

FlüchtlingsRAT NRWe.V.

Newsletter **October 2016**

Dear Reader!

We are going to organize in total three events in the next few weeks, which we would like to invite you to. We are starting on October 20th with a reading by the taz-editor Christian Jakob, who has published a book on the refugee movement and refugee self-organization in Germany. On October 29th, we invite you to the old coal mine Zeche Carl in Essen to honor the commitment of voluntary refugee supporters as well as to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW. Lastly, on November 19th, a conference on the political construct of the "gute /schlechte Bleibeperspektive" (good and bad prospect to remain) will be held in Dortmund. We look forward to these exciting events and to meeting you!

If you don't want to further receive this Newsletter please write to [initiativen\(at\)frnrw.de](mailto:initiativen(at)frnrw.de).

Reading with Christian Jakob in Bochum

On October 20th, the Flüchtlingsrat NRW invites to a reading with Christian Jakob in Bochum in the bar "Goldkante". In his book "Die Bleibenden: Wie Flüchtlinge Deutschland seit 20 Jahren verändern", the taz-editor tells about refugees' demands and about the fights which refugees have won over the years in Germany. Jakob's main argument: over the past decades, refugee activists themselves have paved the way for the recent German *Willkommenskultur* (welcome culture). The event starts at 8.00 pm and is free of charge.

Goldkante: Christian Jakob „Die Bleibenden“

Invitation: Ehrenamtspreis (volunteering award) and 30th anniversary celebration of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW

On October 29th, the Flüchtlingsrat NRW will award particularly committed initiatives and individuals who are supporting refugees in North Rhine-Westphalia. The event takes place from 3.30 pm until 9.00 pm in the cultural center Zeche Carl in Essen-Altenessen.

Among the eight nominees, recently founded initiatives are represented as well as long-established ones. The nominees also include committed people from rural regions, as well as groups and individuals from the urban areas of NRW. The jury for the award consists of Ingeborg Heck-Böckler from Amnesty International, Ali Ismailovski from the board of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW, Andreas

Meyer-Lauber who is chairman of the trade union DGB NRW as well as the managing director of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW, Birgit Naujoks. The award is endowed with a prize of 500 euros. During the award ceremony, eight short movies will be shown portraying the nominees. These films were produced by film students from the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences.

In addition, we invite all interested refugee initiatives to lay out their information materials in the foyer and inform people about their engagement. This offer is valid for all initiatives and individuals, even those, who do not belong to the nominated group or who have not applied for the *Ehrenamtspreis*.

At this event we further celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW and therefore invite you to a drink at the end of the evening.

If you would like to join the *Ehrenamtspreis* and anniversary celebration of our organization, please register by October 15 under aktionen@frrnw.de. We look forward to your participation!

Conference: „Für eine echte Bleibeperspektive! - For a real prospect to remain!“

Under the heading “*schlechte Bleibeperspektive!* – For a real prospect to remain!“, the Flüchtlingsrat NRW and Dortmund University of Applied Sciences invite to a conference on the political construct of the “*gute/schlechte Bleibeperspektive*” (good and bad prospect to remain) on November 19.

The conference deals with the political strategy of classifying refugees into those with a "good prospect to remain" and those with a "bad prospect to remain". This classification depends on their country of origin. This clustering has impacts for instance on the type and implementation of the asylum procedure. Since the concept of the *Bleibeperspektive* was introduced with the *Asylpaket I* (Asylum Act I) in October 2015, the political discourse on this concept has not only spread in society, but has also served as an instrument for restricting the possibilities for social participation, in particular for those refugees from supposedly "safe" countries of origin. The conference examines the consequences of the construction of a generalized *Bleibeperspektive*. We invite actors from various domains of refugee work in North Rhine-Westphalia including representatives of refugee self-organizations and practitioners from refugee camps, law firms as well as counseling centers. With a critical view of this development, the aim of the conference is to develop practical guidelines for the inclusion of refugees, irrespective of their so-called *Bleibeperspektive*. Further to find strategies of political public relations and of protest against this clustering and selection system. Together, we aim at finding ways to create *echte Bleibeperspektiven* – real prospects to remain.

Registration until November 13th here initiativen@frrnw.de.

Government of NRW plans residency regulation

The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is planning a residency regulation for recognized refugees. According to the plan, refugees will be obliged to remain in a particular municipality after the successful completion of their asylum procedure. In this way, the state government wants to

supposedly facilitate the integration process and "counter socio-spatial concentrations which prevent integration", so the draft published in mid-September. In addition, the municipalities' institutions and authorities – such as schools and kindergartens – are herewith provided "planning certainty to implement integration policy measures".

