



Annual Report

2025



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Director's Welcome

It is with deep gratitude and renewed determination that I welcome you to BreachBuilders e.V.'s Annual Report.

This past year has been one of growth, reflection, and action. In a world marked by rapid social, political, and environmental changes, the need to build inclusive, equitable, and youth-led spaces has never been more urgent. At BreachBuilders, we continue to stand firmly in our mission to bridge visible and invisible divides of inequality, racism, systemic injustice, exclusion and tokenism across communities and youth, across continents and countries, and across systems of opportunity.

Our work remains rooted in three core pillars: Equity and Inclusion, Youth Empowerment, and Growth through Knowledge. Throughout the year, we have translated these values into concrete action through fellowships, research initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and cross-continental partnerships connecting Europe and Africa.

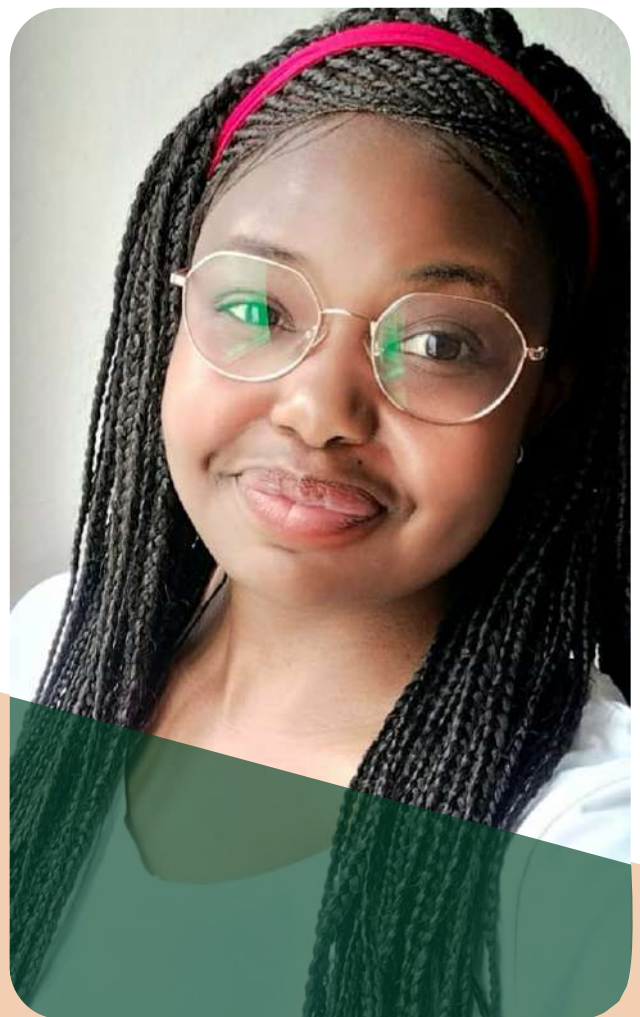
From strengthening youth civic participation to amplifying BIPOC, migrant, and non-migrant voices in policy spaces, we have continued to ensure that participation is neither symbolic nor tokenised, but intentional, meaningful, and transformative.

What makes BreachBuilders unique is our commitment to co-creation, co-ownership and rebuilding on ancient ruins. We do not build programs for communities, we build them with them. This approach ensures that our work is culturally grounded, accessible, and responsive to lived realities. It also reflects our belief that sustainable change happens when those most affected are at the centre of the design of solutions.

This report is more than a record of activities. It is a testament to the power of collaboration among youth, partners, institutions, mentors, and communities who believe, as we do, that equity is not debatable, respect for diversity is not optional, and inclusion is not negotiable.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our impact, strengthening our partnerships, and continuing to create spaces where young people are not only present but leading.

To everyone who has walked this journey with us so far: thank you for trusting our vision and investing in a future where no voice, and youth voices in particular, are left unheard.



With appreciation,

Sintia Dina Kapleu

Executive Director
BreachBuilders e.V.

BreachBuilders at a Glance



Who We Are

BreachBuilders e.V. is a youth-led non-profit organisation based in Germany, working at the intersection of equity, inclusion, youth empowerment, and knowledge-driven social change. We create platforms where youths with and without a migration background can access leadership, research, and policy-making spaces.



Our Mission

To nurture a generation of BreachBuilders from every corner of the world —architects of a better world committed to forging pathways to rebuild societies through active participation, innovation, and solidarity.



Our Vision

A society rebuilt through the active engagement of empowered, self-conscious, and skilled youths.



Our Core Pillars

- ***Equity & Inclusion***

At Breach Builders, equity and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that everyone deserves equal access to opportunities, regardless of their background, ethnicity, or life experiences.

- ***Youth Empowerment***

We believe that young people are the catalysts for change and innovation. At Breach Builders, youth empowerment means giving young people the tools, resources, and support they need to lead, thrive, and make an impact in their communities.

- ***Growth through Knowledge***

Knowledge is the foundation for personal and societal growth. At BreachBuilders, we promote continuous learning, cultural exchange, and education as vital tools for empowerment and transformation.

Projects

Youth Gender Advocacy Fellowship



The Youth Gender Advocacy Fellowship (YGAF) was an 8-month program designed to empower underrepresented youth in Osnabrück and surroundings to participate in bridging the local and International Gender Inequality crisis through knowledge, research, and advocacy. At the heart of the program is the need to enhance youths' civic agency, beyond passive participation, instead meaningful and intentional engagement. The need to advocate for gender equality issues was grounded in the necessity of understanding and engaging with key gender instruments such as the CEDAW Convention, the Osnabrück Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 and the Istanbul Convention. This fellowship, which started in May 2025 and ended in December 2025, achieved its core objectives: Fostering Education on Human Rights, Equipping Youths with skills and tools to understand and engage with the CEDAW process, Tracking Gender Equality gaps, and Advocating for Gender Equality.

The project started with a clear focus: enhancing and strengthening the youth's understanding of these gender instruments; equipping them, by doing so, with foundational knowledge to leverage their advocacy on gender issues at both the local and international levels. The need to build civic agency through engagement and participation positioned youth as key gender-monitoring actors in their communities, giving them the space to develop and acquire the technical skills needed to track gender equality gaps.

Engaging in research writing and critical analysis through practical data collection, including interviews with key stakeholders and surveys of targeted Civil Society Organisations, participants gained a glimpse of policy monitoring processes, the opportunity to assess policies' efficiency and gaps, and the opportunity to identify systemic barriers to gender equality. This overall phase improved participants' critical thinking and led to the design of key recommendations through the Osnabrück Genders Lens Policy Brief, providing recommendations to the city of Osnabrück to improve its future equality plans, while highlighting its strengths and the necessity to design and implement an intersectional policy that aligns not only with the city's demographic but also with its social needs.



The CEDAW shadow report, more at the international level, touched on Cabo Verde's gender equality policies and gaps, and highlighted areas for improvement, inviting more inclusive policies that protect women and girls in vulnerable regions and spaces. The youth's background in gender monitoring mechanisms was enriched with theoretical knowledge and technical skills, strengthening their advocacy skills and enabling powerful advocacy actions during the 16 Days of Activism, alongside the launch of the YouGender Series and their contribution to the CSW70 Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations.

This blog series stands as a powerful advocacy space, where youth engage in dismantling systemic routes of gender inequality and join in solidarity to combat systems of oppression and violence against women and girls.



MigRise Climate Academy

The MigRise Climate Academy aims to raise awareness of climate justice among young people with migration backgrounds living in Germany by addressing their historical underrepresentation in climate discourse. The project responds to the perception among many young people from these communities that climate justice spaces are elitist and disconnected from their lived realities. The core objectives are to reduce the interest deficit in climate justice, equip participants with practical advocacy tools, strengthen their representation within climate justice movements, and foster a sense of climate belonging. Through targeted outreach and inclusive program design, youth in Germany with migration backgrounds demonstrating interest in climate justice were recruited in November 2025 to form the first MigRise Academy cohort.

During the first Quarter, the project successfully launched its foundational learning phase through a series of online sessions and expert lectures delivered between November and December 2025. The programme opened with an introduction session on 18 November, immersing the fellows into the academy's vision and structure.

The academy started on a strong note with Samia Dambuya (Founder of The People's Ark), decolonising our climate consciousness. A session designed to reclaim their narratives within climate spaces.

The aim of the session was clear: to highlight “whose voice is missing in climate justice in Germany.” This tone pushed the reflection with Jessica Dercontée (Advisory and Board Member at Ny tEuropa, Collective Against Environmental Racism) forward, critically rethinking climate change narratives and engaging with climate justice from a fairness- and action-oriented perspective. However, climate justice is not an isolated phenomenon; rather, it is intersectional, with gender a critical aspect. Anila Noor (Founder and Managing Director of New Women Connectors) led a powerful discussion on the intersection of gender and climate justice, prompting Fellows to share perspectives grounded in experiences from their countries of origin.

