

## Position Paper of the City of Zurich on the Subject of Sans-Papiers

With this position paper on the subject of sans-papiers, the City Council of Zurich sets out the principles it considers important and specifies concrete measures with regard to the city's follow-up work. In this context, it also addresses the idea of a Züri City Card.

1. Sans-papiers are a reality in Switzerland and in the city of Zurich. People without a regulated residence status live and work with us. The City Council considers them part of the population and recognises them as part of our society with corresponding rights and obligations.
2. Sans-papiers who have lived in the city of Zurich for several years should be regularised under transparent conditions and integrated into the regulated labour market. The City Council represents and communicates this position towards the Canton and the Confederation.
3. Sans-papiers must be able to exercise their central basic and human rights without risk. The Canton and the federal government have a particular responsibility in this regard. The City Council calls on them to examine and implement appropriate improvements in the scope of their possibilities.
4. The City of Zurich assumes responsibility for the sans-papiers living here. Within the scope of its possibilities and competencies, it contributes to improving the situation of sans-papiers in Zurich. Measures to this end are:
  - a) The City Council is committed to ensuring that sans-papiers have access to municipal services and facilities. Access for sans-papiers is regularly checked and, where necessary and possible, facilitated.
  - b) The City Council is examining how to improve and secure health care for those without health insurance in accordance with motion GR No. 2017/376 adopted by the City Parliament.
  - c) The City Council considers the right to education to be extensive. Also for sans-papiers, it begins with pre-school and goes beyond compulsory schooling to encompass a formal educational qualification. In particular, the situation after the end of compulsory education is to be examined more closely.

- d) The City Council examines in which cases the legal status of foreigners must be ascertained when their identity is established. It will adapt the practice accordingly. It will commission a legal opinion to clarify whether and to what extent a municipal identity card can contribute to this.
- e) The City Council is prepared to support private bodies that offer advisory and information services in favour of sans-papiers.
- f) The City of Zurich strengthens internal cooperation on the subject of sans-papiers and active exchange with civil society organisations. The City Council welcomes an in-depth review and further discussion to strengthen urban citizenship in the city of Zurich.

With regard to the idea of a Zurich City Card presented by civil society organisations in September 2017, the city council is of the opinion that with its comprehensive claim, this card carries the risk of not being able to fulfil some of the expectations associated with it. In particular, the hope of a legal protective function for foreigners associated with it is questionable and could lead to sans-papiers lulling themselves into a false sense of security. In contrast to various cities in the USA, it is not possible for a Swiss city to declare itself a Sanctuary City. Swiss cities must comply with applicable law and must also fully participate in the implementation of the applicable law on foreign nationals.

Zurich, 5 September 2018

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