



Stichting Landelijk
Ongedocumenteerden
Steunpunt

NEWSLETTER, year 2 no 4

20 February 2012

CONTENTS	PAGE
1. BASIC RIGHTS	2
2. ADMISSION POLICY	2
3. CHECK AND DEPORTATION	2
4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?	3

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION RE ASYLUM SEEKERS' CHILDREN IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 27 FEBRUARY 14 - 16.00 HRS

Diederik Samsom, Joel Voordewind and Tofik Dibi cordially invite you to join them for the presentation of the finalized private member's bill on 'rooted children' and join them in the follow-up discussion about this topic.

During this afternoon, various presentations will be held and there will be ample opportunity to discuss the problems regarding, as well as the solutions for asylum seekers' underage children. Afterwards, there will be opportunities for further discussion about the topic and for questions during drinks.

Registration is compulsory (preferably before 23 February), further information through r.polinder@tweedekamer.nl.

1. BASIC RIGHTS

Proceedings against move to Family Location

In principle, families who have exhausted their appeals are to leave the reception centre after 28 days. Since turning them out into the streets is not allowed, these families are moved to a Family Location. This option also applies to families who may remain in the Netherlands pending the outcome of other (regular) proceedings. As a result of criticisms levelled at these moves, the minister has declared that medical care and schooling must continue to be guaranteed in the Family Location. If these facilities have not been properly taken care of, proceedings may be instituted against the move.

2. ADMISSION POLICY

Permits revoked faster in case of criminal record

Minister Leers proposes to revoke a residence permit faster if the alien is convicted for a criminal offence. During the first three years, a residence permit may be revoked after any criminal conviction to an offence on which two years' imprisonment is threatened. After three years, the permit can only be revoked after an offence on which longer prison sentences are threatened. After three criminal offences, the alien is seen as a persistent offender, to whom a stronger sliding scale applies. However, the minister will always keep the individual circumstances into account (parliamentary paper 19637 no 1494, 6.2.12)

Minister intends to make family reunification harder

Minister Leers intends to make stricter demands on family reunification. The following measures apply:

- Admission for the spouse and minor children only. For partners who cannot marry in the country of origin (homosexuals for instance) a marriage visa is made possible. In that case, the partners are to get married in the Netherlands within six months in order to apply for the residence permit.
 - The partner in the Netherlands must have lived here at least one year before the family reunification can take place.
 - An independent residence permit is only issued after five years instead of after three years.
- (parliamentary paper 17.2.12)

So far, 25 municipalities in favour of children's pardon

More and more municipalities sign the petition for a children's pardon. The political party GreenLeft has joined forces with the Dutch Labour Party and the Christian Union and supports the legislative proposal to give children a residence permits after an eight-years' stay in the Netherlands. As many as 124,000 people have already signed the petition on www.kinderpardon.nu.

3. CHECK AND DEPORTATION

Minister: building 4 of Zeist Detention Centre will be improved

As a result of proceedings by the Dutch Association of Asylum Lawyers, the minister has promised that the air quality in building 4 of Zeist Detention Centre is to be improved. The Implementation of Sanctions Inspectorate has criticized the air quality in building 4 since 2010.

The LOS foundation is the supporting organization for the assistance of migrants without residence permits. By means of this newsletter we inform you of current developments. If you have any questions about this newsletter or about the rights of migrants without residence permits, please contact LOS.

Minister: seven people left after unlawful checks on domestic workers in Kennemerland

In response to parliamentary questions, the minister stated that the aliens police was not allowed to check the residence permits of African charwomen in Kennemerland, since there was no probable cause to suspect illegal stay. However, as a result of the checks, seven people departed from the Netherlands, some of them voluntarily, others under duress. The employers have not been fined.

(response to parliamentary questions 1564, 16.2.12)

4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Women's eatery, 25 February from 6 p.m., Amsterdam

Women without residence permits often lead isolated lives. The need to meet other women, both women in the same situation as they - who are often confronted with the same problems - and women leading entirely different lives. That's why the Supportgroup Undocumented Women and the ASKV are organising a women's eatery.

Every last Saturday of the month you are welcome in 'de Peper', Overtoom 301, in Amsterdam (tram 1, stop J. P. Heijestraat). From 6 p.m., you are all welcome. By 7 p.m., there is (vegetarian) food and from 8 p.m., the informative part of the evening takes place. For 25 February, we have invited a guest who will tell us more about an in-depth NoBorderNetwork weekend in the Netherlands.

Information: www.svzv.nl

Seminar: migrant networks and return, 1 March 14.30-17.30 hrs the Hague

At this seminar, Richard Staring will present the study: "Ondersteuning bij Zelfstandige Terugkeer" ('Assistance upon independent return'), on the relevance of (trans)national social networks to the return of illegal migrants in the Netherlands to their country of origin.

Info: www.maatwerkbijterugkeer.nl/en/home; tel 030 7551580.

Conference Access Denied, 13-14mrt 2012 Amsterdam

Irregular immigrants and persons with weak immigration status are often excluded from the formal social security arrangements in their countries of work and residence. This raises a growing number of legal, practical and political issues. This conference seeks to analyse these issues and bring together academics, policy advisers, practitioners, international organisations, NGO's and representatives of migrant interest groups to explore alternative approaches to social protection and migration.

Info: www.rechten.vu.nl/accessdenied ; e-mail: Accessdenied.rch@vu.nl.

Migration tribunal Stockholm, 12 May Stockholm

People who flee to Europe are often met with disbelief and suspicion. Many are directly deported at the borders, despite risking their lives. Others are held up in prison-like detention centres lacking basic human rights. Once inside Europe, people are subjected to lengthy and complex asylum processes, often without legal advice. The vast majority of asylum applications are rejected, forcing people to return to extreme dangers. In order to survive, many choose to live hidden without any legal rights.

At Tribunal 12, Europe will be held accountable for these failures. Info: <http://tribunal12.org/>

The LOS foundation is the supporting organization for the assistance of migrants without residence permits. By means of this newsletter we inform you of current developments. If you have any questions about this newsletter or about the rights of migrants without residence permits, please contact LOS.