The quarter concluded with a preparatory coordination session focused on planning the January in-person workshop in Darmstadt. Collectively, these activities established a strong conceptual foundation, strengthened cohort cohesion, and equipped Fellows with critical frameworks linking climate justice, decolonial thinking, and intersectionality.



Research Projects

The year 2025 kicked off with a Journal article by Sintia Dina Kapleu, our Executive Director, titled “Where Are You From” (2024). The article highlights the challenges of identity construction and “othering” especially for migrants of African descent living in Europe. Additionally, it discusses the role that social media plays in amplifying migrant voices to fight for justice and fosters community engagement.

According to the article, these platforms have been significant for digital advocacy in addressing systemic racism and inequality. The article was published in the International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science.

Awards

In July, Breachbuilders was recognised by Acquisition International Magazine as the Best Emerging Youth Empowerment Initiative - Germany, under the Excellence Award for Intercultural Relations Building, as part of the Non-Profit Organisation Awards 2025.

We were honoured to receive this recognition, which reflects our ongoing commitment to social change, inclusion, and community empowerment.

Public Events

Expert Meeting: “Common Horizons – Interreligious Pathways to Social Cohesion and Climate Justice in Europe”, Rome, Italy, on 8-9 April 2025.

In April, BreachBuilders was represented at the expert meeting “Common Horizons – Interreligious Pathways to Social Cohesion and Climate Justice in Europe,” held in Rome, Italy. The meeting was organized by the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and brought together practitioners, researchers, and civil society actors to explore how interreligious and intercultural dialogue can contribute to social cohesion and climate justice in Europe.

During the meeting, BreachBuilders shared lessons learned and practical experiences from our project “My City, My Safe Space,” highlighting the role of dialogue-based approaches in strengthening community resilience, fostering mutual understanding, and creating inclusive spaces for young people from diverse backgrounds.

The discussions reaffirmed that continuous dialogue, learning, and community engagement are essential for building social cohesion and for addressing complex, interconnected challenges—particularly those at the intersection of climate justice, migration, and social inclusion. The exchange also provided an opportunity to connect with partners working on similar issues and to contribute youth-led perspectives to ongoing policy and practice discussions in Europe.

European Youth Event (EYE2025) in the European Parliament

On 13–14 June, BreachBuilders was represented at the European Youth Event (EYE 2025) in Strasbourg, with support from KAICIID. During the event, our representative engaged directly with EU policymakers, civil society leaders, and fellow youth participants on key themes related to social cohesion, youth participation, and inclusive policymaking.

The event provided a valuable platform to exchange perspectives, share experiences from youth-led initiatives, and contribute to discussions on how young people can play a stronger role in shaping policies that affect their communities.

We hope that future editions of the European Youth Event will continue to strengthen their commitment to inclusion, particularly by ensuring greater participation of BIPOC youth and other underrepresented groups.



YGAF Forum in Osnabrück

On 11 October 2025, the International Day of the Girl Child was commemorated under the global theme “The Girl I Am, the Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis.” On this occasion, fellows of the Youth Gender Advocacy Fellowship (YGAF), CSO representatives, residents and students of Osnabrück and all invited guests gathered in Osnabrück to reflect on the challenges and opportunities facing girls and young women today.

The event focused on gender stereotypes and the deconstruction of harmful gender norms, drawing on evidence, personal stories, and lived experiences to foster an open and meaningful dialogue. As part of the programme, the Osnabrück Gender Lens Policy Brief and the CEDAW Shadow Report were presented, providing a platform for fellows to share their perspectives and policy recommendations on advancing the gender equality agenda at local and international levels.



The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, Boot Camp 2025: “Inclusive By Design, Global by Impact”

BreachBuilders was represented at the NOVA Project bootcamp in Sicily in late September, where youths from around the world came together to exchange ideas and strengthen their capacities as changemakers.

Throughout the week, we participated in seminars, workshops, and lab sessions alongside international experts, local administrators, and community leaders, exploring collaborative strategies to transform cities into places of welcome and combat racism, discrimination, and social exclusion.

The programme focused on themes closely aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including social inclusion, sustainability in the public and private sectors, and the use of new technologies to address discrimination. Activities were held across three different locations, each demonstrating how local initiatives and businesses can act as drivers of inclusion and community resilience.

