, but also work on the narrative side of each story.

Making our workshops participant-driven and giving the tools to express themselves helps to enhance participant empowerment and encourages creativity by providing the opportunity to introduce topics and ideas that are meaningful to participants.

femLENS MISSION AND VALUES

femLENS's mission is to visually educate and make technologically aware the most vulnerable and resourceless women of our society through documentary photography made accessible by mobile phone cameras and cheaper point and shoot cameras.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Diversity Inclusion



The educational efforts aim to reach women in communities with limited resources to improve their access to education taking into account the significant social, cultural, economic and structural obstacles.

Human Rights



Provide access to education to women from communities with limited resources to diversify the media and arts.

Gender Equality



Promote participation of women in leadership in society, community, and specifically media and arts.



Our vision is
empowered women
creating and sharing
their own stories
about their lives

ACTIVITIES OF 2018

Workshops



TORROX, SPAIN

Futuro en Femenino, local feminist non-profit association - 6 Participants



ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE

Parity, local youth NGO - 6 Participants

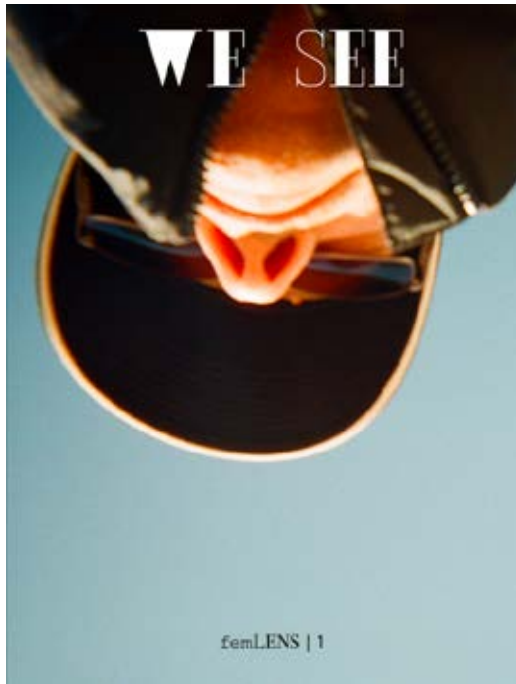


ZHYTOMYR, UKRAINE

Avenir, local NGO that works against human trafficking - 3 participants



ACTIVITIES OF 2018



Magazines:

Issue I on International Women's Day March 8, 2018

Issue II in December 2018

Publications:

News24, Dec. 2018: Innovating in the fight against trafficking

ResourceMag, Mar. 2018: Introducing "We See," the documentary

photography magazine encouraging women to become agents of change.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS 2018



femLENS's work was presented at Simbiosis Festival in Malaga, Spain and the Trust Conference, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's flagship annual event and a world-leading human rights forum, in London, England.



In **September 2018** Halima Al Haj Ali, a Syrian woman who participated in femLENS workshops in Shatila refugee camp in October 2017 won the top prize of **\$5000** at the Lebanon Changemaker Photo Contest that focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



In **October 2018** femLENS ran a series of workshops with girls in Zhytomyr, Ukraine and did a research project about human trafficking in the region.



femLENS founder Jekaterina Saveljeva presents femLENS at the scholar breakfast at the start of the Trust Conference in London, England.

Halima is from Syria, living in Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon since 2012. She was a housewife back in Syria, living in a city called Kherbat Ghazala in Daraa province. She left Syria due to the shelling that was targeting their house randomly, which she says is still ongoing. She decided to move to Lebanon where she has relatives, also because she could not go to or get smuggled into any other country like Jordan.

“ It was very hard to settle in Shatila due to the lack of security, the weapons that are spread among the youths, and the lack of basic things such as power that is often cut. “

