



Awareness concept for the 18th German Child and Youth Welfare Congress

The German Child and Youth Welfare Congress (DJHT) brings together people from all areas of child and youth welfare. The Child and Youth Welfare Association (AGJ) - as the organiser - sees the DJHT as a reflection of the diversity of society in which many people interact. Contributors and participants should be able to engage in a varied, interesting and constructive critical exchange with each other and to approach other people openly. In the process, social power structures can be reproduced, even unconsciously, which can be hurtful for those involved. The AGJ wants to create a safe space at the DJHT where all people can come together as equals, regardless of age, social class, (dis)ability, national-ethnic-cultural affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, ideology, religion and other characteristics of diversity. In order to fulfil this responsibility and to work towards this goal, the AGJ has developed this awareness concept.

What does awareness mean?


In general, awareness means knowledge or perception of a situation or fact. It is closely related to the dimension of 'consciousness'. For the DJHT this means that all contributors and participants try to be aware of the discriminatory and violent power structures that exist in the conception and realisation of an event like the DJHT, and that they all work to minimise them in the planning and implementation. In order to provide concrete support during the congress, the AGJ is setting up an awareness team.

What is an Awareness Team?

The awareness team is a group of people who are available to all participants and contributors of the DJHT: on site in Leipzig, at the event location and in the digital space. Participants can turn to the awareness team if they feel discriminated against or uncomfortable in any situation. The work of the awareness team is based on this concept.

When can the awareness team be contacted?

In the context of a large event such as the DJHT, there can be both (micro) aggressions, such as the trivialisation of racism or the disregard of gender identities.



People with disabilities can also be hurt by blatant or thoughtless remarks or prejudices. Offences are not always malicious, but it is important that they are addressed and dealt with. The awareness team helps to analyse such situations, provides a safe space for people and offers support.

How does the awareness team work?

The AGJ understands the principles of awareness work to be

- Power of definition: People affected by violence can define for themselves what violence is and do not have to justify their experience.
- Partiality: Those present, and in particular the awareness team, act in the interests of the person affected.
- Confidentiality: What is discussed is kept confidential and anonymous. Information is only passed on if the person concerned so wishes. An exception to this is the protection of other people who may be affected later in the process.
- Decision-making power: The wishes of the person concerned will be taken into account in the further course of action. This does not apply to behaviour where the AGJ undertakes to remove people from the premises.

The work of the awareness team should be coordinated not only with the AGJ, but also closely with the venue and its security staff. If necessary, other support structures will be called in.

Awareness at the 18th DJHT: Implementation by the AGJ as organiser

General Framework

As the organiser of the 18th DJHT, the AGJ has taken into account the systematic discrimination experienced by people on the basis of certain characteristics of diversity and is committed to the equal participation of all people in the organisation of the event.

The AGJ, the awareness team and the security staff of the venue (Messe Leipzig) will use this concept as a basis for their work in the run-up to the DJHT.

As the organiser, the AGJ will ensure that there are visible references to the awareness concept and to the awareness team. There will be a separate email address where the awareness team can be contacted before, during and after the DJHT.

Implementation plans based on this concept will include clear process descriptions for possible incidents and case studies. The plans will be communicated in advance to all those involved in the DJHT.



Public Relations and External Communication

In its public relations work for the 18th DJHT, the AGJ is paying attention to the use of non-discriminatory language.

The awareness concept and the attitude it expresses will be communicated in advance through public relations (including social media). There will also be references to the concept in the programme of the 18th DJHT and on the DJHT website.

- Contributors of the 18th DJHT will be informed about the awareness concept in advance via a newsletter.

Visitors will be informed about the awareness concept via the website, social media and on-site via notices in the venue.

Evaluation of the awareness concept

- The awareness concept and its implementation will be evaluated with the awareness team after the event. It will also form part of the overall evaluation of the DJHT, so that lessons learned can be incorporated into the planning of future events.