

Personal relationships of German women today

LRC-KJHAM Volunteer Discussion 20/04/2016

LRC - KJHAM



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Agenda

- 1) Women in public
 - a) Public behaviour
 - b) Sexism
- 2) Role of women in German society
 - a) Married women
 - b) Pregnancy & motherhood
 - c) Unmarried women
- 3) Sexual violence
 - a) Sexual violence in personal relationships
 - b) Sexual violence in public

Women in public

Women in Germany today enjoy great freedom in the way they dress and voice their opinion.



Source: <https://alevelgerman.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/german.jpg?w=640>

Women in public

Nevertheless, sexism is very present and equality has not been achieved.

“Sexism, prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender, especially against women and girls. (...) Sexism can be a belief that one sex is superior to or more valuable than another sex. It **imposes limits on what men and boys can and should do and what women and girls can and should do.**”

- Gina Masequesmay, Encycloepadia Britannica

<http://www.britannica.com/topic/sexism>

Women in public

Feminine and masculine norms nowadays still reflect traditional roles, which leads to modern sexism.

Feminine norms

- Being nice
- Pursuing a thin body ideal
- Showing modesty
- Being domestic
- Caring for children
- Investing in a romantic relationship
- Keeping sexual intimacy within one committed relationship
- Using resources to invest in appearance

Masculine norms

- Winning
- Emotional control
- Risk-taking
- Violence
- Dominance
- Playboy
- Self-reliance
- Primacy of work
- Power over women
- Disdain for homosexuality
- Pursuit of status

Mahalik, J.R. et al. (2005), Development of the conformity to feminine norms inventory. *Sex Roles*, 52:317-335; Mahalik, J.R. et al. (2003), Development of the Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory! *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 4:3-25

Women in public

In the past few years, sexism has been taken to social media in order to spark a public debate.



minas tirith
@lasersushi



 Folgen

Der Sportlehrer, dem bei den Gymnastikübungen immer "die Hand verrutscht" ist. Wurde nie entlassen. Alle wussten es. #aufschrei



Sigi Maurer ✓
@sigi_maurer

 Folgen

gruppe männer belästigt mich. bitte Schaffner um hilfe, er, augenzwinkernd: Burschen, jetzt seids ein bissl lieb zu der dame! #imzugpassiert

00:33 - 26 Mär 2016

  17  16

Women in public

At the moment German politicians discuss a ban on sexist advertisement, but it does not seem likely that this law will be passed.

