

Get together 2017: Freedom of movement and the right to stay!

Ideas for actiondays and a coming together at a possible conference

Dear friends and activists,

2015 will be remembered in the history of struggles for freedom of movement as an historical year. Nearly one million people crossed in a march of hope through Europe to fight for their aim to arrive at the places of their choice. Within short time these people gained a lot of support from the civil society who founded welcome initiatives – organizing places of living, sharing and fighting together for the rights to housing, staying, moving and for dignity for all.

The backlash followed directly afterwards. 2016 was characterized by a strong polarization and the sealing off of Europe – which will most likely increase this year. Even the Turkey-EU deal and the intensified militarization in the Central Mediterranean didn't prevent the number of arrivals to exceed the 2014 "record": Over 180.000 people have made it to Italy in 2016 while the Dublin laws are forcefully reinstalled and Asylum Rights are tightened on a national level. Once arrived in the countries of their choices refugees are put into isolated camps, having to live under inhumane conditions while companies are financially profiting by these very forms of accommodation or by only handing out rationed food packages. The mass deprivation of rights also affects EU citizens who migrate northwest from the south eastern countries of crisis: they are confronted with the exclusion from all social benefits if they don't find work immediately.

Refugee-movements are fighting since the 90s for their rights and will also continue to do so. The visibility of the struggles for freedom of movement and equal rights for all is getting stronger and stronger. Despite the repression of the states, despite racism and precarious living conditions we remember a lot of campaigns: The struggle against the Residenzpflicht and against Dublin-deportations, the initiatives against the on-going deaths at the seas around Europe, the resistance against deportations, the fight for the women's rights and visibility, the struggle for the right to stay and for better living conditions, the right to the city, the fight against the Lager and for participation, for more language courses, or the latest mobilisations against the ridiculous deportation-start to Afghanistan by the German state.

This – certainly incomplete – list of different struggles already shows: we are a lot of people. We want to fight the racist rollback and strengthen our common visibility. So let's overcome our divisions and fight together:

- We want to make our voices heard – last but not least to strengthen the positions that are still welcoming in this society and to create more spaces to step out of the logic of control and racist division.
- We want to support initiatives and groups in their fights against racism and for solidarity and self-organization.
- We share one question: how can we manage to get together? How is it possible to create unity and how can we overcome the various divisions?

We address first of all the refugee and migrants-movements and those who are affected by the repressive politics, but also self-organized activists, welcome initiatives and supporters from all parts of society. We think that it is time to form a broad network against the neo-colonial, separating and racist border-buildings, against the killings at the seas and the divisions by right wing-populism. We think that we need to come together to make a strong sign for a common society based on solidarity and equal rights.

That's why we call for:

- **An international actionday on the 18th of March 2017**

Exactly one year ago the EU-Turkey deal will have been concluded at that day. We also want to relate to the Blockupy protests in Frankfurt two years ago, connecting the struggles against the border and the austerity regime.

The City Plaza in Athens, the hotel occupied by refugees calls out for international actions:

<http://solidarity2refugees.gr/international-call-city-plaza-18-march-european-day-action/>

The Welcome2Stay network proposes to do actions until the 23rd of March:

<http://welcome2stay.org/de/2016/12/16/617/>

Let's do airport-actions against deportations and fear and for the right to stay for everyone! Actions will take place at the airports in Frankfurt a.M., Munich, Hamburg, Aschaffenburg and Berlin at the, 18th of March 2017.

- **Actiondays between the 2nd and 4th of September 2017**

Two years ago the march of hope started from the Keleti train station in Budapest and marched towards the North-West. These days have been crucial for the break through to open the borders on the Balkanroute.

Let us create as much public attention as possible with manifold events and decentralized actions for the demand of freedom of movement for all!

The beginning of September will be the right time to raise attention to this topic as the general elections will take place. We want to oppose the racist right-wing populists with occupying public spaces with our demands against deportations and exclusion and for open borders and solidarity.

- **We still dream of another big conference** - a big gettogether of all the different initiatives and struggles. Maybe at the end of this or in the beginning of the next year! We want to plan further on this idea – join the preparations!

We invite you to this process of getting together and invite you to join our next meeting on the 25th/26th of March 2017 to evaluate the 18th of March, to plan another actionday before the elections and to discuss the possibility for a big gettogether conference.

The meeting will take place from Saturday, 1PM till Sunday 2PM in Mehringhof in Berlin. Who wants to join please contact: carlix@posteo.de

Signatures:

Lampedusa in Hamburg, Club Al-Hakawati, Caravane Munich, Watch the Med Alarmphone, Interventionistische Linke, Refugees for Change Rhein-Main, Refugees Struggle for Freedom, NAFS, muc support, Youths Without Borders, Bavarian Refugee Council, No-Stress-Tour, Alle Bleiben Initiative, Aktionsbündnis gegen Abschiebung Rhein-Main, Roma Center Göttingen, No one is illegal Hanau, Welcome to Europe, welcome2stay, Welcome To Stay Café Aschaffenburg, Kein Mensch ist Illegal Darmstadt, Sächsischer Flüchtlingsrat, Women in Exile, Stop Deportation Group Berlin, Recht auf Stadt – Never mind the papers!, Lübecker Flüchtlingsforum e.V. / Solizentrum Lübeck, Corasol, Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg, borderline-europe, Antira_K, Refugees4Refugees