

NEWS LETTER, VOLUME 4 NR 24

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SHELTER AND SUPPORT FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Since the publication of the decision of the European Committee for Social Rights stating that undocumented migrants have a right to food, clothing and shelter, several municipalities have announced they will provide shelter to undocumented migrants. In Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Nijmegen night shelters for everyone are being set up.

The LOGO municipalities (municipalities for a better policy for providing shelter) have asked Teeven, the Secretary of State, to stop throwing people out of Asylum Centres onto the streets. The Secretary of State is not willing to respond to this.

He also said he will not spend any money to providing shelter to undocumented migrants. He wants to await the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe's response to the decision by the European Committee for Social Rights. The PvdA are still of the opinion that the Secretary of State should comply with the decision but will accept that he awaits the response of the Committee of Ministers.

1. BASIC RIGHTS

Secretary of State: by way of exception Dutch children will be housed in Family locations

Family locations are intended for families who have exhausted all legal remedies and their children. In some cases mothers with Dutch children who have exhausted all legal remedies are housed in these locations; the same applies in some cases where the Dutch fathers are unwilling or unable to take care of the child. In fact this is not supposed to happen but the mothers concerned have no other options. The Secretary of State's reply to Parliamentary Questions read that each individual case is judged separately. You will find more information [here](#).

2. ADMISSION POLICY

Secretary of State: withdrawal residence permit in case of criminal record not to be made harsher

Since 2004 it has become increasingly easier to withdraw the residence permits from migrants who have a criminal record. Secretary of State Teeven wanted to make this policy even more draconic. But according to investigators this will not result in the withdrawal of more residence permits. Therefore the Secretary of State will not press ahead with the policy change. You will find more information [here](#).

Secretary of State: return of ill people to Ebola countries will be assessed individually

In a written statement the Secretary of State has announced that medical care in Ebola countries might be inadequate. In each of the cases he will provide individual assessments as to whether it is safe to return ill people to these countries. You will find more information [here](#).

Council of State: protection from people traffickers possible in Sierra Leone

In this case the Council of State have decided that Sierra Leone is putting a lot of effort into combating human trafficking. Therefore this woman, who was a victim of human trafficking, can be evicted. You will find more information [here](#).

3. CHECK AND DEPORTATION

Secretary of State: countries that provide difficulties concerning the return of migrants

Some countries hardly provide any co-operation with returning migrants; these countries include Afghanistan, Algeria, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iraq, Morocco and Somalia. For these countries a special policy has been adopted in order to force them to co-operate (budget ministry of Aliens Affairs, question 382, 20.11.14).

4. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Conference 'Migration as a family matter' 30-31 March, VU Amsterdam

This conference revolves around the theme *Migration law and family relations*. Confirmed keynote speakers are [Virginie Guiraudon](#) (SciencesPo) and [Alison Diduck](#) (University College London). More information about the event can be found [here](#).

Request for accounts of 'safe reporting of offences'

The European Directive on Victims of Crime has to be implemented in The Netherlands by November 2015. The Directive on Victims of Crime entitles victims of criminal offences to information, participation, shelter and protection. Article 1 of this Directive states that these rights apply to undocumented victims as well. However, the Dutch draft legislation does not mention anything about this. Without an explicit regulation undocumented migrants will be too frightened of the police, which will prevent them from seeking help.

Accounts by undocumented people's contacts with the police contribute to the lobby to change the draft law accordingly. Please send these accounts to Stichting LOS.
(rian.ederveen@stichtinglos.nl)

Please sign the petition for bed-bath-bread in Amsterdam

GroenLinks has launched a petition for a regulation to provide Bed, Bath and Bread for migrants in Amsterdam, including inhabitants of the Vluchtgarage. If you sign before this Wednesday 26 November your vote will be presented to the municipal council of Amsterdam. Please visit www.petities24.com/asielzoekers.