



# An undocumented story



My name is Happy.



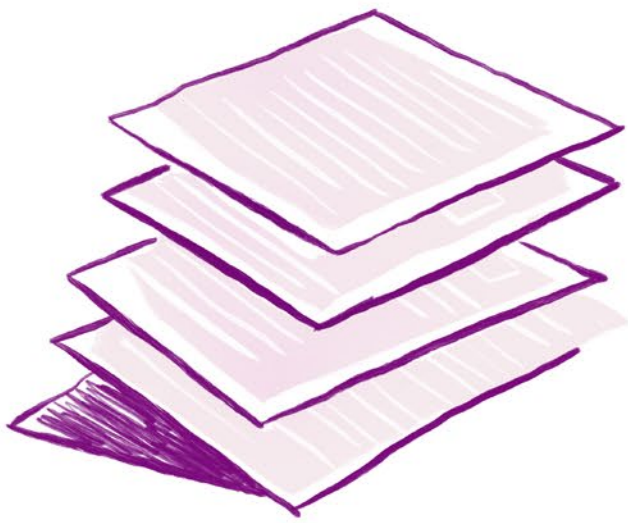
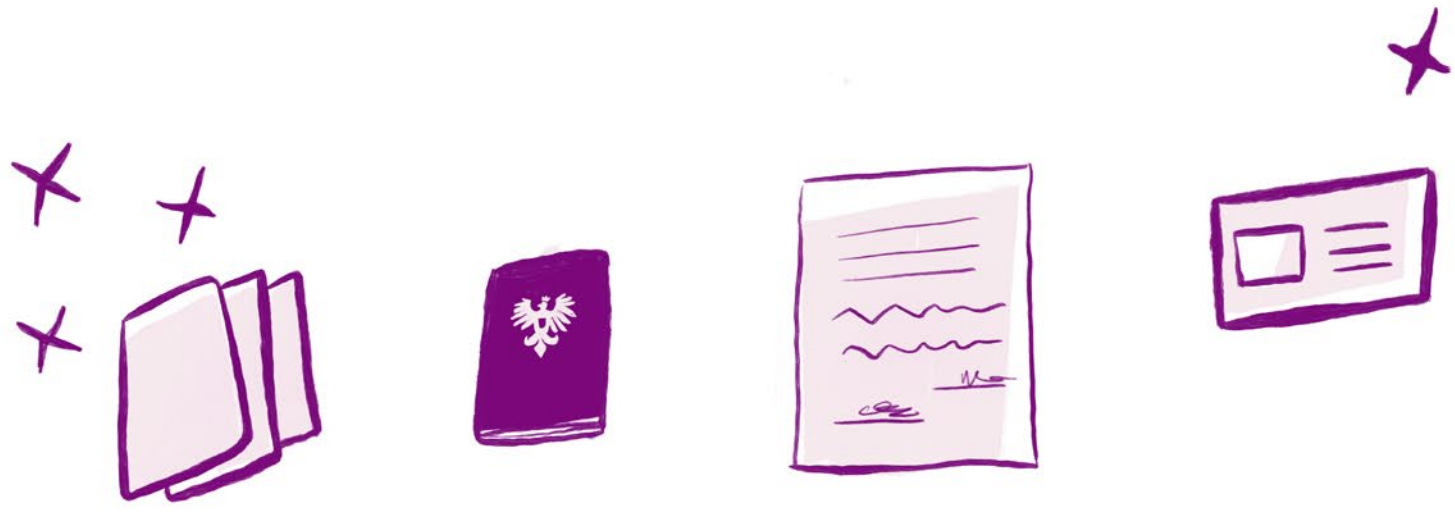
Years ago I came to Austria to work.



# Deportation Centre Vienna

I was protesting! I'd been on hunger strike for the past 9 days. On the 9th day the doctors were worried and so were the guards.





If you have no papers, you work without documentation. The employers don't register you.

If they exploit you.



If they don't pay you. If they threaten you.

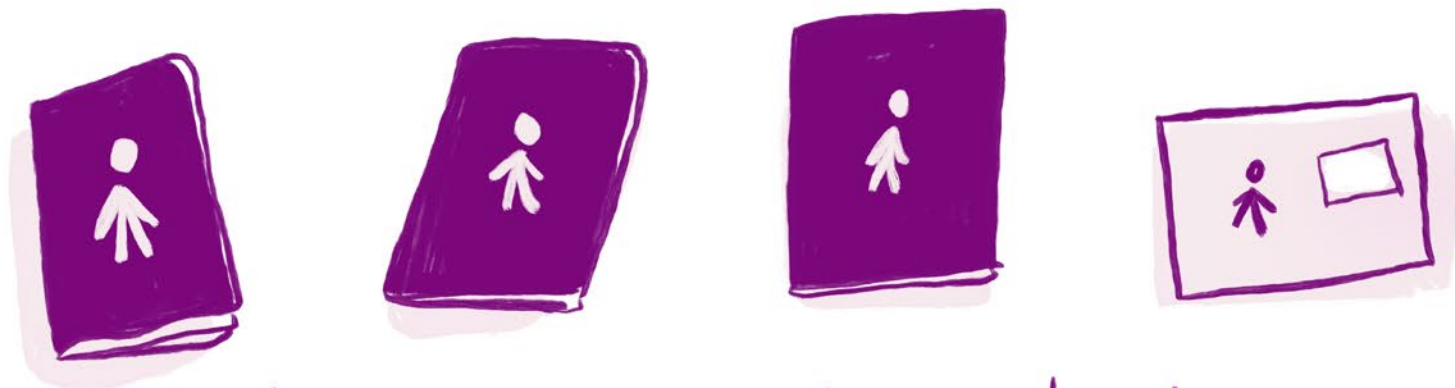


You can't say anything.

