

PRESS RELEASE

Behandlungszentrum für Folteropfer e.V. (Berlin Center for Torture Victims) rebranded into a charitable Ltd Future-proofed assistance will be established

Berlin, 29. Mai 2017

5 Since 21 September 2016 the departments of the *Behandlungszentrum für Folteropfer e.V. (bzfo e.V.)* including the *Zentrum für Flüchtlingshilfen und Migration (Center for Refugee and Migration Services)* operate under the name of Zentrum ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH (Center ÜBERLEBEN). Services offered at the Center ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH are in areas of psychological treatment, integrative measures, and qualification possibilities for traumatized refugees as well as migrants. Due to legal requirements regarding registered association regulations, and according to most recent court rulings it has been necessary to transfer all business operation of the registered association bzfo e.V. into a new legal form of a non-profit limited liability company.

15 **Solely charitable function remains**

20 “With changes of the company’s legal status we meet recent juridical requirements” says Dr. Mercedes Hillen, CEO of the Center ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH. “Furthermore, we establish our wide range of support in a future oriented manner and therefore consistently follow our strategy of establishing sustainable structures of support under one roof.” All activities of the Center ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH continue to be exclusively charitable. Consequently, future financial profits must only be used for the same purpose.

25 The center is obligated to promote public welfare, health care, and education and support for those who are politically, racially or religiously pursued including refugees and exiled persons. The founding idea of the bzfo e.V. will continue to remain with the Center ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH. The registered association remains in force and is until further notice sole shareholder of the newly found gGmbH. The work continues with the same team and offers under the guidance of its long-standing CEO Dr. Mercedes Hillen.

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The **Center ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH** offers support for people who've suffered organized violence administered by the state or experienced through effects of war, for those with bodily ailments, and psychological long-term damages and psychosomatic disorders. Additionally, the Center also offers a wide range of integration and qualification measures. Over 600 adults, children and adolescents received treatment and / or support via counseling in 2015. The people concerned come from over 50 countries including Syria, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Somali, Kosovo, Lebanon, Eritrea and other African countries.

The expenditures are financed by support from the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the EU, the United Nations, as well as by standard health care coverage, foundations, companies and private donors. The Center offers a broad range from rehabilitation programs for social integration of refugees and newcomers in Germany to facilitate their social participation.

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