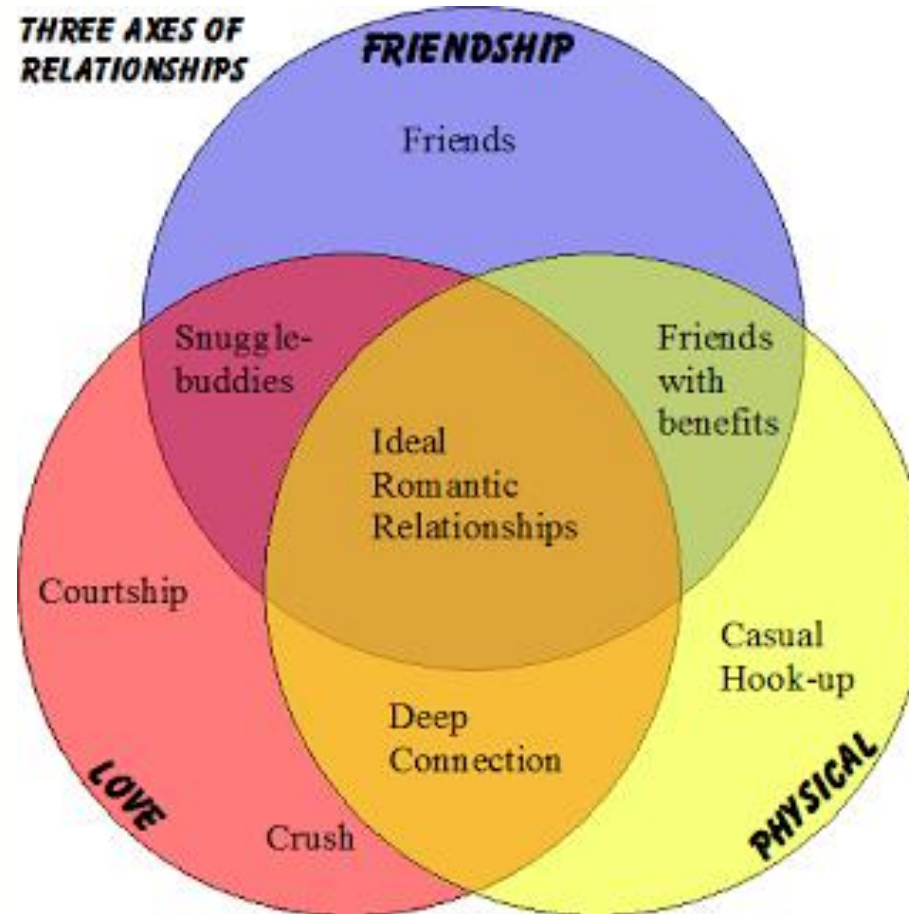


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Role of women in German society

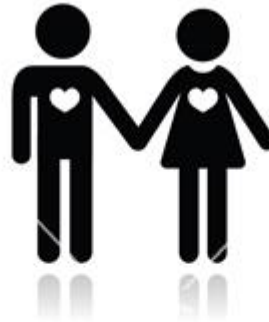
German women engage in a wide range of relationships, also if they are single.



Role of women in German society

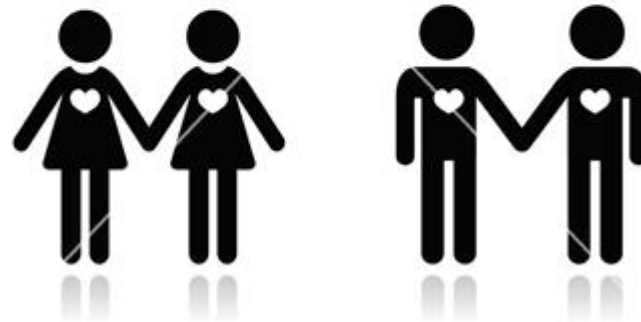
In Germany, relationships are shown openly and sex is regarded as a normal part of any relationship.

Homosexual relationships are fine



Public displays of affection are fine

Condoms are available everywhere, other forms of contraception have to be prescribed



Sex is allowed when both partners are in the same age or one is at least 14/16/18 years

Role of women in German society

The minimum age for marriage in Germany is 18. It is a choice and some people decide not to get married even though they live in a long term relationship.

18 years old

**Of different
gender**

Unmarried

**Lifelong marriage
has to be aimed at**



**No close familiar
relationship**

**Sexual intercourse with
third persons is fine**

**No entitlement to
sexual intercourse**

**Long-distance-
marriages are fine**

Role of women in German society

In 2010, the divorce rate in Germany was 2.3 per 1,000 inhabitants, against an EU average of 2.0