Because...



...Officially you don't exist.



It's an impossible situation.

I did a lot of different jobs...



Finding work and getting paid was tough!  
I had no money. I struggled so much!



But then I got a great opportunity. With the asylum card I was allowed to earn a little money. And a woman at Caritas connected me to this club.

I had played professionally  
in Nigeria.

I love football!



I played midfield.

At first they paid  
me 50€ per match  
if our team won.



If we lost I got 0€.

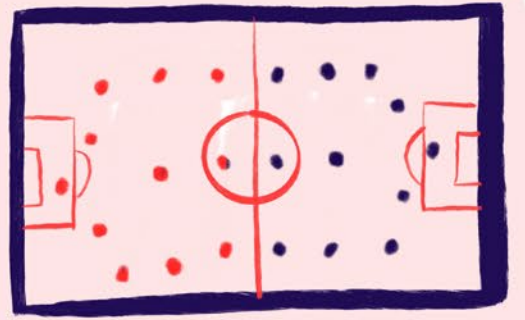
And then I got  
paid 50€ per game  
and a 100€  
if we won.



My boss was okay.



Once I got a fine at the U-Bahn and I needed money. So he gave me a loan.



Playing professionally was my dream.

We made it to the tournament!



My boss and my trainer said they would take care of the travel permit.

I was so excited!



The game was in Croatia.

But then when the day came...



it turned out I was not allowed to travel and play.



I was heartbroken.



So I quit playing soccer.



And I got another job.

Somewhere in the Waldviertel

I was working at this metal company.

By that time I had a permit allowing me to officially work full time.

This was on my desk!



A coworker put it there!



That's very serious!  
Do you know who it was?

I don't know who did it. This is outrageous!

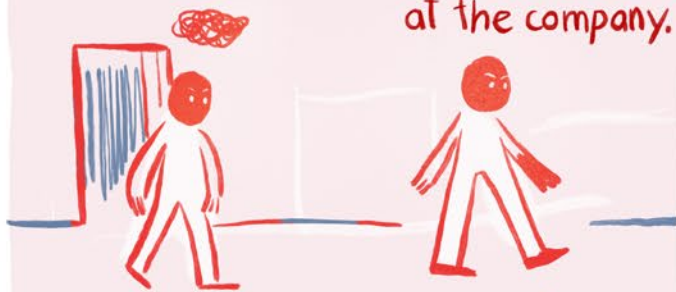


Okay. I agree. I will look into it!

In the meantime - Please go back to work.



I'm so angry. I'm doing my job well.



At the moment 12 black guys are working at the company.

We are usually in a good mood in the morning.

Some of the Austrian workers don't understand how we can be happy at the start of the work day.



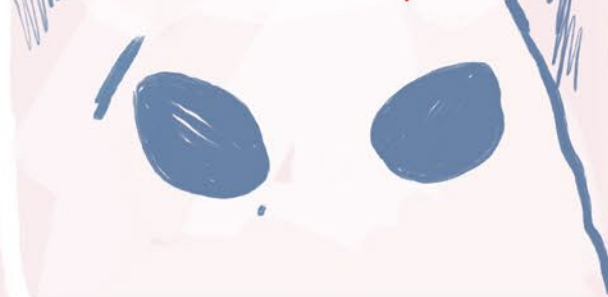
Laughing, joking around while getting ready. We are just happy we got a job.

As a black person in Austria you face a lot of racism.



It is hard!

There was no investigation to find out who put the mask on my desk.



Human Resources did



I never found out who did it.

Instead the bosses made up new rules every week.

Black workers were reported for minor mistakes.

They even tried to make me compromise another black worker by asking me questions about him.



And after a while the bosses started firing the black workers one by one.

Then I started working for a catering company.



No! It's not true!  
Even the workers  
from the Leihfirma  
get paid more!



I talked to Arbeiterkammer.  
They say: We should be  
paid according to the  
"Kollektivvertrag".



The  
Kollektivvertrag  
states:



The minimum  
wage!

It quickly  
snowballed  
because everyone  
was frustrated  
with the low  
wage. So all  
of us went  
to the boss  
together.



We demand  
fair pay!





Ok, I can call headquarters and ask them.



Headquarters impossible!  
We can't pay more!



I can't give you more. But sundays and holiday shifts will be paid extra from now on.



It was at least a small win.

To be honest I didn't really know how a "Kollektivvertrag" would help me.

Back then it would have helped to have someone to explain the contract and workers' rights.

What's a Kollektivvertrag?

A Kollektivvertrag protects the employees from low wages. It protects them from being exploited by the employer.

The union negotiates the minimum wage for the industry.

In my case Gastronomy.

The employer is legally obligated to pay at least the wage or more stated in the Kollektivvertrag.

The Kollektivvertrag states the minimum wage for the employee in a certain profession.

Industries with a strong union (active members) get more pay.



# 2024 VIENNA WORKERS' RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION

