

## **Transnational Workshop Series *Memory in Motion* 2023**

### **NOT WITHOUT US!**

The Working Group HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL criticizes that civil society experts\* from Hamburg were not at all invited to participate in the program *Memory in Motion*.

For the kickoff conference in January 26-28, the Historic Museum Hamburg Foundation (SHMH) and the Hamburg Ministry of Culture and Media (BKM) are welcoming international experts. A following one year's workshop series is planned, aimed at developing a "Place for Learning and Commemoration of Colonialism in Germany". Only with big efforts our Working Group HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL succeeded to be invited. Other civil society groups – such as African, Chinese and further Asiatic as well as Latin American diasporic communities in Hamburg, moreover postcolonial activists, glocal experts et al – have not even been informed.

*„Once more, knowledge and commitment both of the Black community and the Hamburg civil society experts in decolonizing processes are being ignored by the city of Hamburg“,* comments Madeline Danquah, member of the Working Group HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL. *"In a diverse city society, participation and decisionmaking at eyelevel, however, looks dfferent."*

Only when the Berlin civil society members in the *Memory in Motion* organization team objected, at least the Advisory Board for the Decolonization of Hamburg was allowed to participate. Still putting up more pressure, our Working Group HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL finally got hold of an invitation. Even today, the mandate and further participation possibilities in the one-year process remain unclear to us. Other civil society stakeholders are still missing.

We very much welcome international experts, especially from formerly colonized countries. However, it is hard to understand why initiatives, some with many years of glocal expertise, should be left outside.

Be it the restitution of the Benin bronzes or the debate about the Bismarck monument in Hamburg, civil society initiatives and diasporic communities were the ones to give main impulses for coming to terms with the colonial past and present. We are convinced that power-critical participation has to play a fundamental role in decolonization processes. *"Both powersharing and recognition of our expertise is what I expect at all levels when it comes to debates about enslavement and colonial history that have affected the lives of my ancestresses,"* says Millicent Adjei, long-time member of HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL.

Working Group HAMBURG POSTKOLONIAL