

SHARE ***A City Says Yes!***



Aachen / Germany

**„SHARE“ –
Building a resettlement network for
European municipalities , cities and
regions**

Brussels, 21. October 2013

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„FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL“

UNHCR: The number of refugee is increasing

→ only 15 to 20% of all refugees flee to Europe

- more then 60Million refugees and asylum seekers around the world
- Lampedusa is a signal to change the European way in refugee politics
-

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Examples of such ad-hoc programs (in the past)

- admission of Chilean refugees in the seventies,
- The inclusion of Vietnamese and Cambodian boat people in the eighties,
- The inclusion of Albanian refugees and war and civil war refugees from the former Yugoslavia and Kosovo in the mid-1990s,

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- The inclusion of 2,500 Iraqi refugees from Syria and Jordan in the years 2009 and 2010
- Recently the inclusion of a small number of Iranian refugees from Turkey in 2011.
- In addition, Germany is participating the European solidarity initiative for relocation of several hundred refugees from various African countries
- actually Germany will take 5000 Syrian refugees in the resettlement programm
- 1100 will come to NRW / how many will come to Aachen?

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Resettlement as a durable solution for refugees

- Currently, are available each year only about 80,000 res.refugees
- In a few years we need more than 700,000 (UNHCR)
- It is used in particular resettlement as a protection tool for refugees
- Resettlement is a long term solution for refugees
- But also we need more protection and safety for asylum-seekers,they also need a stabil situation in all countries of Europe
- We need different and lasting solutions

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EU and the proposal for a common EU resettlement program (2009)

- Recording capacity will be increased
- In 2009, only 10% from 85,000 resettlement refugees worldwide comes to Europe
- in the moment there is no obligation provided, only volunteers support
- our cities need more financial support from their government

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Aachen (some facts)

- At the border to Belgium and the Netherlands
- Nearly 260,000 inhabitants
- 40,000 students
- People from more than 120 nations
- more than 25% with an immigration background
- long tradition of providing a place of safety

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- Sensitive to upholding human rights
- More than 600 refugees (Asylum seekers)
- In the moment only 45 persons in our resettlement-programm
- A long tradition for refugee protection in a strong network with NGO`s and churches
- Increasing of the social budget (more then 30% in 2 years)
- Difficult to find housings /Jobs /
- We need more professional staff an equal standarts for our refugees

- **- actuell facts (2013)**

- 5192 persons needs help from our social budget (increase 30%)
- 941 asylum seekers / refugees (increase 50% 2011-2013)
- 45 resettlement refugees since 2009
- The social budget in Aachen in 2013 : 170 Million Euro
- (increase 30%)
- Increasing prices for housing in the city
- Upcomming discussion about to much refugees and social security
- Demonstration from NPD and Pro NRW (right wing parties) in front of refugee housings
-

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Aachen and resettlement

- It starts with a resolution from Amnesty International Churches and our refugee Network
- Political decision in 2009
- Strong signal for our partners
- A signal for other cities in Germany
- Bring us forward in our discussion around asylum and support for refugees (from global to local)
-

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Aachen / Our Framework

- Partnership between the city, the civil society, churches and NGO's and administration
- bring local and resettlement partners together
- Partner for living, school, learning, professional support
- Conferences and round tables with all partners
- New structures in administration
- Political discussions and decisions makes our local network stronger

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Save-Me in Aachen

- Partner – Amnesty International, churches and NGO`s
- More than 600 volunteers involved
- Since 2009 we welcomed more than 40 refugees
- From Iraq, Somalia and Syria
- We want to do more, but we need more financial support from the government
- Networking between cities can help to increase resettlement
- We have to speak with one voice

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Networking

- Exchange between Share-Cities is very important
- Learn about resettlement training and information-sharing
- Nürnberg, Sheffield, Hull and the other cities in Europe
- Exchange of experience, exchange of support
- Networking make cities stronger
- Strong cities are strong partners for refugees
- Is it possible to find an equal level for all cities?

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the Future

- European solutions for refugees
- Welcome culture as a society label “Yes we can”
- Develop the resettlement program for all cities in Europe
- Exchange between cities in a SHARE-NETWORK
- To find a way to continue the Networking
- from local to global : Share City Network can be a strong partner in the European discussion to increasing Resettlement and refugee politics

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Thank you to ICMC for organizing this important exchange and to give us the opportunity to develop the resettlement program in our cities