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Research interests: pain, trauma and somatization disorders, refugee mental health and secondary traumatization

Traumatized women and children from the Northern Iraqi region: specialized group psychotherapy for the women & needs and burdens for woman, children as well as care givers

After the horrific genocide 2014 against the Yazidis in northern Iraq, a group of 1100 traumatized women and children were identified in the northern Iraqi region and brought to the Federal-State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in southern Germany in 2015. With support from the Ministry of State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, multidisciplinary teams of inter alia psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, teachers and interpreters, since then are working with the affected women and children at several centers across southern Germany. First, the supply network at Tübingen for the 10 women and 20 children will be presented. In this context, a psychotherapeutic group treatment for women and for children has been developed and implemented in Tübingen since January 2016. The experiences of the specialized group therapy for traumatized women including psychotherapeutic contents as well as challenges within the setting will be presented. Second, the first descriptive data from a survey with the care providers collected during the 4th network meeting of this Special Quota Project in April 2017 will be shown. A first insight of the needs and burdens of the women and children from the perspective of the care givers as well as the needs and burdens of the care givers themselves will be presented. The discussion of these special needs of both refugees and care providers will finally lead us to interventions and services, such as web- and app-based support for traumatized refugees and the question of reducing secondary traumatization or secondary traumatic stress for e. g. interpreters, psychotherapist and social workers.