

Call for demonstration from "Interventionistische Linke Bielefeld":

Refugees are welcome to stay! No restrictions on asylum!

Bielefeld, January 7th 2016; at Arndtstr. 6-8 at 4.30 pm

The governing coalition of the political parties CDU (conservatives) and SPD (social democrats) are preparing further far reaching restrictions on the individual right to asylum. In January 2016 they plan to pass a new law allowing fast-track decisions, separation of families, and deportations even in cases of life-threatening illness. These harsh measures have provoked disagreement even within the governing coalition, and they could not have been approved in December, 2015 as planned. While the chancellor sticks to her „wir schaffen das/ we will manage it“, she is strongly contradicted by the decisions of her own party, CDU, which voted for a drastic reduction of the number of refugees granted asylum. Furthermore, the government of SPD and CDU is promoting stricter controls at the EU‘ s external borders. It is planned to set up a new border protection agency, that is removed from the influence of those EU countries that have external frontiers of the EU.

A realistic scenario for the near future?

To give an example of what the planned separation of families will mean: Muhamad lives with his family in the Syrian capital, Damascus. After a bomb has destroyed his weaving workshop, he decides to flee the country. Together with his son, he is on the run for weeks, spending various days in a boat in danger of capsizing. Finally they arrive to Düsseldorf. Here, Muhamad is not allowed to file a request for asylum, but receives a temporary residence permit as a war refugee (subsidiary protection). According to the new laws, he will not be able to bring his wife and both daughters to Germany to live with him. If his flat is considered too small or if he does not earn enough money yet to provide for the whole family. The consequence would be to force them to stay in the warzone, the family would remain separated for years. In future, this will lead to entire families embarking on the journey to Europe. Elderly, and sick people, and even more families with children will get on the boats to cross the Aegean and Mediterranean. On these routes more than 3300 people have died in 2015 alone. The German government, and especially the Minister of the Interior, are politically responsible for the deaths at the borders. The stated aim of the new asylum law is to make stayings in Germany as uncomfortable as possible for refugees. Some groups of refugees that have supposedly little chance of actually being granted asylum are placed in special „reception centers“ (Aufnahmezentren) and subjected to a „residency obligation“ (Residenzpflicht), i.e. a ban on leaving their assigned place of residence. If they infringe this obligation, e.g. to meet friends or family in a different city, their request for asylum is treated as void. Furthermore, the reasons for assuring that their chances of approval are low, can be chosen at will by the authorities, and they are far removed from the actual reality of the refugees , situation. There is even the proposal to exclude refugees arriving in Germany without documents from the regular procedure of applying for asylum. Their applications would then be processed in a so-called fast-track-procedure. The NGO Pro Asyl is criticizing this proposal as a direct attack on the individual right to asylum. In the first weeks of January the German parliament, Bundestag, is to debate these measures and eventually to vote on the new laws.

Join our demonstration on January 7th to protest against these restrictions to the basic right of asylum.

The meeting place is at Arndtstr. 6-8 at 4.30 pm.

Nobody flees without a reason.

Fight the causes of flight, not the refugees.

Refugees welcome!