Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

The Institute for Social Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Economics of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Germany (IPPNW) are proud to announce the 4th Global Health Conference and the 5th Global Health Summer School in Berlin in September 2015.

This year’s issue is: “Globalisation, Refugees and Health”. People leave their home countries for many reasons: war, violence, poverty, no prospects, a repressive political system. They are forced to flee in order to survive, or maybe they are just seeking a better life somewhere else. The major concern people have when migrating may not be access to a health system, but such access is essential for their health. Many people fleeing encounter high-risk situations for their mental and physical well-being on their way. They often have left behind a life in a war zone or in extreme poverty, or both, and may endure great hardship and violence on their journey. In the country of their destination in many cases restrictive health policies deny adequate help for their health needs. Not only do people come to harm but they even die due to inhuman security procedures while attempting to cross the EU border, especially since the Mediterranean rescue programme (“Mare nostrum”) was ended in 2014.

New technical security and military procedures have made border crossing even more difficult. Western democracies that were built upon a liberal economic policy and common values are now paradoxically abandoning universal human rights, are selectively allowing or disallowing immigration and closing the door to Fortress Europe for migrants and refugees.

This year’s Global Health Summer focuses on common issues of globalisation, refugees and health, a very current but by no means a new topic. We will discuss the situation – dynamic and constantly evolving due to various factors. Refugees and migrants are a heterogenic group of people with different backgrounds, who are diversely affected by their flight and end up at various destinations – united by the hope for a better life. How can we approach this discussion openly, analytically and inclusively, without stereotyping, stigmatising or generalising? While remaining aware of our own powerful and “privileged” Eurocentric viewpoint, we want to discover, together with academia and civil society organisations, what can be done practically and what should we demand politically in our democracies.

We want to encourage and invite those interested in the topic to apply and would love to see you in Berlin this summer!
For further information and the application procedures please visit our website: www.health-and-globalisation.org or get connected in our Facebook group: Global Health Summer 2015.

You are cordially invited to forward to anyone who might be interested in attending our Global Health Summer.

Kind regards,
Lisa Bäuerle

General Coordinator Global Health Summer 2015
IPPNW Germany
Koertestrasse 10, 10967 Berlin, Germany
E-mail: globalhealth@ippnw.de

www.health-and-globalisation.org