

## „Jobmesse Haus Leo“

At the end of September, the network *Misch mit!* teamed up with Haus Leo, the refugee accommodation organisation based in Moabit, for an event that brought together refugees and organisations working to help get refugees into work.

The event was held on September 19 on the Haus Leo/Stadtmission grounds on Lehrter Strasse, and the mostly women crowd all contributed to the feast with tasty homemade salads, bread and sweet treats! The women - who came from a number of countries including Afghanistan, Serbia and Somalia - spent the afternoon chatting, eating and laughing.

Four of our partner organisations participated in the event - including *die Brücke Lotsenprojekt*, *Compass Mitte*, *Inbas Emsa* and *Job Navigation*. There was some interaction between them and the men who came to the event, and although it is too soon to say if anything productive will materialise as a result of the conversations, Grischa Schwiegk, who works at Haus Leo, told *Misch mit!* the event was a success. “I think the event went very well,” he said. “The people presenting their projects were very engaged, and I think it was a good, easy and relaxed way to connect to the people. The people presenting their projects were happy, too.

“If we do this again, it would be good to focus on other areas – I could imagine that the theme of finding a flat could be of interest, for example.”

For *Misch mit!* it was an opportunity to connect more with the people who we are trying to support. It was also a really good - and rare - chance to hear from women living in the city as refugees, as it usually difficult to get them to come to our events. All of the women had stories to tell. One lady, for example, told *Misch mit!* about how she has been living apart from her husband in Germany - he is registered in Hamburg and she lives with their children in Berlin - for more than three years. The authorities haven't yet sorted out the paperwork to reunite them, so the husband visits every weekend, or as much as possible. The woman, who fled war and poverty in her home country in Africa, revealed to *Misch mit!* that she never learnt to read or write in her mother tongue, which is Arabic, and only knows those skills after studying Deutsch in Germany. The conversations left *Misch mit!* with a lot to think about around cultural integration, and how complex the issue is when there are such differences between societies. We hope to have more of these conversations, and look forward to another event with Haus Leo.