



Die Arbeiterwohlfahrt auf Englisch

Glossary

AWO = Workers' Welfare

AWO e. V. = Workers' Welfare Association

AWO Bundesverband e.V. = Workers' Welfare Federal Association

Stages and turns in the history of AWO

1. Prehistory and founding phase (1904–1919)
2. Formation and consolidation in the Weimar Republic (1920–1932)
3. Persecution and prohibition in the Nazi era (1933–1945)
4. New foundation and Reconstruction in the post-war period (1945–1949)
5. Free welfare care in the Federal Republic (1950–1969)
6. Professionalization and differentiation in the Bonn Republic (1970–1989)
7. Tensions between values and value added in the Berliner Republic (1990–2015)
8. Present and future (2015–2019)

Self-presentation

At AWO, we support every person to successfully manage their individual everyday lives, to demand their rights and to be treated with solidarity. This involves helping people to help themselves, empowerment, giving encouragement, as our role is always to make it easier for the persons affected to join or re-join society, or to ensure that they can take part in everyday life with autonomy and dignity. Our welfare organisation has had an eventful past. Founded in the turmoil left by the First World War and re-established after being banned by the National Socialists, AWO has unwaveringly helped to turn Germany into a fair and caring home for all its citizens. Now, in the face of partially unconstrained market forces, it is even more important to speak up for justice and for solidarity within our society and to take a definite stance. We are convinced that the equality of all human beings before the law as well as universal human rights are the foundations of an open society. These rights are non-negotiable. They should be granted to every single person. We fight for a democratic society in which religious, sexual, ethnic, social and linguistic diversity can flourish.

Our work is aimed at helping to create a world of social solidarity where all people can live together in peace, regardless of their differences. This is why we get involved. We provide suitable support structures for children, young people, mothers, fathers, the elderly and migrants; we fight against everyday racism and right-wing extremism, both of which have a toxic effect on democratic and civilised coexistence.

Today, AWO is supported throughout Germany by more than 335,000 members, 66,000 dedicated volunteers and 215,000 salaried employees. More than 600,000 people devote themselves to AWO's values and mission, and support solidarity within society. The philosophy behind our work and activities is up-to-the-minute. For the future, one thing is sure, we will remain focussed on the person and will continue to fight for a dignified life – in Germany and throughout the world. After more than 100 years of AWO, we will definitely continue our crusade (#WIRMACHENWEITER).

Famous quotes by Marie Juchacz

“The strong should stand up for the weak for the good of the whole.”

“As much as we should all like to live in the present in order to play our part, it is important to examine the present in the light of the past and to be guided by all that was good in it. Not in order to dwell in the past, but to look back from time to time in order to be prepared again for the future.”

“The principle of solidarity, that so wonderfully brings to life all the branches of the labour movement, is also the driving force behind our joint actions to the benefit of people in need, especially the young. This idea is to be expressed more strongly than before in dealings between our organisations, the strong should stand up for the weak for the good of the whole, for the benefit of our shared goals.”