**Dissolution of
marriage**

**Declaration that the
marriage has failed**



**Compliance with
formal regulations**

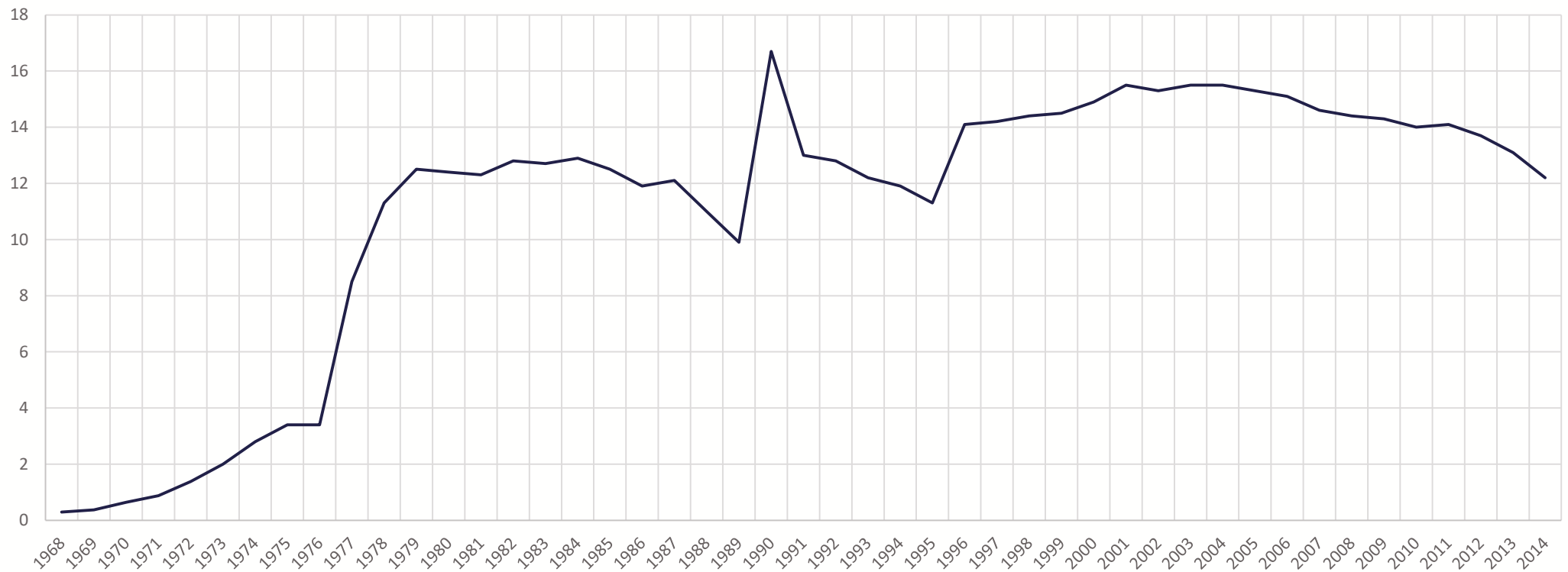
Distribute assets

**Clarify maintenance
obligations**

Role of women in German society

Abortion is not permitted, but exempt from punishment in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy upon condition of mandatory counseling.

Abortions in Germany (% of total pregnancies)



<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/ab-frgermany.html>

Role of women in German society

Pregnant women and mothers are protected by the German state, no matter whether they are pregnant inside or outside marriage.

**Mandatory
time off
work**
(before and
after birth)

**Dismissal
ban**

**Maternity
allowance**

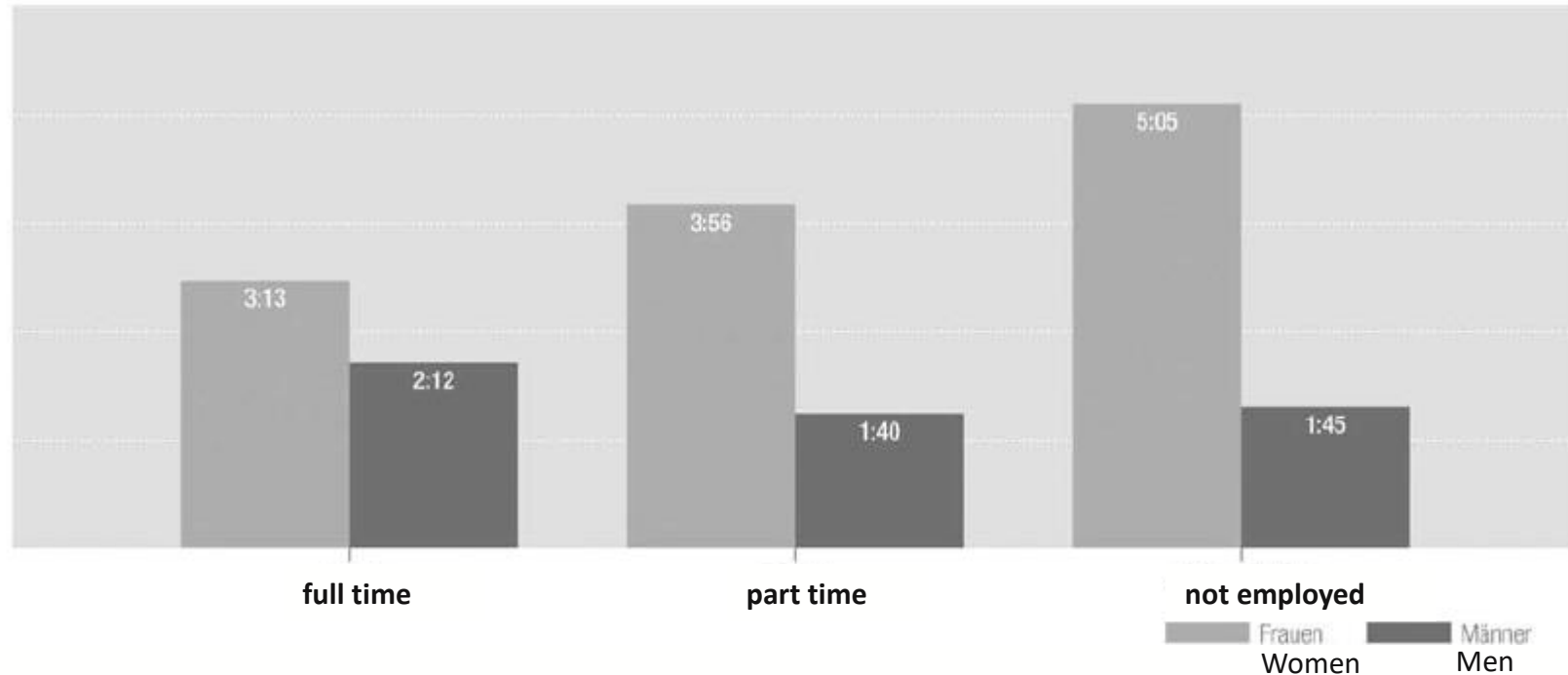
Employers
have to
provide a
**healthy and
safe work
environment**
and break
room

