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STATE SECRETARY ON BED, BATH AND BREAD SCHEME

State secretary Harbers wants to cooperate with municipalities to reach an agreement on the bed, bath and bread relief. The VVD, CDA, D66 and ChristenUnie cabinet want to concentrate the relief in 8 locations. Two weeks after a person who has exhausted all legal means has arrived in the accommodation centre, work on his or her departure will have to commence. But, according to Harbers: "In certain cases, someone might need longer to to catch their breath. People may benefit from the peace and quiet in the accommodation centre. That is why we will consider the repatriation from those surroundings." How long undocumented people may remain in the accommodation centre has not been decided yet. The coalition agreement mentions 'a limited period', but Harbers want to be flexible in that respect, too.

Harbers makes a accommodation start on 'bed-bath-bread', 18.1.18

1. BASIC RIGHTS

Council of State: on the entitlement to benefits for a Dutch citizen with a foreign partner without residence rights.

The partner of this Dutch citizen had not converted her residence permit with a previous partner to her new partner. At the time of the application for renewal, it became clear that in the meantime, she had moved in with her new partner. Her residence permit was revoked retroactively, and her residence rights with her new partner were assessed. This new partner did not have sufficient income, but after his retirement that was not a problem any longer. The foreign partner therefore received a residence permit from the date of her new partner's retirement. The benefits up to that moment could be cancelled, but from the date of retirement, benefits can be granted. See here

2. ADMISSION POLICY

Court: no protection by Iranian authorities for victims of (sexual) domestic violence

The court concludes that women in Iran are bound to their spouse in such a way, that they cannot rely on the authorities for protection from sexual violence within the marriage. In theory, protection from domestic violence is possible, but because there are no women's shelters, they would have to return to their husband and therefore, it is not an option. The court therefore recognizes that the Iranian authorities cannot offer protection.

Court: family life with grandchildren important for determination of residence right

In two cases, the court has decided that to determine the family life in the Netherlands, not only the ties with children matter, but also those with grandchildren. The grandchildren's interest in living with their grandparents therefore has to be taken into account by the IND as well. One case regards a 67-year old Roma-woman who has lived in The Netherlands for 29 years without a residence right (Rb Haarlem AWB 17/5358, 11.1.18), the other an Armenian-Azerbaijan man (Rb Arnhem AWB 16/19065, 4.12.17).

3. CHECKS AND DETENTION

Council of State: deportations to China will be resumed

The Council of State has decided that there is a renewed prospect of deportation to China. China has sent a delegation that has to decide on the issuance of Laissez-Passers for the exit of Chinese nationals. Dozens of persons have been identified as Chinese, but no one has been deported as yet. The Council of State assesses that this will happen in the short term, which is why the immigration detention of Chinese persons is once again possible. See here

4. WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING?

Demonstration Don't Send Afghans Back, 18 Feb 13-18u Domplein Utrecht

Afghanistan is not safe at the moment. However, EU governments (including the Dutch government) are still sending Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan. We don't agree with this. On 18-02-2018, we will march through the centre of Utrecht. We are inviting speakers, there will be petitions to sign, there may be music, and we will march together.

Info: Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Utrecht-protest-18-February-2018-Don-t-Send-Afghans-Back-506007889798311/ and web: http://dontsendafghansback.eu/

Debate: 'Receiving instead of intercepting', 24 Feb 13.30-17u De Balie Amsterdam

During the first part of this meeting, we will focus on the fact that gender-related reasons for fleeing do not constitute valid asylum motives in the Dutch law on foreign nationals; during the second part, after a few expert presentations, we will debate with the public on more sensible approaches of the migration issue.

Organization: VTU, info: http://www.vrouwentegenuitzetting.com/node/114

WAVE Magazine: Violence against undocumented migrant and refugee women and their human rights With articles offering a unique and country-specific insight into the situation of this vulnerable group of migrant women. This topic was also a central focus of the activities undertaken within the context of our pan-European WAVE Step Up! Campaign in 2017, together with PICUM. https://www.wave-network.org/resources/fempower-magazine