



Stichting Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt

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NEWS LETTER, volume 1 nr 5

28 March 2011

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Please sign to provide children after eight years in the Netherlands with residence permits

Under the heading 'The Netherlands wave goodbye' the Dutch broadcasting corporation VARA have started an action to provide children with a send-off. Children and young adults who have established roots in our country will be evicted from this country. The VARA do not want to let the deportation of these children go by unnoticed and therefore they will wave them goodbye! You will find more information on www.nederlandzwaaituit.nl.

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.

1. Basic rights

Entitlement to places in nursing homes for 'illegal migrants'

In all cases 'illegal' migrants are entitled to health care. The court of appeal have decided that 'illegal' migrants must be allowed places in rehabilitation centres or nursing homes.

Survey in Belgium: half of the 'illegal' migrants live on less than 145.- a month

Over ninety percent of the 'illegal' migrants in Belgium live on less than 450.- a month. In addition to this 37 percent of the 'illegal' migrants think they are in bad or even very bad health. Lack of sleep, loneliness, anxiety and addiction are the most prevalent conditions.

2. Admission

Somalis from Central and South Somalia will not be deported and will be given shelter and support

The Minister has suspended the eviction of Somalis from other regions than the North of Somalia. They are entitled to shelter and support in asylum seeker residence centres. Their status has to be decided upon after a period of at most a year.

Family life: Minister Leers needs Europe for harsh family reunion policy

Minister Leers has written a proposal for the adaptation of the European rules stipulating which family members are to be issued residence permits. The plans of the government can only be implemented if all European countries agree to this. This involves the following government plans:

- both partners have to be at least 24 years of age
- the Dutch partner must earn more than the minimum wage
- it must be possible to require the Dutch partner to pay a deposit
- the Dutch partner is allowed to invite a new partner once every ten years at most
- the family must have stronger bonds with the Netherlands than with the country of origin
- the foreign partner will not be admitted if there are suspicions the Dutch partner has committed domestic violence in the past
- the foreign partner must have a certain level of education
- the residence permit can be withdrawn if the naturalization requirements have not been met
- the 'Belgium route' is not to be used to legalize 'illegal' partners

It is by no means certain that all European countries will endorse these plans.

Extension status human trafficking: risk on leaving the Netherlands must be taken into account

This concerns a victim of human trafficking whose provisional residence permit has been withdrawn. She asked for extended residence. The Immigration and Naturalisation

Service was not willing to examine the risks of deportation to the country of origin, because the Immigration and Naturalisation Service was not certain whether Guinea was her actual country of origin. The court of appeal have decided that the Immigration and Naturalisation Service do have to examine the risks of whichever country the person is deported to on leaving the Netherlands.

3. Check and Deportation

Minister Leers has postponed the vote about the legislative proposal 'once illegal, always illegal'

Last week a legislative proposal was to be put to the vote. This proposal stipulates that no residence permits are to be issued if the person had resided illegally in the Netherlands before. The vote concerning this proposal has been postponed. The Minister has also written a letter about the plans to provide 'illegals' who are still in the Netherlands with injunctions to enter this country. People with such injunctions who reside in the Netherlands commit a punishable offence. The Minister says that such injunctions will only be provided if it is certain that the 'illegal' migrant is not entitled to a residence permit. In harrowing cases the injunction can be withdrawn, according to the Minister.

The LOS foundation and many other organisations are opposed to these injunctions to enter the country, because the need for such measures has not been proven and because it renders innocent people liable to punishment.

4. What can be done?

Presentation "Ondernemen in de toekomst" (Future enterprises) by former unaccompanied minor asylum seekers 31 March 14-18u, Utrecht

'Many (former) unaccompanied minor asylum seekers have been forced into a highly inactive situation. During the time when they were waiting for their status they were forced to put their dreams about the future on hold. They have become accustomed to thinking, acting and communicating from a perspective of 'not being allowed and not being able'. These young people do not know where to begin if they want to take their destiny into their own hands and how to go about that. They have to re-learn to provide for themselves there as well as here, through craftsmanship, career plans, projects, or possibly through their own companies'.

More information and application: www.beyondborders.nu

BlinN information and culture festival, 3 May 12-17.00u Utrecht

This festival is meant for victims of human trafficking. For this festival care workers may invite clients with whom they still maintain intensive contact. Travel expenses for these clients can be claimed afterwards.

There are workshops such as 'Dating in the Netherlands', 'Rights in the Netherlands', 'drawing mandalas', 'beauty'! There will be a DJ, a thought-provoking play and a surprise for you. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

For the care workers we will also provide lunch and a nice programme divided over two workshops.

Please contact: Nadèzda Broshuis, 0205321100/ 0611011546, n.broshuis@blinn.nl

European homeless organisation asks for shelter and support services for 'illegal' migrants

FEANTSA, the European lobby organisation for supporting the homeless, want homeless people to have shelter and support, food and health care, even those who have no residence permits. FEANTSA have issued a request for this at the European Commissioner for Social Affairs. On 19 March there will be a conference in The Hague (held in the English language) about the right to shelter for 'illegal' migrants. Further information can be obtained at the LOS foundation.