

NEWS LETTER, VOLUME 5 NR 18

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OFFICE UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS AMSTERDAM

As of 1 July Amsterdam has an Office for Undocumented Migrants. This office provides migrants without residence permits with answers to questions about shelter, legal or social support, health care issues etc. The office also refers people to the Bed, Bath, and Bread provisions in Amsterdam, supplied by HVO-Querido. The office is open for new registrations daily from 10-12 hours.

Location: Houtmankade 334-II, tel.: 020 7372472, mail: info@loket-ongedocumenteerden.nl.

Unfortunately the Amsterdam Bed, Bath and Bread locations have become filled to capacity during the last week. The municipality have to arrange additional shelter and support provisions. It is still not clear whether these will be found.

1. BASIC RIGHTS

Court of Appeal: two decisions about right to shelter and support undocumented migrants

In two different cases judges have decided that the freedom-restriction centre in Ter Apel does not meet the requirements of shelter without conditions in accordance with the view of the European Committee for Social Rights. The Bed, Bath, Bread provisions do meet these requirements (you can read more [here](#)); it is not mandatory to provide living expenses (you can read more [here](#)).

UN Committee against Racial Discrimination ask The Netherlands to provide shelter and support to undocumented migrants

In the report about The Netherlands (that also addressed the discussion about Black Peter) the UN Committee have also asked: 'Ensure that undocumented migrants are provided with food and shelter, as appropriate'. You can read more [here](#).

New rules about marriages as of 1 September

As of 1 September it is no longer the alien's police who decide whether a marriage may be a marriage of convenience, but the municipal civil servant. Giving notice of an intended marriage has been abolished; the marriage is announced in the municipality where the couple want to get married. If a Dutch person who lives abroad wants to get married in The Netherlands, he has to send the documentation to the municipality of The Hague. You can read more [here](#).

2. ADMISSION POLICY

Immigration and Nationalisation Service promise to postpone decisions about Somalis until new official country report has been issued

The security situation in Somalia is highly unstable. In a case about the security situation in Afghooye the Immigration and Nationalisation Service have promised to postpone taking decisions about Somali asylum seekers while awaiting a new official country report (Court of Appeal Zwolle AWE 15/14780, 26.8.15).

In another case the Council of State have decided that it is not clear in which cases Somalis who return from Europe could possibly be regarded as spies. Therefore returning to Somalia may be dangerous. This issue has to be dealt with in the new official country report as well (ABRvS, 201404616/1, 24.8.15).

UN Committee against Racial Discrimination also asked the Netherlands to abolish the Civic Integration Exam Abroad

In the report about the Netherlands (that also addressed the discussion about Black Peter) the UN Committee have also asked 'to discontinue the Civic Integration Examination Abroad and to allow migrants to take the Civic Integration Examination in the State party without discrimination'. You can read more [here](#).

Court of Appeal: revoking work- and family permits Chinese because of fraud

Since 2012 the Social Affairs and Employment Inspection have investigated Chinese sham companies. This is alleged to concern over 300 companies that had Chinese employees and expert migrants and

their families come over. In the time period of 2006 to 2011 over 800 people have entered the Netherlands through this trajectory. All permits are presently being revoked. You can read more [here](#).

Ireland: proposal regulation for undocumented migrants who have been in Ireland for four years
In Ireland a regulation is being prepared for approximately 20,000 migrants who have been in Ireland for over four years. Admitted migrants will be entitled to work for 2 years, but not to social security. After this period the permit can be turned into a permanent permit. In Ireland this mainly concerns migrants from the Philippines, China, Mauritius, Brazil and Pakistan. You can read more [here](#).

3. CHECK AND RETURN

State Secretary Security and Justice: campaigning police officers will not place migrants into detention
The police are campaigning for better employment conditions. Therefore campaigners from the aliens' police will temporarily refrain from detaining migrants, except for criminal migrants. For Dublin claimants (asylum seekers who have to be transferred to another country) the Removal and Deportation Service will be employed so that they can still be detained. For other undocumented migrants the risk of detention is smaller. You can read more [here](#).

4. ACTIVITIES

FRA: Severe labour exploitation - States' obligations and victims' rights

The report explores various criminal forms of labour exploitation in the EU affecting migrant workers moving within or into the EU. The findings show that criminal labour exploitation is extensive in a number of industries, particularly agriculture, construction, hotel and catering, domestic work, and manufacturing, and also that perpetrators are at little risk of prosecution or of having to compensate victims. The report is available [here](#).

Amnesty: sign the appeal to Prime Minister Rutte for help for refugees

Refugees have a right to security and a future. Action is required now in order to protect these rights. Therefore we appeal to Prime Minister Rutte to apply compassion in admitting refugees. Sign [here](#).

Significant: monitor Civil Integration Exam abroad

In 2014 approximately 2,500 examinations were taken. Eighty percent of candidates passed. Exemption was applied in 110 cases; half of these were granted. Most family migrants came from Morocco, the Philippines, China, Thailand and Russia; 75% of these migrants are female. You can read more [here](#).

In Limbo Embassy are looking for ambassadors

In Limbo Embassy is an art project in the form of a mobile Embassy for undocumented migrants. The Embassy are looking for refugees who can become Ambassadors and who want to share their stories. More information: www.inlimboembassy.org or through inlimboembassy@gmail.com.

Since 2003, the LOS Foundation (the Dutch acronym for 'Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt') has been the knowledge centre for people and organizations providing assistance to undocumented migrants. LOS Foundation devotes itself to the basic rights of these migrants and their children.