Expecting
and nursing
mothers are
**not
permitted to
work over-
time, at
night, on the
weekend**

Role of women in German society

Even though total working time of women and men is nearly equal, men still work more outside the household and women more inside the household.

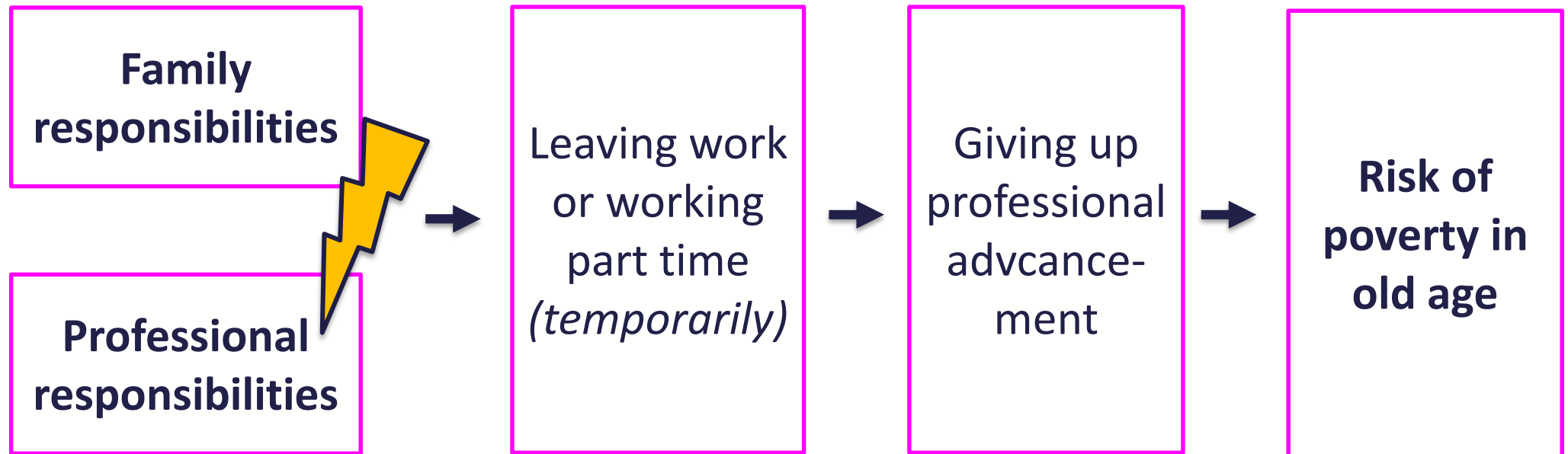
Average use of time of mothers with different labour status and the corresponding father for domestic work (2001 and 2002, hours per day)



BFSFJ - Neue Wege – Gleiche Chancen Gleichstellung von Frauen und Männern im Lebensverlauf Erster Gleichstellungsbericht

