

THE STORIES: SADAT



First name: **SADAT**

Last name: **SAYEDEHGAN**

Age: **19**

Country of origin: **AFGHANISTAN**

Living in **Germany** since: **2015**

SHORT SUMMARY

Sadat Sayedehgan left Afghanistan, because he lived in the northern area where a lot of bombings took place. He did not feel safe, especially as a young man. It was his decision to leave the country, and his parents agreed with him. He came to Hamburg, and since he was still a minor, he came under special protection. He started school in Germany and after 18 months he took his exam for the middle school degree- and was successful. After that, he had the option to proceed with school and take the highest exam in order to go to university or to start a vocational training. He opted for school and this is what he is doing nowadays. For some time now he started to work as a freelance counsellor in refugees' camps, translating, giving advice and helping others who have newly arrived from Afghanistan to find their way.

"NEVER STOP LEARNING"

LEAVING THE COUNTRY ON HIS OWN

Sadat lived in a city in northern Afghanistan, and the area was often under bombardments.

His parents and younger siblings were not surprised when they learned about Sadats plan to flee the country.

They agreed and Sadat planned how to get away on his own. He was only 17 years old. There were two options: the route via Turkey or via Russia. He had to use the help from professional traffickers. The flight went via Russia and Ukraine and he arrived in Austria after two months. From there he came to Hamburg. But he was still a minor, which meant that he was put under special protection, living in a supervised situation especially for underage refugees. He was taken under guardianship. Now it was up to him to shape his future.

SCHOOL WAS EVERYTHING

Sadat was able to start school after being in Hamburg for 4 months. He was placed in a vocational school, into a special class for refugees/migrants. The school in Germany was very different from the one he went to in Afghanistan: new subjects, new words and different ways of teaching and learning. There was no additional help except for math, which he did not need. It was hard to concentrate in school because the situation in the housing facility was far from ideal: very often he could not sleep because there was noise during the night. It would have been easy to say to himself: I could not sleep all night, I will stay at home and not attend school. But that was not Sadats way: he saw his only option in fighting the obstacles. In his opinion there are only

If you want to do something, there is always an opportunity!

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two ways to react if you face a problem: fight against it or loose. That meant: fighting the obstacles was the only way to success.

Sadat loved his school, his teachers and the environment. He really excelled in school: after less than two years he took the exam for the middle school degree and he pulled through, even got a 1,8 grade in German (1 being the best). He volunteered to make a speech during the graduation ceremony.

He still keeps in contact with his teachers and they are very proud of his success, deserved as it is because Sadat is working very hard.

HELPING OTHERS WITH LANGUAGE AND ADVICE

After leaving the vocational school, Sadat had two options: starting a vocational training or go to school 2-3 more years in order to get the "Abitur" which enables him to go to university. This is his dream, to study economics at the university. That is why he decided to go to school to further his education for some more years.

It is not easy keeping up with all the demands in the new school, he did not know anyone, he is still not accustomed to German culture and there is not much help to get. But the German students and his new teachers are very encouraging and he never experienced any atrocity in his school. He was placed in a regular class, which meant that some subjects (such as Spanish language) were completely new to him. Also new is the fact that in Germany boys and girls are taught in the same class. But he is working hard and is planning his studies very thoroughly, regarding time and tasks and aims. He is always planning his next steps and without research

If it gets tough, hold your head up high and pull through!

and asking others for advice he is reluctant to give his opinion. "*Think twice, speak once*" is his motto.

Some time ago he had to give a presentation in school and he took a video of this and sent it to his parents. Of course, they are very proud of his achievements.

A while ago he went to a conference of the Police Academy. They were looking for volunteers acting as translators and counsellors in refugees' camps. At this conference, he introduced himself and showed his interest. He was subsequently approached by a police officer who said: "you have to come to the police force, we are looking exactly for persons like you".

He did not say "no" and did not say "yes". Instead he weighed his options, even took the entrance test and passed. But for now he is happy with his decision to stay in school.

But as a volunteer to young persons in the refugees' camps, he is a role model already. They ask him how to go about it and his only answer is: if you have an aim, you have to follow it and make a real effort. Otherwise, forget about your aim.

Learning means everything to me.