Critics of the planned residency regulation see a massive restriction of the freedom of movement of refugees. In addition, contrarily to its alleged aim to integrate refugees, the residency regulation might have an inhibiting effect on integration. For example, the person concerned does not have the opportunity to move to a certain city where friends and family are living. Furthermore, the new residency regulation does not take into account integration and cultural offers when choosing a place of residence.

Entwurf einer Verordnung zur Regelung des Wohnsitzes (PDF, 2,6 MB)

Churches and organizations celebrate the national Refugee Day

At the end of the *Interkulturelle Woche* (Intercultural Week), the churches and various refugee and human rights organizations celebrated Germany's national Refugee Day. This year, the campaign was held under the slogan "*Menschenrechte kennen keine Grenzen - Human rights don't follow borders*". In more than 500 municipalities and parishes, events took place that addressed the fate of refugees.

In a joint statement, churches urged to oppose the growing xenophobia in Germany: "We are frightened by the increasingly brutal language and the radicalization of thought in some parts of society. Anger and violence as well as public fantasies of violence, are noticeably increasing. Not only German history but also present times show the danger that lie in such developments: the increasing number of attacks on mosques, the countless anti-Semitic attacks, the persistent violence against refugees and their accommodation have shocked us all." The refugee organization PRO ASYL warns of an imminent "erosion of human rights". Even people fleeing from civil war countries such as Syria or Iraq, are increasingly being denied refugee protection in Germany.

Interkulturelle Woche

PRO ASYL: Tag des Flüchtlings 2016

Refugee organizations demand „Schule für alle! – School for all!“

“The right to education has no exception” - under this motto, the German refugee councils have launched a campaign to improve access to school education for young refugees. The campaign is supported, among others, by PRO ASYL and the trade union *Erziehung und Wissenschaft*.

The initiators criticize the fact that many young refugees are systematically excluded from regular school attendance, especially during the months after arrival in the reception facilities. Many receive, if at all, only one compensatory lesson for a few hours a day. Thus, Germany infringes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the EU Reception Directive. The signatories of the campaign therefore demand immediate political measures providing for sufficient regular school places for newly-arrived school-age children and

young people. The campaign further demands compulsory schooling implemented no later than two weeks after arrival in Germany as well as the possibility for young people, who have already reached the age of 18, of completing school education and qualifications.

Those who wish to support the initiative can commit to the campaign's objectives and demands on the campaign website by uploading a photo and making a personal statement.

Kampagne „Schule für alle!“



Material for Refugees

On our website you find a partly multilingual collection of interesting and useful materials for refugees and for refugee supporters. Among other topics the materials cover actual information about the asylum application, access to work, the situation of women refugee and strategies to deal with racism.

Flüchtlingsrat NRW, Ehrenamt/Initiativen, Broschürensammlung

Events *

19.10.2016: Symposium „Migration & Psychiatrie“. 9 am, LVR-Klinik Düren, Meckerstraße 15, Düren.
For further information see www.klinik-dueren.lvr.de

24.10.2016: Lecture „Migranten und Flüchtende aus Nordafrika - Ein Sicherheitsproblem?“. 8 pm,
Volkshochschule, Mülheimer Platz 1, Bonn.
For further information see www.dmag-bonn.de

24.10.2016: Exchange-Meeting for volunteers in refugee support. 6 pm, Kortenstraße 23,
Sprockhövel-Haßlinghausen.
Registration here [backhoff\(ät\)caritas-en.de](mailto:backhoff@caritas-en.de)

27.10.2016: Lecture „Traumata aus ärztlicher, psychologischer und pädagogischer Sicht“. 7 pm,
Familienforum an der Kinderklinik Bochum, Alexandrinenstraße 5, Bochum.
For further information see www.familienforum-ruhrgebiet.de

29.10.2016: *Ehrenamtspreis* – volunteering award of the Flüchtlingsrat NRW. 3:30 pm. Kulturzentrum
Zeche Carl, Wilhelm-Nieswandt-Allee 100, Essen.
For further information see www.fnrnw.de

19.11.2016: Conference „Für eine echte Bleibeperspektive! – For a real prospect to remain!“ 9.30 am,
FH Dortmund, Raum 1.01, Emil-Figge-Straße 44, Dortmund
For further information see www.fnrnw.de

18.-19.11.2016: Symposium „Antiziganismus entgegenwirken! Aber: Wie?“ Hotel Tulip Inn, Arena-
Str. 3, Düsseldorf.
For further information see www.politische-bildung.nrw.de

*Further events, news on political developments concerning refugee issues and information about our
work can be found on our homepage at www.fnrnw.de or on our Facebook-page
<http://www.facebook.com/FluechtlingsratNRW>.*

*All the events are in German language.

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