“We only want safety”  
Narratives of Refugee Women  
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Refugees in Berlin
Every minute 24 people were forced to flee their homes in 2015. Global Trends reported in 2015 65.3 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. Many of these refugees made it to Germany. I conducted oral narratives with women in Berlin whose journeys are laced with persecution and violence.

Oral Narratives Research Design
The research centered on understanding the refugee experience via a qualitative descriptive approach. The questions centered on the experiences of refugee women when they first arrived in Berlin, how they are negotiating their situation in Berlin. The interviews were semi-structured with a focus on language barriers, limitations to education, supportive factors, and identity construction.

Outcomes
• Conducted seven hour long interviews with different women  
• Identified strengths that refugees find in their transitions  
• Identified limitations in regards to career & education  
• Article in progress

Classroom Connections
• SW 560 : This course provided me with a theory foundation on community engagement. The theories that I was exposed to during this course helped me tremendously in interacting with the community as an outsider, yet still be an ally.  
• SW 648: This course introduced global social work themes. The course provided opportunities to explore social work within a global context.

Skills Developed
• Methods to leverage the support of stakeholders  
• Understanding key dimensions and characteristics of the community, and the social problems that are unique to them  
• Connected themes of privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice within a global context

Lessons Learned
The experiences of refugees cannot be thought of as a hegemonic, collective experience. Rather, each community, group, and person must be given the opportunity to define themselves using their own voices. The global experience demonstrated this truth.

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