

Open letter to the Inner Ministry of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from groups, who support the Refugees: Rostock hilft, Flüchtlingshilfe Schwerin

An „open letter“ shall raise the public consciousness about a specific topic. It shall push the politicians to deal with a problem from the perspective of the targeted people.

The „Inner Ministry“ of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the responsible ministry for the topics of the asylum seekers. It is the head of all Ausländerbehörden/Migrationsamt. The chef there is Lorenz Caffier, a hardliner concerning „law and order“-politics against the Refugees. He belongs to Angela Merkels party CDU („Christian Democrats of Germany“).

Open letter: Make integration possible – Freedom of movement as a statement against growing racism!

Dear Ladies and Gentleman,
hello Mr. Caffier,

two weeks ago the new law „Integrationsgesetz“ („Law for integration“) was released by the German government. Part of this law is the so called „Wohnsitzauflage“ for accepted Refugees. It says, that the Refugees will have to stay in that federal state of Germany, where they have been transferred to for their asylum procedure.

In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are no specific rules for this law yet. So it is still a question, if there will be added a prohibition to move to special cities or a rule to stay in small towns.

It is time to make a clear statement in this society: **Freedom of movement as a clear sign against the growing racism!**

So make your decision inside the Inner Ministry

- against rules to stay in specific cities/ towns/ villages in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- against the prohibition to move into the bigger cities, like Rostock and Schwerin
- FOR: Freedom of movement inside of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern!

„Wohnsitzauflage“ is only on the surface a tool for „integration“. In fact it takes the right from the people to make decisions for their own life. It is a deep violation of the freedom and the rights of every accepted Refugee.

The basic for integration must be to offer a wide range of possibilities for those, who come new. Integration is only possible with first setting equal rights. We can not show democratic values by destroying them in practice: Nor to the asylum seekers, neither to those Germans, who find themselves respresented by the AfD after they are dissappointed by the political system.

The beginning of the new lifetime in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern means for most of the asylum seekers the gap between the open minds of the solidary people and „Welcome-groups“ and the pure racism, that unfortunately becomes violent too often. The every day experiance of violance and dicrimination, that many asylum seekers speak about again and again, must be seen.

The Inner Ministry showed some weeks ago in Rostock-Groß Klein, that it is not willing to guarantee enough protection against violance and attacks these days. A group of minor asylum seekers had to move out of their houses there, because the threatenings by Nazis and racists became too much.

Even more it is important to keep the chance for the Refugees to choose their living place there, where they feel most safe.

We can only fight racism and its violant expressions by living the ideas of equality and equal rights.

So make it possible for the accepted Refugees to live there, where they want to. The reasons for choosing a place to live may be various:

Contact to supporters or advisors after racist violance or the wish to be close with people, who share the experiance of arriving in Germany.

Or a safe place for the own children to grow up in bigger cities, where racism and attacks on the streets are at least more seldom.

For many Refugees the possibilities to work are another reason. Standing behind this is the wish to make the own living.

Many Refugees from Syria and Eritrea – the countries with the highest number of acceptance as a Refugee – did already change their place of living in the past months. The new law will be valid for everybody who received acceptance after the 1. January 2016.

Do not force the people to go back to other places! Let them come to rest and settle in those places, that they have chosen for.

Show with an interpretation of §12a Aufenthaltsgesetz (residence law) in the meaning of freedom of movement for everybody, that the „welcome culture“ of 2015 is also part of the political practice in 2016. We can only win against raising xenophobia with open minds and equality!

This letter is signed by

- Rostock hilft
- Flüchtlingshilfe Schwerin
- Greifswald hilft Geflüchteten