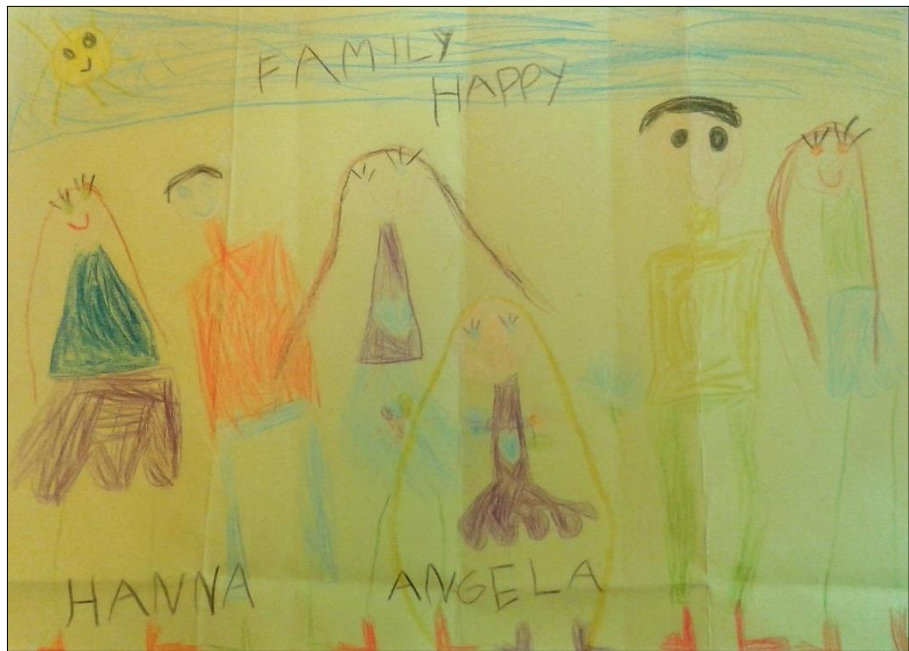


## Child without a name

Hanna is five years old. She drew this picture of the happy family she wishes for. Her mother named her Hanna but her name is nowhere officially recognised; to the German authorities, she is a nameless child. She lives with her Filipina mother, Maria, in Cologne. She was born in Cologne, and has always lived there. She knows no other country than Germany but has been considered an undocumented migrant all her life.



Hanna's mother, Maria, came to Germany six years ago trying to provide for her two children and husband in the Philippines. She was employed as domestic worker by a diplomat from the United Arab Emirates who repeatedly raped her while she worked in his household. He is Hanna's biological father but never recognised paternity and has not been held accountable for rape as his diplomatic immunity protected him from being prosecuted while in Germany. Maria was left undocumented when she fell pregnant and could no longer work, so Hanna was born undocumented. Maria was afraid of telling her family in the Philippines about Hanna fearing that her husband would think she cheated on him and that her family would disown her. Hanna's father meanwhile returned to the United Arab Emirates.

When Hanna was three months old, her mother turned to the organisation Agisra for help. Agisra works to ensure the rights of migrant and refugee women. Agisra helped her to file a complaint as a victim of rape in Germany, due to which she received '*Duldung*' status, a suspension of deportation. With the support of Agisra, Hanna also received a birth certificate. However, according to German law, Maria was not entitled to officially determine her child's name without the consent of her husband in the Philippines or proving that he is not the biological father, since Hanna was born into marriage.

For this reason, Hanna's birth certificate has no first name and only includes her mother's last name.

Maria eventually told her husband in the Philippines about Hanna, to ask him to do the paternity test. He subsequently decided that he wanted a divorce.

According to the embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Hanna's biological father could not be found. He has never provided financial support for Hanna's care.

Agisra is currently supporting Maria to obtain full custody for Hanna which would allow her to determine her child's name herself and have it recognised. They hope the authorities will recognise Hanna's name before she starts school in the coming year, and regularise her status in the near future.