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FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ALSO FOR UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN IN AMSTERDAM

Since 20 July, Amsterdam children aged 4 to 11 have free travel on local city buses, trams and metros of the GVB transport company, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Eligibility requires them to have a citizen service number (BSN), which is something that undocumented people do not have.

‘We very much want all children living in Amsterdam to be able to use public transport for free,’ a spokesperson for the municipality said on Monday evening. ‘Therefore, we have agreed with Stichting Leergeld that undocumented people can request a special code through their contact person with which they can still apply for free public transport for children. Stichting Leergeld regularly helps us implement schemes for this target group.’

www.parool.nl/amsterdam/kinderen-van-ongedocumenteerden-komen-in-amsterdam-toch-in, 22.7.24

ADMISSION POLICY

District Court: integration-related language exam in foreign country is unlawful discrimination

Family migrants who wish to come to the Netherlands to join their partner must first pass a language exam at the Netherlands Embassy in their country. This does not apply to family migrants from 'western' countries, such as the United States and South Korea. According to the court, this is unlawful discrimination by nationality. (District Court Utrecht (mk), NL23.31943, 16.7.24)

NB: in recent months, other judges have also issued the same ruling. We now await the Council of State's ruling on this issue.

District Court: foster children have the right to stay with aunt in the Netherlands, rest of their family in Surinam unable to care for them

This case is about whether nieces from Surinam may come to the Netherlands to live with their aunt. Their mother has been proven unable to care for them. The grandmother and grandfather are old and, according to the GP, are also unable to care for them. The rest of the uncles and aunts live in too small accommodations and cannot take in the children either. The court finds that the children are best off coming to their aunt in the Netherlands. (District Court Rotterdam NL23.14708, 19.7.24)

District Court: Azerbaijani son admitted to NL to provide family care to his mother of 75

After his mother's partner passed away, this Azerbaijani son has been visiting his mother in the Netherlands for three months every half year since 2016, to provide her with family care. Letters from attending doctors reveal that the mother has many medical complaints and suffers severe psychological consequences when her son is not with her. According to the psychologist, it is very important to her that her son can be with her permanently. The court agreed. See [here](#).

CHECK AND DETENTION

District Court: patrol officer's statement on illegal residence is sufficient reason for ID check

In this case, the patrol officer had told the immigration police that people without a residence permit were living at a certain address. The immigration police went to the address and arrested the person and placed them in immigration detention. The court ruled that the patrol officer's statement was sufficient reason for the ID check. See [here](#).

ACTIVITIES

FEPS: Putting African perspectives at the centre of EU migration policies, 10 Sept. 9:30–13:00 hrs, Brussels

In the current global context, migration has once again returned to the top of the European and national political agenda. However, short-term, simplistic and narrow policy responses will not only fail to address existing challenges but will likely exacerbate the consequences of mismanagement.

In 2024, the European Union reached an agreement on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Many question marks, however, remain on its implementation and on its capability to ensure the respect of human rights and the EU's increased tendency to outsource migration management to third countries. In earlier online expert meetings, we focused on three key challenges, namely the implications of the EU Asylum reform for the African countries, the labour shortages, the legal pathways and the African perspectives on the complex interplay between EU migration and development policy on the continent. Building on the results of these exchanges, this conference will allow for an open debate with key stakeholders about these critical issues considering diverse viewpoints and challenges. See [here](#).