MIGRATION STORIES IN HAMBURG
An exhibition by the *Hamburger Geschichtswerkstätten*

Hamburg is a city of immigration. For centuries, people have been leaving their homeland for a variety of reasons and trying to build a new life here. Today, around forty percent of Hamburg's population has a history of migration. For the city, this represents a great cultural enrichment as well as an indispensable contribution to the functionality and prosperity of the Hanseatic city. At the same time, immigration has been and continues to be accompanied by conflicts, discrimination, exclusion, exploitation and violence - including racially motivated murders.

For the exhibition, ten history workshops have set out in search of migration stories from 1945 onwards in their district. This includes personal stories of residents, but also contributions on those who arrived in Hamburg as displaced persons or lived here at least temporarily as "displaced persons" after the Second World War.
While the majority of these groups of people soon returned to their countries of origin, the influx of recruited workers from southern Europe and North Africa began at the end of the 1950s. Shortly before the recruitment ban in 1973, their numbers amounted to 65.000 people.

Many of the migrant workers of that time and their relatives still live here today. Likewise, many refugees from war and crisis zones around the world have always arrived in the Hanseatic city. After the right to asylum was restricted in 1993, the number of people seeking protection decreased, but has risen again since 2012 - partly due to the civil war in Syria. Despite several research projects that have been initiated, little is still known about the many stories of migration in Hamburg.

We are aware that the contributions compiled here can only shed light on a few aspects and that so far only parts of the migrant community have been involved. The individual history workshops are approached from very different angles - but they all have the same goal: to provide an impetus to approach the topic of "migration to Hamburg" in a broader context and to open up spaces for discussion. We would like to enter into a dialog and want to hear and document migration histories and needs of different communities as long as there is no central location for this in the immigration city of Hamburg.

Gender-appropriate language

We endeavor to use gender-appropriate language in the exhibition. If only the masculine or feminine form is used, the groups of people referred to are in fact exclusively men or women, or the formulations are quoted and can be traced back directly to historical documents.

Explanation of terms

Gastarbeiter*in
The term "Gastarbeiter*in" ("guest worker") refers to those people who were specifically recruited by the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) as labor migrants from the 1950s to the 1970s. As the FRG originally intended for them to return, they were referred to as "guest workers". The term has been repeatedly criticized as euphemistic and misleading.

Boat People
The term "boat people" originally refers to the people who fled Southeast Asia after the end of the Vietnam War. After the violent unification of North and South Vietnam to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the country was ruled by communists. Countless South Vietnamese were deported to re-education camps, abused and murdered. With land routes blocked, hundreds of thousands of them tried to flee by boat across the sea.

Migrationshintergrund (Migration background)
People who themselves or whose parents were not born with German citizenship have been listed by the Federal Statistical Office as "Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund" ("people with a migration background") since 2005. The term, which has also become established in general usage, is repeatedly criticized as discriminatory and imprecise. "People with a history of immigration", 'people with a history of migration' or 'immigrants and their descendants' are among the terms under discussion to replace the term "Migrationshintergrund".