



## **Storytelling, Gender Equality and Lifelong-Learning, Bridging Differences – A Qualification**

**Ulrike Gentner**

[gentner@hph.kirche.org](mailto:gentner@hph.kirche.org)

Heinrich Pesch Haus (Germany)

### **Abstract**

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced” (James Baldwin)

Where ever people meet each other they tell stories: schools, home, community centres... and a lot of this work takes place in the field of education.

Within living memory storytelling is a part of everyday life. Today it is an art / a skill that people have to recover. Young and old, female and male of different cultures and nations: the listeners are carried away. Storytelling connects people and is not a technical method that can reproduced. In one moment the narrator and the listeners discover together a lot of values as a part (like abundance) of humanity. Stories are building bridges between people. Storytelling is a way of communication, understanding and sharing gender awareness. The dialogue between the sexes is a central challenge. The altered understanding of the roles of men and women brought about new questions that require new solution strategies. For this reason it is a task of adult education to contribute to the realization of equal opportunities. Lifelong learning encompasses, among other things, personal experiences and professional skills. It leaves the freedom to be creative and has a lot of potential.

The qualification is based on a training (different courses), self-studies materials and public appearance. There are different levels of the qualification, depending on the experiences and the aims of the learners. The training runs over ten months. The target groups consist of teachers (kindergarten, school, adult education). We have a lot of experiences since years.