



Stichting Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt

Kanaalstraat 243 | 3531 CJ Utrecht | tel 030 2990222 | fax 030 2990223 | e-mail info@stichtinglos.nl

NEWS LETTER, volume 1 nr 6

11 April 2011

Contents

1. Basic rights.....	2
2. Admission policy.....	2
3. Check and Deportation.....	3
4. What can be done?	3

Wij Blijven! (We Stay!) – Society of children without a residence permit

Defence for Children has announced the foundation of Wij Blijven! (We Stay!). This is a society for children who have lived in the Netherlands for over five year and have no permits. Together with Wij Blijven!, we intend to campaign for the recognition of the fact that children who are rooted in the Netherlands should be able to stay here. Click [here](#) for more information (in Dutch).

The LOS foundation is the supporting organisation 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 foundation.

1. Basic rights

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights advocates for human rights for illegal migrants

Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has declared herself in favour of protecting the dignity and the human rights of irregular migrants. Their status makes them particularly vulnerable to discrimination and they have difficulty gaining access to public services. That is why the High Commissioner wishes to focus on them.

Ambassadors exploit domestic staff

Radio Netherlands Worldwide has reported on the labour conditions of ambassadorial domestic staff working for foreign embassies in The Hague. In many cases, they are Indonesian or Philippine women. Their passports are frequently seized and they are forced to work long hours for low wages.

2. Admission policy

Status for Afghan girls who have resided in the Netherlands for a long time

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has performed a study of the risks Afghan girls run if they return to Afghanistan after a long-term residence in the Netherlands. These girls will be conspicuous because of their behaviour. They will run into problems at school and in society. That is why the minister has decided to provide westernised girls with a status. The decision is made individually, but a girl must be at least ten years old and have lived in the Netherlands for 8 years. According to the Ministry approximately 400 girls and their families will be given a status.

Law court wants new decision regarding Iraqi victim of honour killing

In the Netherlands, this Iraqi woman fell victim to domestic violence. On this count, her husband was given a prison sentence. He returned to Iraq. The woman is afraid of honour killing if she were to be sent back to Iraq. The court ruled that the Immigration and Naturalisation Service must redo its enquiry of whether this woman can be protected by the Iraqi government after returning to Iraq.

Law court wants new decision re Cameroonian woman, victim of domestic violence

This Cameroonian woman feel victim to domestic violence while living in Cameroon. She applied for asylum. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) is aware that the Cameroon government cannot protect her, but judged that NGOs can. The court ruled that the IND must redo its enquiry of whether NGO can offer sufficient protection in her circumstances.

Council of State judges that conversion of Iranians is no reason for asylum

The Council of State, the appeal court, has ruled once again that the conversion of Iranians is insufficient grounds for a status.

Temporarily no decisions on requests for asylum by Ivory Coast and Somali refugees

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service has announced statutory provisions with regard to asylum applications by refugees from Ivory Coast and (Central and South) Somalia. This means that it will not take up requests for asylum from asylum seekers from these countries. The provision for Ivory Coast will obtain for six months, the one for Somalia will obtain for twelve months. Asylum seekers from these countries who check in with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service are entitled to shelter and support.

Naturalisation will become more difficult

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will make it harder to obtain the Dutch nationality. He has drawn up a bill that includes conditions such as:

- renounce own nationality
- language test
- 5 years' legal residence in the Netherlands, except for married people
- completed education (or work experience) and a job

The plans are still to be discussed in the House of Representatives.

3. Check and Deportation

EU Commissioner Malmström opposed to making illegal residence an offence

Mrs. Malmström answered questions by Euro MPs regarding the plans of the Dutch government to make illegal residence an offence. She stated that the European Return Directive was not meant to criminalise all irregular migrants.

Amsterdam assistant commissioner Leo Wilde is opposed to making illegal residence an offence

Leo Wilde wants to be able to arrest criminal irregular migrants. However, if illegal residence is made an offence, police officers are to arrest *all* irregular migrants. In that case, it will become more difficult to work at achieving safety in the city. Moreover, it becomes more difficult for police officers to offer assistance to irregular migrants who are victims.

4. What can be done?

Dental care for undocumented migrants in Weesp, through 15 April!

DentalZorg **temporarily** provides dental care to undocumented migrants free of charge. Appointments can be made through the OFFICE PHONE NUMBER of DentalZorg in Amsterdam: 020-635 2666. Ask if any time slots are still available, and – this is really important - only make an appointment if it is certain that the patient will be there, and at the designated time! Address of dental practice: DentalZorg, E. du Perronstraat 24, 1382 SZ Weesp, 0294 - 450 999

Never Work Alone

This [book](#) deals with the fight against human trafficking and forced labour (slavery). It described legislation in various European countries. The book also describes how trade unions and NGOs can improve their collaboration in the fight against human trafficking.

That may sometimes be hard, but experience shows that working together yields the best results.