Funding Fairer Futures Capacity Building and Sharing event

In October, BreachBuilders sent a team to Brussels to participate in the three-day Funding Fairer Futures Training and Capacity Sharing event. The training focused on key areas including fundraising, advocacy, and communication, providing participants with practical tools to strengthen the impact and sustainability of their initiatives.

One of the central lessons from the training was the importance of togetherness in advancing climate justice. The sessions highlighted how coming together, learning collectively, and building shared solutions can lead to stronger and more sustainable progress in addressing climate challenges.

These insights have since been integrated into BreachBuilders’ work, particularly in the development of the MigRise Climate Academy. The training helped shape the Academy’s approach to inclusive, youth-led climate justice, reinforcing the value of collaboration, peer learning, and community-driven action in tackling climate issues.



Sixth Edition of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF)| “Social Cohesion in Changing Climates – Fostering Inclusive Paths to Equity in Europe.” | 11.11.2025 - 13.11.2025

In November, BreachBuilders was represented at the 6th European Policy Dialogue Forum in Geneva, organised by KAICIID, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the European Council of Religious Leaders. The forum brought together policymakers, civil society actors, and faith leaders to reflect on some of the most pressing social and environmental challenges of our time, including social cohesion, equity, human rights, and the role of religious leaders in shaping inclusive societies.

The discussions explored broader questions about the current global context—marked by rising inequalities, political polarisation, and increasing social fragmentation—and considered whether reconnecting with shared ethical principles and values could help societies restore meaning, purpose, and direction in how communities live together and relate to the natural environment.

A key theme was the role of interreligious dialogue in bridging differences, fostering mutual understanding, and creating new forms of cooperation across religious, ethnic, and cultural identities.

As part of the programme, BreachBuilders participated in the panel discussion “Why Common Values and Principles Matter: Towards a Shared Ethical Foundation to Address Social and Environmental Challenges.” The panel examined how shared values can support peaceful coexistence, strengthen solidarity, and guide collective responses to complex global challenges, particularly those related to climate justice and social inclusion.



“UNLEASHING HUMAN RIGHTS” Forum at the European Youth Centre Budapest | 8.12.2025 - 12.12.2025

BreachBuilders joined the global community in marking Human Rights Day and was represented in Budapest alongside over 250 people from academia, youth educators, activists, and civil society organisations. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on the current state of human rights and to exchange experiences on strengthening their protection in practice.

During the discussions, BreachBuilders emphasised that human rights are not protected by documents alone, but by people who know them, claim them, and teach them. This insight underscored the critical role of human rights education, particularly through advocacy, awareness-raising, and community engagement, in empowering individuals and strengthening societies to uphold human rights in everyday life.



10 Years of LASPAD | Dakar, Senegal

From 8 to 10 December, BreachBuilders was honoured to participate in a conference hosted by UGB LASPAD in Senegal, marking 10 years of impactful research and 4 years of Global Africa Magazine. The event brought together leading African scholars, thinkers, and changemakers to engage in critical conversations on decoloniality, the African diaspora, geopolitics, and the future of African knowledge production.

BreachBuilders was represented by Sintia Kapleu, who contributed to the exchanges by sharing experiences from our work and engaging with participants on issues related to youth participation, social inclusion, and knowledge-driven social change. The conference provided a valuable platform for dialogue, learning, and networking, and the insights gained will continue to inform and strengthen BreachBuilders' programmes and strategic direction.



VOICIFY Advocacy Visit

In the first week of December, BreachBuilders joined a delegation led by VOICIFY for a visit to Brussels. The visit brought together youth- and migrant-led organisations to engage directly with EU stakeholders, including representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament. These exchanges created a space to share concrete recommendations on inclusion, meaningful participation, and fairer migration policies, drawing on the experiences and perspectives of communities most affected by these issues.

The visit reaffirmed the importance of dialogue, collective action, and the use of grounded, evidence-based data in shaping policies that are more inclusive, responsive, and reflective of lived realities. For BreachBuilders, the experience further strengthened our commitment to ensuring that youth and migrant voices are meaningfully represented in policy discussions at the European level.

