

frabina



*QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS
CONCERNING FRIENDSHIP
AND MARRIAGE BETWEEN COUPLES
OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES*



This list of questions which may arise in connection with binational friendship and marriage should help you

- *to lead to extensive discussions with partners or advisors,*
- *to start a binding partnership or marriage.*

The situation of each couple is individual and may change as time goes on. These questions are just for guidance and can be supplemented to your own personal situation.



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Beratungsstelle für Frauen und binationale Paare
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Trägerschaft: Evangelische Frauenhilfe Bern, EFB

- *What living costs should we expect?*
- *Is our income guaranteed? What are the prospects for the foreign partner?*
- *What does our budget look like?*
- *How much does each partner contribute to the family living costs?*
- *What legal status do we choose (e.g. joint property, separation of property or any other arrangement)? Do we know the marriage laws of the country of residence? Could an Islamic marriage contract be of use to us?*
- *What are the financial consequences in case of sickness, accident, unemployment, divorce, old age, death? Do we understand the social security system of the country? Which insurances do we need (sickness insurance, voluntary AHV for the Swiss partner living abroad, etc.)?*
- *What experience do we have regarding money matters? What are the temptations and demands of the current consumer society? Can the foreign partner get used to the local monetary transactions?*
- *Am I willing to give up the living standards I am used to if necessity arises? What do we do when we are short of money?*
- *How will it be possible to finance regular trips to the partner's homeland?*
- *What is our attitude towards sending financial support or gifts to the partner's family abroad? On what level can we agree?*

Law, customs and traditions concerning marriage and family matters

- *Do we both know the law and customs of our partners country in order to understand his viewpoint? Can we imagine living in the partner's country?*
- *What is our attitude towards our own culture? What do we know about it? Is it more important to us than other cultures?*
- *Is it possible for me to stay in contact with my own culture?*
- *What kind of support can the partner give towards integrating in the new country?*
- *Are we familiar with the legal position regarding marriage in the country of residence?*
- *What rules of the family law in the country of residence could have decisive consequences (e.g. divorce law, rights and obligations in respect of children and decisions regarding their education, inheritance law, polygamy or privileges for men)?*
- *In southern and oriental countries the role of the woman is usually more traditional and less flexible compared to here. From our viewpoint this is a disadvantage for women. As a woman, how do I approach this phenomenon? Will I have to renounce the rights which I took for granted up to now? Am I willing to do this?*
- *Our attitudes and behaviour are influenced by different cultures and different education. A life spent together demands tolerance and adaptation. Which ideas and expectations do we have in respect of:*
 - *distribution of family chores*
 - *wife's activities outside of the home*
 - *relation to relatives, hospitality, responsibility for the family members living abroad*
 - *relations with colleagues, fellow countrymen, friends*

Counselling

What information is lacking?

Do we wish to get counselling on pending questions?

Following counselling offices are at your service:

**frabina Beratungsstelle
für Frauen und binationale Paare**

Bern, 031/381 27 01

e-mail: frabina@freesurf.ch

**Beratungsstelle für
binationale Paare und Familien**

Basel, 061/271 33 49

e-mail: compagna@bluewin.ch

**Beratungsstelle und Sozialdienst
für Frauen und Familien**

St. Gallen, 071/228 09 80

e-mail: Ihre.Beratungsstelle@iname.com

**Beratungsstelle für
interkulturelle Paare und Familien**

Zürich, 01/268 50 10

e-mail: ksdz@access.ch

Internationaler Sozialdienst

Genf, 022/731 67 00

e-mail: ssi@freesurf.ch

**homepage of the association
of counselling offices
for binational couples and families:**

www.binational.ch

IG Binational, Zürich

e-mail: binational@bluemail.ch

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