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For more information about the association, its projects, as well as for membership application, refer to our website at [www.waldfriede.de](http://www.waldfriede.de)



**Bernd Quöß** [1], Chairman of the Förderverein Krankenhaus Waldfriede e.V.

**Dr. med. Roland Scherer** [2], Head of Desert Flower Center Waldfriede (DFC)

**Make a donation:**

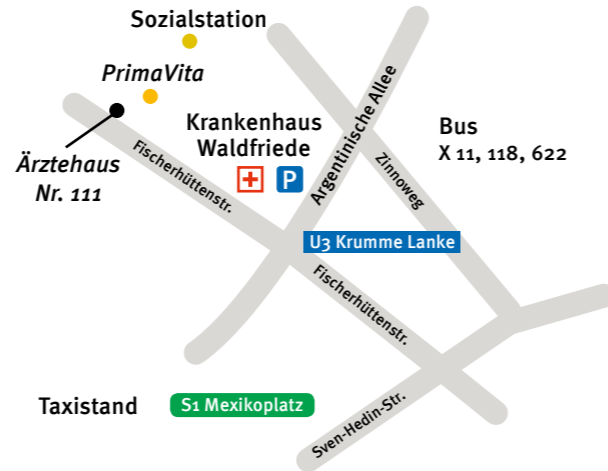
- using the donation form on our website [www.dfc-waldfriede.de](http://www.dfc-waldfriede.de)

- directly at [betterplace.org](http://betterplace.org)  
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- or by bank transfer  
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Krankenhaus Waldfriede is an academic teaching hospital of the Charité University of Medicine Berlin.



**„Desert Flower Center“  
Waldfriede (DFC)**



[www.dfc-waldfriede.de](http://www.dfc-waldfriede.de)

Holistic care for women with female genital mutilation (FGM).

**Female Genital Mutilation - A Global Problem**  
FGM. This abbreviation stands for „Female Genital Mutilation“ - a gruesome, yet widely practised ritual. Every 15 seconds, a girl is being mutilated through the so-called ritual of female genital mutilation. 8,000 girls share this fate every day.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are some 150 million circumcised women and girls worldwide. FGM doesn't only occur in the countries of Africa, but on a global scale. About 50,000 survivors of female genital mutilation live here in Germany!

These women are normally deeply traumatized from the FGM experience, which have a lifelong effect on them. It may lead to severe inflammation of the genital area, incontinence, urinary and fistula problems which in turn can result in isolation within their society and an unbearable feeling of shame. WHO estimates that 10% of all FGM cases die due to the procedure.

Since September 2013, women who underwent FGM continue to receive medical treatment and psychosocial help at Krankenhaus Waldfriede. Our multidisciplinary team is composed of staff members from Waldfriede's Network, as well as external cooperation partners.

In this flyer you will find all the parties involved and also the services that we offer at DFC. For first time contact (also anonymous), our medical coordinator, senior physician Dr. Cornelia Strunz, is available at all times. She is also the contact person for further information about the self-help group [3]. We are happy to share your ideas or suggestions about our work.



# You will never forget what happened to you as a child.

According to the WHO, every 11 seconds, a girl is subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). Please help us heal!  
#HopeAfterFGM



## What we offer

On September 11, 2013, the **Desert Flower Center Waldfriede (DFC)** was launched in order to give back some quality of life to women suffering from FGM. In cooperation with the Vienna-based Desert Flower Foundation, the clinic attends to the problems of circumcised women using a holistic approach. To date, the treatment concept developed for this purpose is proving to be very effective.

Besides the highly specialised pelvic floor surgeons, DFC Waldfriede involves the services of a number of psychologists, counselors, social workers and support groups who stand behind the women's on-going or complementary treatment. Thanks to the hospital's longstanding focus on colorectal and pelvic floor surgery, women suffering from incontinence due to circumcision can receive highly specialised surgery. In addition to this, the team on-site is supported by a cooperating partner in plastic surgery and urology.

