

Citizens of Berlin stay open-minded and solidary

Statement on the irresponsible actions of the Senate of Berlin against refugees and on the threat of an eviction

Winter is coming and the Senate has set adrift refugees yet again. Human beings that had a long way coming here. Human beings that are tirelessly fighting for their rights. They are here and they are part of the city life.

The eviction of almost 100 refugees out of three emergency shelters on 22nd October was neither the first nor the last force into homelessness. Another one is upcoming: The residents of Gerhart Hauptmann School in Ohlauer street are supposed to leave the building in October. That breaks as well the Oranienplatz Agreement from March 2014 as the additional Ohlauer Street Agreement from July 2014. But of course tolerating the refugees for 15 months has legal consequences for the Senate. Deporting them just like that now would be unlawful.

Wether Senate or District: months-lasting negotiations, government declarations, comprising promises - nothing but smoke and mirrors?

Cultural and artistic institutions of Berlin have united. Almost 100 sleeping places have been mediated within a few days: In private places, living projects and institutions like theatres, culture houses and churches. Once again, many citizens of Berlin show great solidarity and broad engagement.

We look closely when Berlin's politicians prevent self-conceptualized projects like the planned International Refugee Center in Ohlauer street. We are not going to watch in silence when human beings are cast adrift and their dignity is violated. We are refusing to celebrate urban culture and at the same time bury human rights. We are not ready to let the Senate escape responsibility to find political solutions for the purpose of the refugees. Berlin still has the chance to give a positive example and establish a culture of welcomeness and mutual appreciation.

Where is justice when parts of the population in Berlin are isolated, excluded, homeless and being deported? We support the refugees. Enough is enough! It's time to act - It's time for an open-minded society and a solidary interaction among all of us!

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