



I Am Here – هنا انا – is a pan-European initiative by London-based German artist, theatre director and activist Nicodemus (see mutualground.net). Conceived in response to the current refugee crisis, the initiative works with Syrian refugees, and the people they left behind, to make visible through images and texts the multiple and complex ruptures and fissures forced migration causes. *I Am Here* is the second initiative in Nicodemus' *Permanent Mobilisations* series (see unruhe.eu/now und unruhe.eu/breach-uk).

I Am Here operates at two levels, an existential, and a narrative level. Existentially, "I am here" can be read either as affirmation – "I made it!" – or as a cry for help – "I am in trouble, please save me!" In narrative terms, "I am here..." can signify an incomplete sentence, a story yet to be told, someone's past or future: "I am here... because where I come from...", or "we are here... because here we can..." *I Am Here* makes use of this multiplicity of levels and meanings to engage with and tackle this crisis, in its complexity, at a personal, social and cultural level from the perspective of those most affected, namely the refugees themselves. Since the ultimate objective of the initiative is to empower (rather than to entertain), *I Am Here* is not only an art project, but also a political campaign, not only a German, but also a European initiative.

I Am Here consists of three elements: a narrative-driven photography and social media project, a participatory performance and, potentially, a roll-out. For the photography and social media project, Nicodemus plans to engage Syrian refugees in Berlin, as well as the families and friends they have had to leave behind. The purpose of the engagement is to generate a series of portraits and/or self-portraits, as well as autobiographical texts and text fragments around the notion of 'I am here' (see above), which will then be released/published online via Facebook, Twitter and other social media on October the 3rd 2015, to coincide with Germany's celebrations of its Reunification 25 years ago – another 'I-am-here' moment. For the performance element, which will also be presented on October the 3rd, Nicodemus will compile a kind of collage of texts and images to serve as backdrop and context for a short participatory performance involving both the participants (refugees) and the audience. Afterwards, Nicodemus will evaluate the initiative, and organise and archive the material (images and texts) it generated. If successful, the initiative could then be developed further and rolled out (repeated) across the EU. Over time, this could facilitate the creation of both a touring exhibition and a new play for the theatre.