Illegalization is a safety risk
People of different origins live together in every city. Not all citizens have a German passport, not everybody has a secure resident permit status. This results in some people having very limited access to social benefits. The law for social benefits for asylum seekers expects them to live on an even lower base than what Hartz IV provides (current term for social benefit in Germany). Others have to live completely without any benefit from the state. As undocumented persons they need to avoid almost any contact with the authorities. Persons who are only tolerated ("Duldung") live in a state of constant insecurity under the threat of deportation. Illegalized people become invisible. They can not send their children to school or kindergarten, afford rudimentary health care and they are forced to stay out of work or to work under bad conditions. The possibility to be proactive and selforganized is impeded.

Don't ask, don't tell – Actively ignoring the resident permit status
A new class of people is formed. They have no or little rights, depend on governmental help and social welfare and are forced into passivity. This not only overlooks human potentials and creates unnecessary costs, but ignores Human rights and threatens the social life in the cities. Exemplary, illegalised people are out of the question as witnesses before court. Also giving first aid can be dangerous for them. In most cases however it is not even necessary nor obligatory for authorities, schools, medical practices or clinics to require data concerning the resident permit status, let alone to pass them on. Therefore „Don’t ask, don’t tell“ speaks of a practice which is the minimal consensus for all actors in a Solidarity City.

Cities of Refuge – Sanctuary Cities
Solidarity Cities is a worldwide network
Since 1970, 250 cities have declared themselves as Cities of Refuge. They want to provide access to public services for all and refuse to collaborate with public services for all and refuse to collaborate with public services for all and refuse to collaborate with police departments. They call themselves Cities of Refuge, Sanctuary Cities or Solidarity Cities – the concept being basically the same. In the US Sanctuary Cities have a higher average household income, less unemployment, and less crime compared with communities who don’t participate in the network. In Germany Cities of Refuge are also possible. They can provide a better and safer communal living. Groups and alliances in many German cities are planning to participate in the international network. Also in Switzerland there are current movements to facilitate easier living conditions for illegalised people.

Solidarity Cities in Germany
Cities are liable for the welfare of all citizens, not only for those with a German passport. Nationality and resident permit status should not be a second or third class citizens. All inhabitants of a city benefit when social solidarity is practised. When people with a precarious resident permit status can participate actively at the society, work, live, learn and provide for themselves. In the international movement of Solidarity and Sanctuary Cities alliances of solidarity action groups i.e. with municipal administrations, healthcare authorities, schools, trade unions, and also with police departments can be found. All of them act for various reasons for the assumption that segregating the city into legal, so called tolerated and illegalized persons causes problems for communal living. We call a case for communal politics, local institutions, (i.e. Kindergarten, schools, companies, chambers, clinics) and civil society to join the movement of Sanctuary/ Solidarity Cities. Let us discuss which communal spaces we can demand to use to that end.
New initiatives for a Solidarity City

There are initiatives in a bunch of cities - our goal is to network and support each other.

Augsburg
At the beginning of 2017 the initiative “Augsburg – Solidary City of Refuge” was founded. Coming from the local refugee-council a broad alliance of municipal groups are working towards Augsburg becoming a City of Refuge in which migrants in need can find a new home.
33 fleuchtingensraum@gmail.com

Berlin
Solidarity City is a network of organisations of individuals and was founded in 2015. Our organisation is an assembly of migrants, refugees, and illegalised people, as well as groups of people who can help in respective situations, and other supporters.
99 kontaktsolcity-berlin.org,99 solidarity-city-berlin.org

Bern
“All of us are Bern.” Not where we come from, but where we live and our mutual future should be in the centre of focus. The Café Cosmopolis where those who are targets of racism can meet and communicate, a work group against racial profiling, as well as an initiative for a Bern City-ID-Card belong to the beginning from the beginning people without documents were included.
99 wil-ein-stin bern@mermedach

Bremen
We see ourselves as a municipal network that connects existing infrastructure and already ongoing fights wanting to reinforce them. We are fighting for equal rights and social participation for all people, whatever it concerns medical health care, education or political participation.
99 start@solcity-bremen.org

Darmstadt
A currently very small initiative group for a solidarity city has been formed. Practical approaches are church asylum and civil asylum. The goal is to go beyond stopping deportation with a broader focus.
99 daspigi@mxnet.org

Frankfurt
The Frankfurt action alliance engages in protecting people, who have fled to Frankfurt. It is our goal that the political bodies sign up to stop deportation. Those who live in Frankfurt are Frankfurters.
99 solidarity-city-fmk@zukunft-net

Freiburg
The “Solidarity City”-Initiative has established itself from longtime civil engagement for human rights and the right of residence. Monthly plenums and individual theme-oriented work groups want to establish a broad platform in the city that helps to fight for better living conditions for everyone.
99 zufluchtfreiburger-forum.net,99 freiburger-forum.net/zufluchtfreiburger-forum.net

Göttingen
The solidarity city of Göttingen is founded on the cooperation of MedNet, living-space initiatives, anti-racism groups and others. Derived from the support of illegalised people and the experience gained through church asylum the development of “citizen asylum” is one of its first practical initiatives.
99 solidcity-goepolit@zukunft-net

Hamburg
“Never mind the papers” works on a longterm project about “Urban Citizenship” and a Solidarity City Hamburg which focuses on the fields of housing, staying education and all of precarized people. The “Wekstkreis Hamburg Hat Platz!” demand the instant acceptance of

We demand:
Every person living in a city...
- shall have a right to basic provision
- shall have access to infrastructures of the city
- shall have the chance to educate themselves
- shall have medical care and counselling
- shall have a right to political participation
- shall have a right to participate culturally
- shall have the right to stay

These rights shall be granted independently from resident permit status of a person. We say: No one is illegal!

Illegislation of people and their exclusion is not a solution; it is solidaryocity-eu

www.solidarity-city.eu

Is your city missing?
Get active, inform yourself about networking and possibilities in your city on solidarity-city.eu