

## MY RIGHT IS YOUR RIGHT—MANIFESTO Network, Platform & Campaign

We are an alliance of creative artists, activists, lawyers, refugees, church officials, clubs, unionists, neighborhood initiatives and many other groups and individuals that began working together with the campaign “MY RIGHT IS YOUR RIGHT” on November 24th, 2014 at Ballhaus Naunynstraße. What connects us is the wish for stronger political interventions in regards to Berlin refugee policies. We are opening the doors of theatres and other public places to the matters of fairer politics in the interests of refugees. The protests and organizations of the refugees in the Gerhart-Hauptmann-School and from Oranienplatz are the starting points for our engagement. Together we are building up a political campaign. We organize “Non-Parliamentary Round Tables” at regular intervals. Out of our work- and coordinative groups a new and broad network and (online) platform for exchange have developed: for work, education, places to sleep, language courses and donations as well as performances, actions, and demonstrations. For us, this is neither about charity nor humanitarian aid. We want to collectively push for a political change. While we oppose Pegida and the “*Nein zum Heim*”, we are not just a spontaneous reaction against the mobilization of the right. We aim to establish a long-term infrastructure that thematizes and works against structural and daily forms of racism.

The asylum policies in Germany and Europe have failed. The new walls that were built in and around Europe after 1990 signal a continuation of European colonialism. People who have overcome these borders at the risk of their own lives have reported about their experiences. However, their voices and demands are barely heard. While German enterprises like Heckler & Koch transport their weapons to regions of war, people are dying in the Mediterranean Sea, trying to escape armed conflicts and wars. While the European governments are establishing trade agreements outside of the EU that only further solidify exploitation and poverty, people are prohibited from migrating. Through racial profiling, the police, authorities and institutions are continuing within the EU what the border patrol agency Frontex does at the external borders.

The processions and dealings with refugees in Berlin have shown that this city is not the open metropolis that it claims to be. The eviction of the protest camps at Oranienplatz and the attempted eviction of the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Schule are examples of the reality that for many people there is no “welcoming culture” (“*Willkommenskultur*”) here. In order to change this, a fundamental change of perspective is necessary. The ongoing protest movements of refugees and the solidarity with their struggles have shown alternatives: ‘République en fuite’, ‘Refugee Impulse Club’, ‘Akademie der Autodidakten’, ‘SOS for Human Rights’, ‘International Women Space’, ‘Movement Magazin’, ‘Cucula’, ‘Jugendliche ohne Grenzen’, ‘African Refugees Union’ and many more. Our campaign wants to establish spaces for empowerment in order to heighten the visibility of the struggle against discrimination, since especially refugees/sans papiers are often confronted with multi-faceted discrimination. The right to stay (“*Bleiberecht*”) is an important step, but it does not ensure protection against all forms of discrimination.

The fact that the Berliner Senate broke the negotiated agreement for Oranienplatz, for which people fought politically, and in turn has sent people to live on the streets during the winter shows how little they value human dignity. This is a cause for change and to strongly present the demands of the refugees in many directions and ways: We reject the isolation of people through placing them in *Lagers*. All people should be able to freely choose their place of residence. The *Residenzpflicht* that has robbed people of their freedom of movement must be completely abolished. Refugees should also be granted the right to settle in

whichever country they would like within the EU. The right to work and education must be applied to everyone. Deportations must be stopped. Different asylum policies in Germany and the EU are possible if we collectively demand them and take matters into our own hands.  
YOUR RIGHT IS MY RIGHT! MY RIGHT IS YOUR RIGHT!