

We are still here - Picket from 18th of May 2015

As a reminder of the drowned and dead on the flight

As a sign for the rescued

As a symbol for the opportunity of survival and life

As an appeal to all of us

We are building an ark during the picket, which will continue for five days. Anyone who wants to join building and be part of it will find us here:

Klosterstraße (at the corner Parochialstraße)

U 2 Klosterstraße

Survived – and now?

Thousands of people did not survive the flight from the African continent to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea. But even for those who kept their lives, there is rarely a secure future.

We accept responsibility for those refugees staying with us, but take a political stand for all.

Thus, the more than 100 refugees who have found temporary shelter through the support of Evangelischer Kirchenkreis Berlin Stadtmitte for a couple of month stand as representatives for the many hundreds and thousands who did survive, but do not have clear prospects for their future.

Background:

The majority of refugees who found shelter in the Protestant Church in Berlin first found accomodation on Oranienplatz, a protest camp made up of of refugees and their supporters.

They demanded an amendment of asylum law and the right to remain. The camp was voluntarily vacated by the protesters in April 2014. However, the Senat did not honour the agreements made with the refugees. In September 2014, several dozens of refugees who had become homeless in the meantime occupied St. Thomas Church in Kreuzberg.

Ever since this occupation, Kirchenkreis Berlin Stadtmitte has taken responsibility for those refugees, while the Senat of Berlin continues to reject their demands.

In cooperation with numerous parishes from across Berlin, and with the help of many donors and supporters, we organize and fund emergency accommodation, subsistence, monthly public transport passes, German classes and base line medical care.

The regional church and the representatives of Kirchenkreis stand with countless other initiatives to demand a political solution for the refugees from the Senat's authorities.

We will not accept the Senat's inaction any longer. Our patience is exhausted. We are at the end of our tether!

The Refugees and the Protestant Church demand of the Berliner Innensenat:

- Grant of a Duldung with work permit for clarification of status and chance of integration.
- Solution-oriented assessment of the individual cases.
- Cooperation in covering the costs for subsistence and accommodation for the refugees.

In return, we will continue to provide:

- Organisation and facilitation of active integration (internships, German language classes).
- Assistance, companionship and legal advice.
- Accommodation.

We also need your participation!

- We are looking for job and internship opportunities.
- Tutors e.g. can help with the clarification of status (legal attendance), with everyday's questions and German classes (tandem language learning).
- We are still looking for accommodation.
- We urgently need your financial support.

Donations to:

Kirchenkreis Berlin Stadtmitte

IBAN: DE98 520 6041 010 0399 5577

Verwendungszweck: Flüchtlingsunterbringung

Contact:

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