

**A Human Rights Perspective to Supporting Artists:
Understanding and Addressing Stigma in the Integration of Forcibly Displaced Artists from Syria in Berlin**

An Abstract of the Thesis by
Dima Adwan

Following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, many artists from Syria settled in Berlin due to its international art scene, where they experience displacement challenges and vulnerabilities related to the nature of their profession. This thesis researches the experiences of displaced artists from Syria who pursued an art career in Berlin. It investigates their interactions with the asylum, integration, and cultural systems. This research is undertaken with a human rights lens; it employs related literature, acculturation and stigma theories, qualitative interviews analysis, and incorporates social work practices. The findings indicate that the ‘refugee’ and other ethnocultural labels influence the artists personally, socially, and professionally. They also reveal how embedded stigma generates inequalities and racism and operates on three different levels: macro, meso, and micro. The results demonstrate that the integration system adopts a one-size-fits-all approach and reflects the ‘othering’ process, which causes artists mental distress and delays their social and professional integration.