

**voices**

call for participants

When we hear the media talk about the Corona Crisis, it is often dominated by white\*, hetero, cis males - other voices are hardly represented. Sometimes this feels as if our differing experiences, opinions, needs and wishes do not count as much. This seems unfair because often those people in the media do not make the same experiences of suffering, discrimination or neglect as those that have to fight to be heard. This is always true but becomes especially visible in the current pandemic crisis.

We at q:CC want to show a variety of voices in order to create a process of learning and appreciation of the whole range of humans in society. We believe that every voice matters and that only through listening to diverse voices, we can find a real solution to this crisis.

The answers on how to organize public life, health care, education, social service, culture, and other areas of our lives won't be totally new ones. But we believe that they do lie in your stories - the claims and demands of women\*, LGBTIQ\*, disabled and BIPOC communities that never receive enough attention. We will create a platform on which to speak up and where those who made similar experiences can find stories that are like them

We believe, the perspective on the pandemic crisis is enriched through knowing about extraordinary events and everyday experiences alike. Therefore, we are looking for people who are willing to share their own, unique experience of the pandemic.

We are interested in the needs that unsettle you and the desires that drive you. What does safety mean for you and what or who can make you feel safe?

We want to gather and publish the answers to these question via our Instagram channel and on our (soon to be published) website. Once gathered, all contributions will be an archive of voices, an assemblage of ideas and eventually a call to action. Your contribution can be submitted in any language and any medium that you find suitable and that we can publish on digital media. We will support your process of publication as much as you need. You can participate, for example, with a written or recorded statement, with a self-drawn or photographed image, with a diary entry or a poem – anything that reflects your needs, wishes and/or your interpretation of safety. As an alternative, or additionally, you can take part through a short interview that we will use to write a personal portrait.

The aim of this research project is to emphasize diverse perspectives on the Corona crisis by giving a voice to those that usually stay unheard. Therefore, people in various living situation will depict their needs and dreams to render perspectives visible that differ from the predominantly normative white\*, hetero, middleclass narratives circulating the public.

The claim to “stay at home” is itself a product of a hegemonial comprehension of safety. While it is clearly necessary to minimize physical contacts in order to support neglected health care systems, it is primarily designed to protect the privileged and the patriarchal, capitalist system they live in. However, numerous people and alternative life concepts fall short in these times. People living alone, in patchwork families, in shelters, in camps, on the streets or without a social security net have necessities diverging from majority society. The people that suffer most from the current regulations are the ones whose voices have stayed unheard before the pandemic as well, people that are not appreciated equally within a patriarchal, racist, meritocratic society, such as LGBTIQ\* and women\*, dis\_abled, People of Color and other people suffering from structural discrimination. Places of encounter that provide valuables safer spaces for marginalized communities are shut down, leaving many to themselves, and to the struggles and dangers that their lives consist of. People that cannot easily stay at home are made even more visible and prone to the aggressions of law enforcement. People that do not have access to basic sanitary facilities are refused basic human rights and knowingly exposed to the danger of the disease.

Diversifying the perspectives on this crisis allows for intersectional solutions to challenges of this pandemic. These solutions, however, are not new ones. They can be found in the opinions and demands of people that are silenced out of hegemonial interests, which makes it so important to listen. This project also offers opportunities beyond corona crisis. It sheds light on people on the margins of society and appreciates their voices as an inspiration for social transformative movements.

Through portraits of people whose life does not allow for staying at home or for whom staying at home implies radical cuts not only into their freedom, but into their safety and mental well-being, those voices can be empowered, reinforced and disseminated.

The format of the portrait can be freely chosen by the participants. Images, voice messages or written words in any tongue might be submitted to pay tribute to the diversity of languages that are able to express thoughts and emotions.

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