VereinsErlebnisTag 2025 | 19.10.2025 | Osnabrück

The Association Experience Day (VereinsErlebnisTag) 2025 was held on 19 October 2025 at Sharehouse Osnabrück. The event aimed to highlight the work of local associations, community initiatives, and civil society actors, with a strong focus on making diversity visible and strengthening community engagement. As part of the programme, a documentary interview was produced featuring various organisations and community actors, including BreachBuilders.

The documentary provided an opportunity to share insights into BreachBuilders' work, particularly our efforts in community empowerment, inclusion, and creating platforms for underrepresented voices. The initiative helped raise awareness of the role that grassroots organisations play in fostering social cohesion and promoting active civic participation at the local level.



Contributions to Policymaking

70th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70)

BreachBuilders contributed to the CSW70 Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations by submitting inputs developed through an online youth consultation. The consultation, held under the theme “Online Bullying Silences Girls and Young Women in Leadership and Activism,” brought together young people to share experiences and jointly formulate recommendations.

The discussion was co-organized by one of the Youth Gender Advocacy Fellowship (YGAF) fellows in collaboration with BreachBuilders, and the resulting recommendations were incorporated into the broader CSW70 youth advocacy process.

CEDAW Shadow Report

In collaboration with civil society organisations in Cabo Verde—Organização das Mulheres de Cabo Verde (OMCV), Movimento Eco-Feminismo de Cabo Verde, Renascença Africana – Associação das Mulheres da África Ocidental (RAMAO), Associação Cabo-verdiana para a Proteção da Família (VERDEFAM), Associação Cabo-verdiana de Promoção e Inclusão das Mulheres com Deficiência (APIMUD), Associação de Trabalhadores/as Domésticos/as de Cabo Verde (ATD), Associação LGBTI-Praia, Associação Cabo-verdiana de Luta Contra Violência Baseada no Género

(ACLCVBG), Grupo Mulheres Multiplicadoras da Cidadania (MMC), and Associação Cabo-verdiana de Auto Promoção da Mulher (MORABI)—we submitted a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee highlighting key recommendations to the Government of Cabo Verde.

The report focused on several priority areas, including access to justice, the anti-discrimination bill, gender-based violence, gender and climate change, harmful practices, health, labour rights, and political participation.

Osnabrück Gender Lens Policy Brief

The Osnabrück Gender Lens Policy Brief, an output co-created by the YGAF Fellows, analyses local policy through a gender and intersectional perspective to identify structural gaps in representation, access, and participation. It focuses on how gender, migration background, race, and socio-economic factors shape people’s experiences within local systems and public services.

The brief combines policy review, qualitative insights, and community-informed perspectives to highlight where existing measures are effective and where improvements are needed.

It particularly emphasises the importance of including youth, migrant, and racialised communities in policy design, implementation, and evaluation processes.

The main objective of the policy brief was to provide practical, evidence-based recommendations to local stakeholders and policymakers to strengthen inclusive governance and ensure that gender equality policies reflect the realities of diverse communities living in Osnabrück.

Human Rights Forum Message

BreachBuilders contributed to the Advocacy Brief (Forum Message), the key outcome of the Unleashing Human Rights Forum held in Budapest. The Forum was co-organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Council of Europe (CoE), with global partner organisations including Amnesty International, the Institute for Human Rights Studies at Columbia University, the Global Campus of Human Rights, the Kandersteg International Scout Centre, and Soka Gakkai International.

The Forum Message presents a shared agenda for advancing human rights education at the global, regional, and local levels. It emphasizes a central insight: “Human rights cannot be fully realised without Human Rights Education. Human Rights Education is not a supplement. It is not an add-on. It is the foundation and the DNA of a culture of democracy and human rights. Learning human rights is an act of protection and a practice of collective resilience. It empowers individuals to reclaim agency in the face of injustice, and it strengthens communities to respond to challenges together.”

Membership

We joined the Youth Democracy Cohort and VOICIFY -The European Forum for Youth with Lived Migration Experiences.

Our Funding

The youth engagement activities at BreachBuilders e.V. are funded through third-party funding and the organization's own resources. The following projects at the Centre were funded via third-party funding in the year 2025:

YGAF- Youth Gender Advocacy Fellowship, funded by the European Youth Foundation (EYF) in the frame of its Pilot Activities programme (April 2025 – December 2025).

MigRise Climate Academy, funded by the Generation Climate Europe and Climate Action Network (October 2025 - September 2026).

Einzelmaßnahmen zur internen Weiterentwicklung, funded by the House of Resources Osnabrück, (October 2025 -December 2025)



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