- Halima Al Haj Ali



ACTIVITIES OF 2019

Workshops

BERLIN, GERMANY



Die Lernwerkstatt

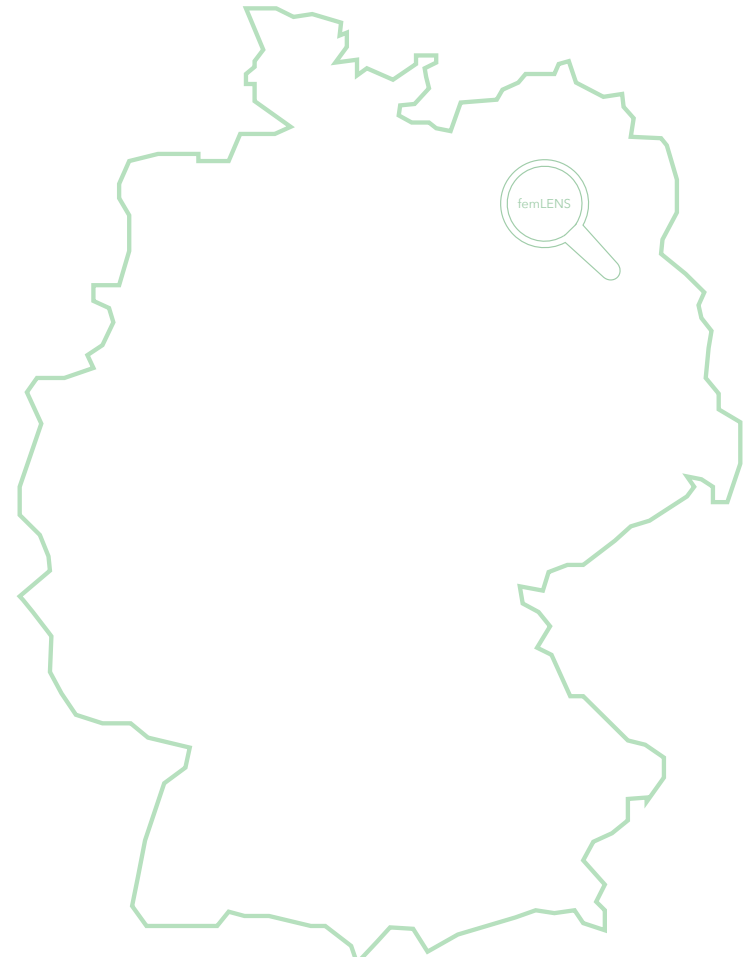
- 5 participants



Partnership with IWS (International Women Space) - 8 participants







Art Despite Exclusion Festival (Kunst trotz(t) Ausgrenzung) - 6 participants



ACTIVITIES OF 2019

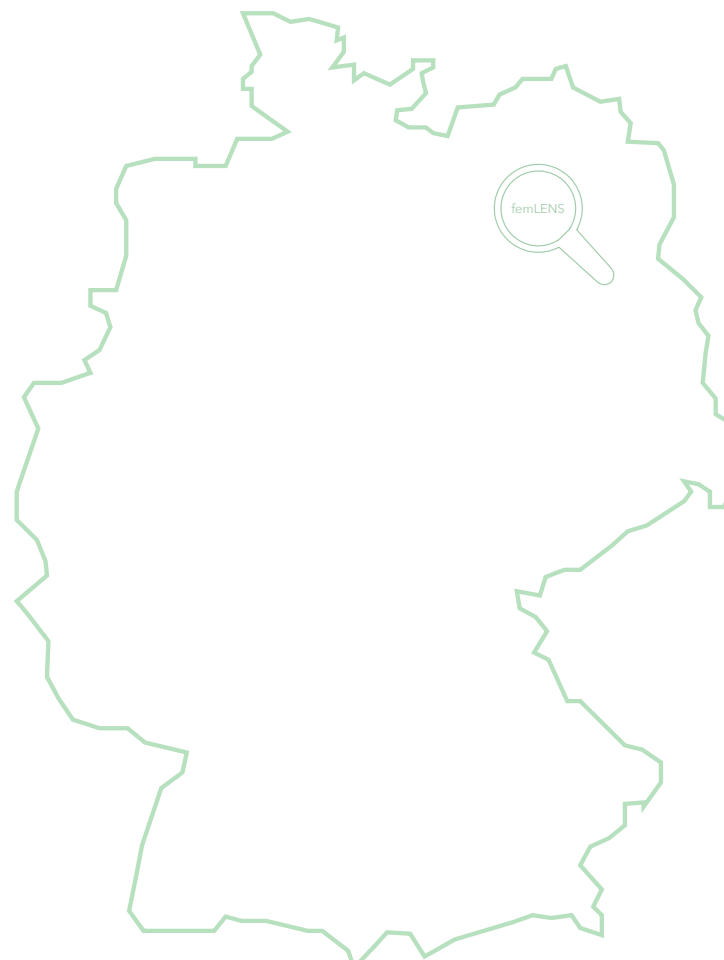
Exhibitions

BERLIN, GERMANY

-  Cafe Buchhandlung
-  Oblomov Bar
-  Regenbogenfabrik Culture
-  Alt-Treptow street exhibition

Publications:

Wanderful, Jul 2019: Women to Watch -
Meet the Photographer Empowering Women
to Tell Their Stories.



ACTIVITIES OF 2019

AUDIENCE GROWTH (2 YEARS)



In 2018 and 2019 femLENS workshop participants created 20 documentary photo stories.

Overall in 2018 we worked with women and girls ranging from the ages of 14-64.

In 2019 femLENS raised just over **1000** Euro through a crowd-funding campaign for a series of workshops in Gaza. This project is still being developed.



The magazines have been downloaded over **1000** times by people from around the world.

EXHIBITION BERLIN 2019



EXHIBITION BERLIN 2019



EXHIBITION BERLIN 2019