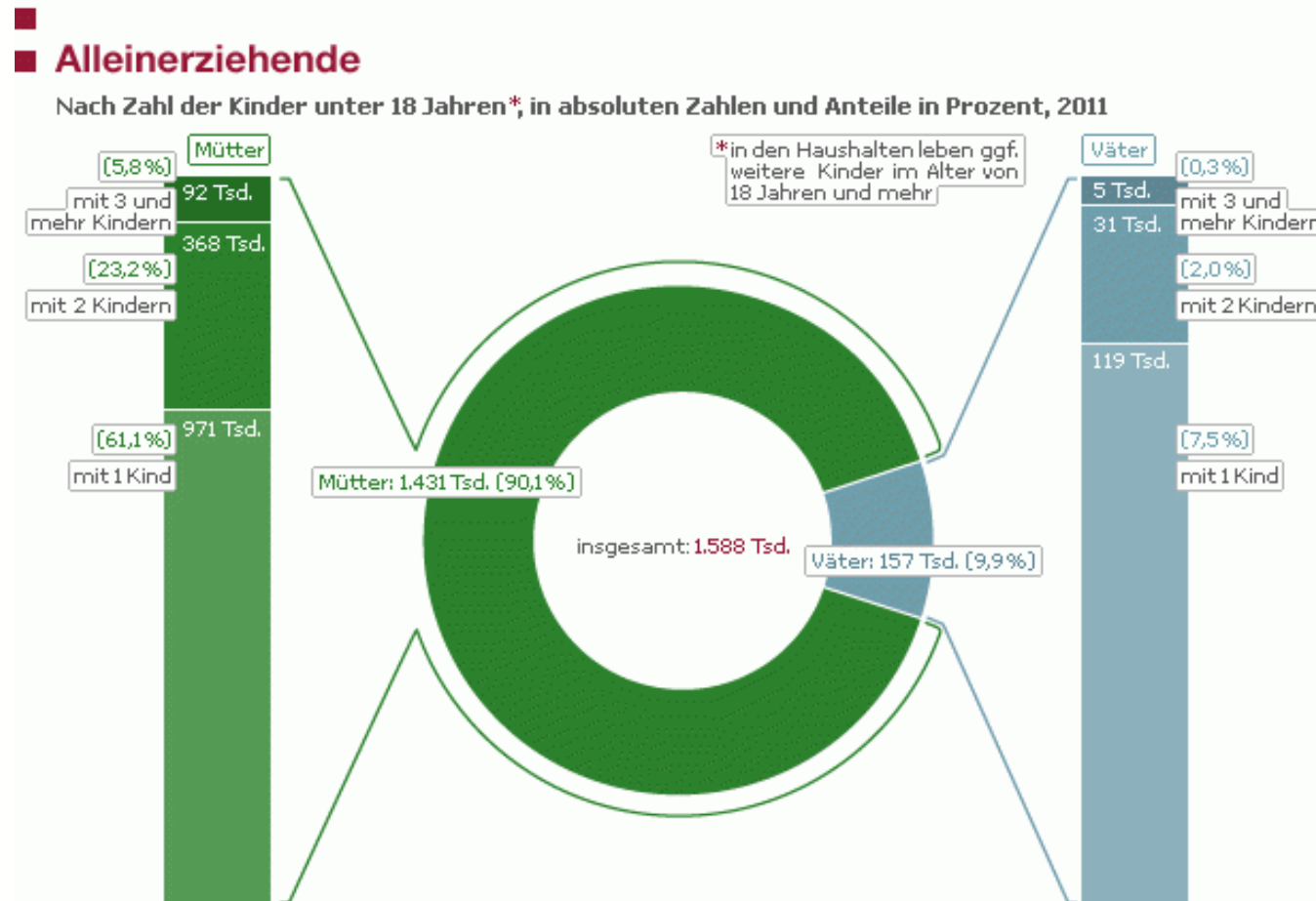
Role of women in German society

One reason for this gap is that women tend to release the conflict between their family and their job in favour of their children and their partner („feminine norms“).



Role of women in German society

Single parents are in 90% of cases the mothers, who are vulnerable to poverty even though they are supported by the state.



<http://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/zahlen-und-fakten/soziale-situation-in-deutschland/61581/alleinerziehende>

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Sexual violence

About 25% of German women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in personal relationships.



<http://frauenrechte.de/online/images/stories/hgewalt/plakat-hgewalt.jpg>

Sexual violence

Germany has a law governing sexual offences in place. However, many women's rights associations think it should be broadened.



„Mein Körper. Meine Entscheidung!“

Jede 3. Frau erlebt sexualisierte oder körperliche Gewalt. Mehr als jede 2. erlebt sexuelle Belästigungen. Dennoch schützt unser Gesetz Eigentum besser als sexuelle Selbstbestimmung!

