

## **Protection for those who seek protection – only in their own homes!**

Imagine #LeaveNoOneBehind became true. All those at the EU's external borders were evacuated – after violence, fear, disease, fires, for years.

Many of those refugees would come to Germany. And what would they find here?

They would find themselves again in camps, where their bags are being searched, their rooms are being checked, securities turn violent, police is present, and deportations take place. Again: Violence and fear. Old traumas cannot rest, diseases develop. Camps oscillate between tristesse and excess of violence. On arrival, the need for medical and psychological care is already high and cannot be covered from the beginning. This need increases, the longer people stay in the camps.

Protection from disease, which became necessary due to the pandemic, is impossible to guarantee. Consultation about asylum proceedings, about protection against violence, about special requirements is restricted or not accessible at all. All this is intended by the federal and state governments. Even in Germany, refugees may find themselves in camps for years.

Therefore we demand: **Abolish all camps!**

All humans have the right to housing, independent of their residence status.

But where to start?

There are many opportunities. Activists in Baden-Württemberg have shown that, they launched the campaign “Had in your fundamental rights at the entrance” ([www.grundrechte-am-eingang-abgeben.de/](http://www.grundrechte-am-eingang-abgeben.de/)) and initiated a legal opinion. Currently, four refugees from Baden-Württemberg have filed a lawsuit against the house rules with the *Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte*. We - a nationwide network of initiatives, associations, refugee councils - propose to problematise and fight the house rules in the camps nationwide. Only in prisons and psychiatric institutions is it possible to intervene so intensively in fundamental rights as in a camp and to enforce policies of exclusion instead of participation. And this largely happens due to the house rules there.

How to start – some suggestions:

- Find out where your nearest camp is. This can be a reception centre of the country, but possibly also a large community centre under the responsibility of your city or district.
- Get in touch with the residents! Talk to them, give them a voice, publish videos, interviews, support residents to organise and make demands!
- Document encroachments on fundamental rights such as searching rooms, violent securities, sanctions such as a house ban and more. Talk to those affected about whether they agree to publication.
- Get the house rules of the respective camps. This has been done in some federal states, for example, through contacts in the camps. House rules need to be published. Or win over members of parliament or city/county councillors and ask them small questions in which you demand the publication of the house rules. Possibly, the refugee council of your federal state has already been able to research house rules.
- Initiate legal opinions yourself about the respective house rules.
- Bring the criticism to the press! Put refugees in touch with journalists so that they can report directly on what is going on behind the camp fence.
- Draw attention to the conditions in the camp with actions, rallies, flash mobs, social media campaigns.
- AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Join our nationwide network to get an overview of what is going on elsewhere, what strategies are being pursued in other municipalities or federal states.

If those seeking protection are to receive it, then recognition and accommodation policies must change. Then accommodation policy for refugees must become housing policy!

<https://lager-watch.org/>