

District Health Centre in Kalk!

What is a District Health Centre?

Health does not solely depend on medical care, but to a huge extent also on the circumstances a person lives in. That is why, in a place that looks after the health of people, more needs to take place than just medical care. The living and working conditions of the people must also be taken into consideration. When the mold in the house causes sickness, legal support against the housing company could be necessary. When the employer does not pay the wages, then unionists who support are necessary. When children cannot find places to play, then the politicians must be pressurised for green areas to be created. When the government offices become difficult to access, people who guide, support and possibly translate are necessary. Even when it doesn't look like it at first, all these factors have an influence on health. That is exactly what the District Health Centre is about. Health is looked at more broadly. That is why, in addition to medical specialists (such as doctors, nurses and psychotherapists), people from other professional groups who are needed to tackle the problems also work here. They are, for e.g., social workers, trade unionists and lawyers. Other than that, the district health centre should be a place to connect and a meeting-point for people, groups and initiatives in the district. One is often powerless when alone. But when people come together, a lot can be changed. To do so, it is important to identify the problematic factors in areas in the neighbourhood together. We advocate health care regardless of profit interests. In our image of health and health-care, money isn't the priority, instead, the focus is on people and their needs. In our district health center, everyone has access to health care regardless of their insurance and residence status.

Who are we?

We are **SoliMed**. The group consists of people from different professions and areas of expertise, who have been working for years to build a district health centre in Cologne. We have people who have been active, professionally, personally and politically engaging themselves with the topics of health and health-care. We are experts in the fields of district work, medical care, psychology, naturopathy, medicine and patient representation. We are all people who are daily confronted with the

inequality an injustice of the present health-care system. We want to fight the fundamental causes of illnesses as well as their health consequences. Making people only temporarily fit to carry out their work-routine does not make sense to us.

And where is this health care centre?

There isn't a health care centre in Kalk or in any other district of Cologne yet. But we wish to build one.

How can the district health centre be created?

We have role models: in Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden, other groups have already implemented our goal. We work with them in the so-called "Poliklinik Syndikat" and can learn from their experiences. Even outside Germany, there are "Community Health Centers" or "Social Clinics" in various countries that inspire us and motivate us in our work. In the last few months, we have concentrated on getting to know the Kalk district as a group. This exhibition is a further step in getting into conversation with people who live in Kalk and groups who are active here. Soon, we will look for rooms, build an association, write concepts, take care of financing and much more. For the same, Your feedback is important to us: What do you think: Do we need a district health centre in Kalk? How should it be organised? What should take place / be offered there?