

## **S.o.S Press release Vienna 30.01.2016 - For immediate release**

British Inclusive Street Art Practitioner S.o.S, who's recent work tackles the issue of FGM in an innovative way, is visiting Parliament in Vienna a second time to attend the Austrian Platform's "Celebrating Zero Tolerance Day" on the 6th of February.

### **How can Inclusive Art Practice support social change?**

S.o.S's work and studies have centered around changing perceptions and creating positive social change through art practice. Street art is a powerful means of communication to engage both men and women. A link to S.o.S's academic Mahara platform at the University Of Brighton can be found here: <https://folio.brighton.ac.uk/user/seg22/street-art-for-social-change>

The inclusive arts' movement opens the door for modern day problem solving by including voices who represent and reflect diversity in our society; in order to help unravel topics which can be very difficult to make sense of, or where there are entrenched feelings of being stuck. Through art practice we can problem-solve in situations of dispute, supporting/questioning political agendas, conflict resolution, or therapeutic art projects collaborating with vulnerable or hard to reach individuals. Most importantly this practice helps us find new answers to difficult questions by including "new ways of seeing" from many participants allowing a mutual discovery of different viewpoints and the ability to move forward.

S.o.S made her debut as an Inclusive Arts Practitioner with her [Alice against FGM](#) mural who's message was spread on-line far and wide, when she participated in Femme Fierce in London March 2015. At this point the artist understood the power of social media in spreading an anti FGM message. Since this time S.o.S has painted 3 more Alice Against FGM murals, 2 of which are in Austria. The project has been facilitated by a local artist from Vienna, Chinagirl Tile who has also collaborated with the S.o.S on the pieces alongside Fem Street Art, an Austrian collective who volunteered to help paint the piece in Spillelau.

These two interventions are site specific to Austria in terms of the information included with the paintings:

Alice Against FGM III- at Graz, Verein Kunstfreiraum, Papierfabrik - Introduces the idea that FGM is gender based violence and a breach of human rights. (Curated by IOnArt and facilitated by Chinagirl Tile.)



Alice against FGM III

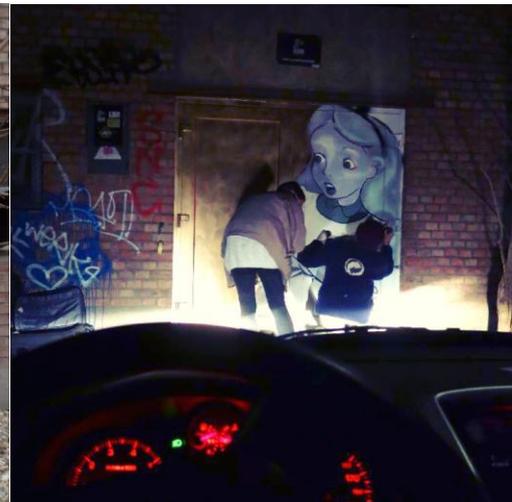


Alice against FGM III WIP

Alice Against FGM IV - at Vienna, Kulturverein Werk, Spittelau - States that FGM must stop and gives statistics of the girls affected by FGM in Austria (curated by Chinagirl Tile.)



Alice against FGM IV



Alice against FGM IV

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Artists website [www.iamsos.com](http://www.iamsos.com)

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