Decolonising humanitarian action, critical reflection about power inequalities and questioning dependency structures are key debates towards a more progressive and inclusive humanitarian sector. Yet, established humanitarian organisations find it challenging to scrutinise their own way of working. In our seminar, we will explore to what extent our work practices reflect colonial or racist structures and how we might transform them.

The seminar consists of two online sessions. In the first session, we will reflect on our organisations’ structures and ways of thinking. It is intended as internal sensitisation of German NGOs. The second session is also directed at local and national partner organisations. We will have a dialogue about different perspectives of power inequalities and dependencies and engage each other where there is a common understanding and where different perceptions remain. Both sessions address experienced and/or management staff (e.g. public relations, policy, advocacy or programme departments).

Friederike Bubenzer and Carolin Gomulia will facilitate the sessions. Both are Germans but have lived in South Africa for an extensive period of time, working as facilitators in the field of peacebuilding, humanitarian work, decolonialisation and anti-racism. The first session will be in German, the second session will be in English.

The seminar is part of a joint project of the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of Ruhr-University Bochum and VENRO.

The number of participants is limited. You will receive feedback on your admission to the course after the registration deadline. Participation is free of charge.

This training is financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

WHEN?
Monday, 6 September and Thursday, 9 September 2021
9 am – 1 pm CEST each

WHERE?
Online (Zoom)

REGISTRATION
Please register here until 27 August 2021.

CONTACT
Karoline Krähling
k.kraehling@venro.org
Telephone: +49 (0)30/2 63 92 99-28
PROGRAMME

Monday, 6 September 2021: Session 1 with VENRO member NGOs

09:00 Introduction and expectations

09:30 History of oppression
   Short overview of the history of decolonisation and why context matters and discussion in small groups

10:15 Break

10:30 Power inequalities in humanitarian work
   Input from guest speaker and small group work on inequalities and biases in the own organisation

11:15 Feedback from the groups

11:30 Break

11:45 Making it practical
   Small group work on the following questions:
   How to introduce decolonisation in the own NGO?
   How can power inequalities be broken down?

12:45 Reflection and debriefing

13:00 End of session 1

WHEN?
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k.kraehling@venro.org
Telephone: +49 (0)30/2 63 92 99-28
Thursday, 9 September 2021: Session 2 with participants from session 1 and their local and national partner organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td><strong>Introduction, expectations and report from session 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45</td>
<td><strong>Why words matter</strong>&lt;br&gt;World Café on the terms &amp; concepts relating to inequality, power relations, decolonisation and anti-racism and how we interpret/understand concepts differently</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td><strong>Insights from the field – what does it take to decolonise action?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Panel discussion with guest speakers and small group work on systemic and structural inequalities</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td><strong>Making it practical</strong>&lt;br&gt;Small group work on the following questions:&lt;br&gt;What can individual organisations do?&lt;br&gt;What could be the role of networks and alliances?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td><strong>Reflection and debriefing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td><strong>End of seminar</strong></td>
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