The Hospital Waldfriede regularly offers training in the medical and psychosocial Hospital treatment of FGM victims and is actively engaged in education and prevention.

**In 2016, the team was awarded the Louise-Schroeder-Medal by the Berlin House of Representatives.**

## The patroness

The patroness of the **Desert Flower Center Waldfriede** is former model and UN Special Ambassador Waris Dirie [10]. She has advocated the rights of African women and fights against the ritual of female genital mutilation with her Desert Flower Foundation since 2002.

## Medical director

The head of the Desert Flower Center Waldfriede is chief surgeon Dr. med. Roland Scherer. The nationally and internationally renowned coloproctologist has been dealing with the issue of FGM for many years.

## The costs

For women with German health insurance, the treatment costs will be fully covered by German national and private health insurance companies. For women and girls who have undergone FGM and do not have means to allow for surgery we try to find financial support.

## Financing

The Förderverein Waldfriede e.V., which was founded in 2013, raises funds for medical and psychosocial treatment. To guarantee ongoing financial coverage of the services in the Desert Flower Center Waldfriede, donations are always welcome.

## Information

In order to familiarise the public with the topic of FGM and our services, we put up 16 information boards [14] on our premises. These are accessible for those who are interested (also school groups) at all times. Find more information at [www.dfc-waldfriede.de](http://www.dfc-waldfriede.de)

## The range of services

### Treatment of medical complications related to FGM

- scarring
- rectovaginal fistulas
- vesicovaginal fistulas
- injuries of the urethral sphincter
- urinary or fecal incontinence

### Plastic surgery

- reconstruction of the clitoris and the external genitals

### Psychosocial treatment and counseling

- counseling service
- psychosociale support during medical treatment

### Self-help group [3]

- monthly on-site meeting
- supervised physical therapy
- group discussions (with translator)

### Background, education, updates

- [www.dfc-waldfriede.de](http://www.dfc-waldfriede.de)
- [www.facebook.com/dfcwaldfriede](https://www.facebook.com/dfcwaldfriede)
- [www.instagram.com/desertflowerberlin](https://www.instagram.com/desertflowerberlin)
- [www.instagram.com/HopeAfterFGM](https://www.instagram.com/HopeAfterFGM)

## The DFC-Team at Krankenhaus Waldfriede

### Director

Dr. med. Roland Scherer [2], chief surgeon of the „Center of Colorectal and Pelvic Floor Surgery“, specialist for surgery and visceral surgery, professor for coloproctology, ICSP, European specialist for coloproctology (EBSQ), deputy medical director at Krankenhaus Waldfriede, Vice President of the „Desert Flower Foundation“ Germany

### Medical coordination and consultation hours

Dr. med. Cornelia Strunz [4], senior surgeon, specialist for surgery and vascular surgery, general secretary of the „Desert Flower Foundation“ Germany

### Proctology

Dr. med. Thorsten Unglaube [6], leading senior surgeon, specialist for surgery and visceral surgery, European specialist for coloproctology (EBSQ)

### Urogynecology

Dr. med. Florian Müller [7], chief physician, specialist for Obstetrics and Gynecology

### Psychosocial counseling and care

Evelyn Brenda [11], Counsellor for circumcised women  
Nicole Dittwald [13], physical therapist, non-medical practitioner for psychotherapy  
Farhia Mohamed [12], Counsellor and translator  
Nina Zahn [9], pedagogue, social services

### Cooperating partner

#### Plastic Surgery

Dr. med. Uwe von Fritschen [5], chief surgeon at HELIOS Klinikum Emil von Behring, Berlin; specialist for plastic and aesthetic surgery

#### Urology

PD Dr. med. Gralf Popken [8], chief surgeon at Klinikum Ernst von Bergmann, Potsdam; specialist for urology



In cooperation with the Desert Flower Foundation, Vienna

