

Sign appeal in solidarity with refugees in Switzerland and at the external EU borders

In times of Corona, solidarity is demanded by large parts of politics and the population. At the same time, the borders to Europe are being closed to refugees. It is no longer possible for them to apply for asylum in Europe. But Corona knows no borders and it is inhuman to demand solidarity only for the people in Switzerland and the EU and to forget other people outside the European borders. Human tragedies take place there every day: In the Turkish-Greek border area, thousands of refugees are currently waiting at the closed EU borders. They are denied basic rights, they are brutally beaten up by police and right wing groups or illegally deported back to Turkey. In the so-called hotspot camps on the Greek islands, thousands of people live crammed together and in the most adverse conditions. All the safety and hygiene measures that are demanded in Switzerland out of solidarity simply cannot be implemented in the camps. In some areas of Camp Moria on Lesbos there is only one water tap for 1,300 inhabitants and soap is not available. Families of five or six people have to sleep on only three square metres of space. At the latest now is the time to evacuate the camps and open the borders!

It is basically good if in a situation like this certain measures are taken to protect as many people as possible. But we demand that all people should be given the same protection. This means that borders cannot simply be closed just because it makes people in Switzerland a little more secure. Because there are people on the other side of the border and they have exactly the same right to protection, security and freedom. We therefore call on the Federal Council to immediately issue an S (protection-needed) identity card to all persons concerned in the Greek-Turkish border area so that they can receive immediate protection and enter Switzerland directly.

Not only on the European external borders, but also in Switzerland, the situation for refugees under Corona is even more difficult than usual. Firstly, the isolation in the asylum camps is even greater than under normal conditions because there is a stop on visits in many places. Moreover, people have to live together in very confined spaces, while at the same time all other people are advised not to be in larger groups. Secondly, almost all legal advice centres and law firms have currently ceased operations and legal protection in the federal asylum centres is severely restricted. At the same time, asylum decisions are still being made. Especially since the new Asylum Act, it has been known that many asylum decisions are wrongly negative and can later be positively challenged before the Federal Administrative Court with the help of a lawyer. Under the current conditions, the guarantee of legal recourse is no longer guaranteed and asylum seekers are no longer able to defend themselves legally in the event of a negative decision. Especially with such a high percentage of wrong decisions, this is untenable. We therefore call for an immediate moratorium on decisions (which means that no asylum decisions may be made at the moment).

We have formulated these two demands to the Federal Council and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) in a letter. If you also support these two demands, please sign the attached letter and send it to the responsible Federal Department of Justice and Police. In this way, we want to exert as much political pressure as possible so that the two demands for solidarity are implemented.

Postal address of the responsible department:

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