



Asylum Policy Forum 2023

The Axe to the Refugee Protection: How do we defend Human Rights?

1 – 3 December 2023
Haus Villigst, Schwerte

in cooperation with Amnesty International, the Diaconal work Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe e.V., the Refugee Council NRW e.V. and the Ecumenical Federal Working Group on Asylum in the Church

The year 2023 is a special year: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75 years old, the European Convention on Human Rights is 70 years old. This is actually a reason for us to celebrate: If it weren't for the fact, that the refugee protection it provides, is being increasingly undermined or even completely questioned politically, both in Europe and in Germany.

Pushbacks at the EU's external borders have become a sad part of everyday's life, and the denial of access to the right to asylum by the EU member states practice of sealing off external borders is to be cast in European law by the migration pact agreed by the European Council in June. Also in Germany, especially in North Rhine-Westphalia, humanely reception and prospects for refugees to stay are put aside in favor of optimizing deportations, for example by keeping them in state accommodation for long periods.

At this year's Asylum Policy Forum, we are taking a look at these developments and pleading for a change in perspective.

Away from the orientation towards isolation and deportation to the question: How can we create sustainable future prospects for refugees? Integrated lead management should anchor this viewpoint as a fundamental attitude among all authorities and persons involved.

All those, who are interested in issues of refugee protection, all volunteers and full-time workers who accompany refugees and all active persons in civil society, legal professions and on the state side are invited to the 37th Asylum Policy Forum to jointly pursue the question: How do we defend human rights?

We are pleased that we can now again hold the forum as a face-to-face event at the conference center Haus Villigst!

On behalf of the entire preparatory group, I cordially invite you!

Helge Hohmann
Evangelical Academy Villigst
Institute for Church and Society

We would like more people with refugee and/or racism experiences to participate in the Asylum Policy Forum.

Therefore we offer:

1. An Awareness-Concept: *Rubina Fahad* will be available as an **awareness person for people affected by racism** during the conference.
2. Financial support: If the charges of the conference are an obstacle in taking part, then **free of cost participation** can be made possible (No proof is required). Contact us (look below for contact details) until **05.11.23**.
3. Simultaneous translation in **Arabic** and **English**: Please let us know by **05.11.23** if you would like to follow the conference in Arabic or English (there will be **no additional costs for you**).

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE NUMBER 233306

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Ev. Tagungsstätte Haus Villigst
Iserlohner Str. 25 · 58239 Schwerte
T. 02304.755-0

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY | CONTENT CONSULTATION | MEETING MANAGEMENT

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CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Events team
Iserlohner Str. 25 · 58239 Schwerte
ikg-veranstaltungsteam@kircheundgesellschaft.de

CONFERENCE COSTS

Conference participation incl. meals (without Breakfast): **110,00 €**
Reduction* 80,00 €

Additionally Overnight stay in a single room + Breakfast: **150,00 €**

Overnight stay in a double room + Breakfast: **130,00 €**

- For volunteers in refugee work, the total price is reduced again by **30,00 €**
- The price should not be an obstacle in participating at the conference. Do not hesitate to contact us (Contact: see above).
- Please consider staying overnight in a double room so that as many participants as possible can stay overnight on the premises.

* on presentation of a certificate: pupils, trainees, students up to 35 years of age, persons in voluntary service (including voluntary military service), recipients of citizen's allowance and comparable benefits.

REGISTRATION

Please register as soon as possible. You will receive a registration confirmation/invoice. Please then transfer the participation fee in advance to the account specified on the invoice. In case of cancellation later than two weeks before the start of the conference, a cancellation fee of 75% will be charged, in case of cancellation on the day of the start of the conference, a cancellation fee of 100% will be charged. Privacy policy and GTC can be found [here](#).

You can find the form for online registration [here](#).

FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2023

- 05.30 pm Arrival
- 06.00 pm Dinner
- 07.00 pm Greeting and Introduction**
Helge Hohmann, Study Director Ev. Academy Villigst
- 75 Years Universal Declaration of Human Rights / 70 years European Convention Human Rights: The enduring importance of human rights for refugee protection**
Nele Allenberg, German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin
- 08.30 pm Break
- 08.45 pm No more right to have rights: Elimination of human rights guarantees for refugees in the practice of the EU**
Tim Schröder, Amnesty International, Frankfurt
- 10.15 pm Meeting point lobby, open end

SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2023

- 08.15 am Breakfast
- 09.00 am Introduction of the working groups**
- Fair asylum procedures – under discussion**
Jens Dieckmann, Amnesty International, Bonn
Frank Engel, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Nuernberg
- 10.30 am Coffee break
- 11.00 am Institutional racism – Analysis of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act as an example – Impact on the daily lives of refugees**
Zübeyde Duyar, Inter-association anti-discrimination work, Cultural and Educational Center AGORA of the Greek Community in Castrop-Rauxel e.V. N.N.
- 12.30 pm Lunch

- 01.30 pm WORKSHOPS**
- Workshop 1: Solidarity and symbolic politics: The reorganization of the European asylum system**
Stefan Keßler, Jesuit Refugee Service, Berlin
Tim Schröder, Amnesty International, Frankfurt
Moderator: *Inge Heck-Böckler*, Amnesty International, Aachen
- Workshop 2: Obligated to leave – what to do? Options for actions for people with negative asylum procedures**
Input/Moderation: *Maria Shakura*, Refugee Counselor Wuppertal
Tom Siebertz, Psychosocial center for refugees Duesseldorf e.V.
- Workshop 3: Awareness and empowerment for refugees and supporters in the view of the racist structures and everyday racism.**
Input/Moderation: *Barbara Eßer*, Psychosocial center for refugees Düsseldorf e.V.
Pedram Zarei, Journalist, Duesseldorf
- Workshop 4: Asylum for Roma or not? – Experience reports, (EU)- Jurisprudence and claims**
N.N.
Moderator: *Judith Fisch*, Diakonie RWL, Duesseldorf
- Workshop 5: Configuring the right to stay – Exchange about implementation problems**
Şengül Ersan, District Unna, Department of Immigration and Integration
Birgit Naujoks, Refugee Council NRW e.V., Bochum
Valentine Tiltmann, Cologne Refugee Council
Moderator: *Dietrich Eckerberg*, Muenster

- 03.45 pm Break
- 04.15 pm **Asylum policy platform 2023 Integrated residence management – a Vision for NRW?**
Aslı Sevindim, MKJFGFI, Head of Department 5/Integration
Kirsten Eichler, Project Q, GGUA, Muenster
Dr. Emmanuel Ndahayo, Uni Siegen, Migration sociologist
Melanie Schmickler, Head of the immigration office of the city of Dortmund and member of the hardship commission of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia
Heike Spielmann, Diakonie Mark-Ruhr, Hagen
Moderator: *Helge Hohmann*, Study Director Ev. Academy Villigst
- 06.00 pm Dinner
- 07.30 pm Meeting point lobby, open end

SUNDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2023

- 07.50 am Worship in the chapel
Helge Hohmann, *Christoph Keienburg*, *Ulrike La Gro*
- 08.15 am Breakfast
- 09.00 am Inhuman deportation practices in NRW and the future of church asylum**
- Human rights violations during deportations in NRW**
Sebastian Rose, Committee for Fundamental Rights and Democracy e.V., Cologne
Judith Fisch, Diakonie RWL, Duesseldorf
- Conversation about church asylum**
Dietlind Jochims, Ecumenical Federal Working Group on Asylum in the Church, Hamburg
Rafael Nikodemus, Church Council, the Evangelical Church in Rhineland, Duesseldorf
- 10.30 am Coffee Break
- 11.00 am 2 years paradigm change in refugee policy in NRW?**
Birgit Naujoks, Refugee Council NRW e.V., Bochum
- Outlook 2024: Conclusions, Strategies, Perspectives for Action for the organizations of refugee aid**
Stefan Keßler, Jesuit Refugee Service, Berlin
- 12:30 pm Farewell**
Helge Hohmann, Study Director Ev. Academy Villigst
- afterwards Lunch, Coffee and afterwards departure