The Human Rights of migrant and refugee peoples is often very difficult or even impossible within German and European courts. At the same time, we are currently witnessing a shift in our social discourse to the far right and an infringement of our democratic and social values. This political trend is accompanied by the introduction of increasingly repressive policies, which are not only directed against refugees but further threaten their support systems.

The Corona Pandemic has intensified this situation: Without health insurance or valid residence documents, refugees and migrants are at high risk and fear of a possible infection with Covid-19. In particular, mass accommodations in comparison to private homes exacerbate this risk of infection. Simultaneously deportations, even of vulnerable groups, are carried out to countries whose health systems and economies have been of poor quality before the crisis and have now largely collapsed.

Who we are

We are an alliance of various human rights and health organisations, migrant self-organisations and activists who work together to defend the rights of migrants and refugees. Together with the Transnational Migrant Platform we are organising the Berlin hearing of the 45th session of the Permanent Peoples’ Tribunal. The Berlin hearing addresses human rights violations in the area of health that migrants and refugees have experienced in Germany and/or in the context of the European asylum policy.

We denounce human rights violations of refugee and migrant peoples in the following areas:

1. Access to health care
2. Consequences of living standards in mass accommodation on mental and physical health
3. Residence status, deportation and health
4. Criminalisation of civil humanitarian assistance
5. Germany’s responsibility regarding the European policy of sealing external border

Racism, gender and age specific aspects are cross-sectional topics throughout the indictment

Why we need such a tribunal in Germany

Since 2016, the political climate in Germany has deteriorated massively in relation to refugees and migrants. Asylum applications are being rejected more and more rigorously and sick, traumatised and pregnant people are being increasingly deported. The enforcement of the Human Rights of migrant and refugee peoples is often very difficult or even impossible within German and European courts. At the same time, we are currently witnessing a shift in our social discourse to the far right and an infringement of our democratic and social values. This political trend is accompanied by the introduction of increasingly repressive policies, which are not only directed against refugees but further threaten their support systems.

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Our goals

With the Berlin hearing, we want to raise the public awareness for these developments. Migrants and refugees will be at the centre of the hearing as social actors, as witnesses and as part of migrant self-organisations working to change the conditions at the political level.

In addition, the Tribunal serves to strengthen alliances between migrant organisations, refugee movements, social collectives, research institutions, academia and related actors. Our alliance aims to contribute to a just, anti-racist, social and climate-friendly society. For that, we will derive concrete proposals and demands from the Tribunal to promote and advocate for the human right to health of refugees and migrants.

Contact

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List of signatories from organisations and individuals

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IPPNW e.V.
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Love146
Medibüro Berlin
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MediNetz Bielefeld
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