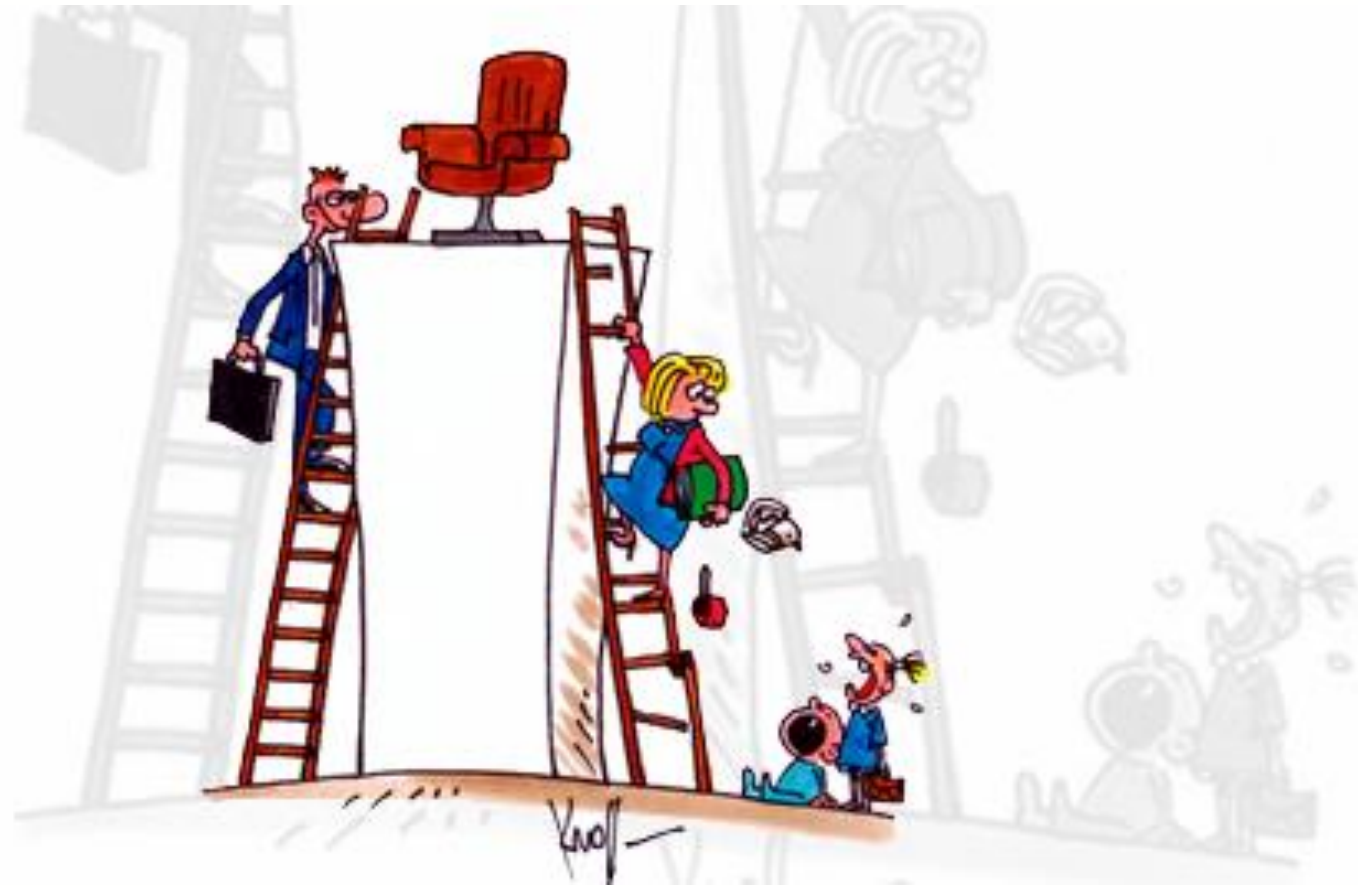
Natalia Wörner unterstützt unsere Forderung nach einer Reformierung des Sexualstrafrechts.

#neinheißtnein



Wrap-up

All in all, German women enjoy great freedom in many parts of their lives today. However, a lot of work needs to be done to really achieve gender equality.



http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/media/photos/kroll_gender_equality_homepage.jpg