

OUR DEMANDS

We demand:

- ▶ An end to arbitrary checks
- ▶ Protection of private spaces
- ▶ Clear and transparent rules
- ▶ Independent complaints offices
- ▶ Access to counseling for all
- ▶ Greater participation for residents and participation through, for example, residents' councils
- ▶ Humane living conditions
- ▶ Compliance with minimum standards

Additionally:

- ▶ Access to education and language courses
- ▶ Access to employment and training
- ▶ Reduction of discrimination
- ▶ Support for self-organized groups and initiatives

PERSPECTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION

Integration succeeds where people can truly participate. Participation and integration are achieved through equal access to work, education, housing, and social life, and by dismantling structural barriers.

People should not remain in large institutions for extended periods.

Important:

- ▶ Early access to independent living space
- ▶ Living in towns and communities
- ▶ Social contacts and local support

It's about dignity and the fundamental question: How are people treated? Privacy, respect, and self-determination are not extras. **They are fundamental rights.**

These rights apply everywhere – including in shared accommodations.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS.

You are not powerless.

You can:

- ▶ Know your rights
- ▶ Claim them
- ▶ Defend yourself
- ▶ Get support
- ▶ Get involved

Volunteering by and for refugees is a crucial pillar of integration. It promotes language acquisition, facilitates social connections, and strengthens self-esteem, while simultaneously breaking down prejudices. You can connect with other groups and active individuals in various fields. Together with others, you can make a difference. In Brandenburg, many people volunteer: in schools, associations, cultural centers, sports clubs, retirement homes, initiatives, migrant self-organizations, and much more.

Inquire at counseling centers; there may also be groups in your area. Civic engagement is diverse. Our society thrives on community and mutual support in all aspects of life.

You can find contact information in the guide on the Brandenburg Refugee Council's website.

This flyer was created as part of the network project 'Verbesserung der Aufnahmebedingungen für Schutzsuchende, Schutzberechtigte und vorübergehend Schutzberechtigte in Brandenburg' (VASiB) of the Cooperation for Refugees in Brandenburg (KFB).

For more information on the VASiB project and KFB, visit: www.kooperation-für-flüchtlinge-in-brandenburg.de



The KFB includes:



You can also find general information about living in Brandenburg here:



www.fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de/gutes-wohnen-fuer-alle

VASiB project and flyer funded by:

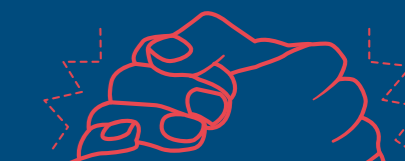


Gefördert durch:



In initial reception centers and communal accommodations.

Having rights. Enforcing rights.



YOU DON'T ONLY HAVE OBLIGATIONS. YOU ALSO HAVE RIGHTS.

You live in communal accommodation. Especially after a difficult and long flight route, people experience this time as insecure, stressful, and characterized by obligations, many rules, control, and little privacy. There are often only few places to retreat to and little clarity about what is allowed and what is not.

What is important is: Your fundamental rights apply here, too.

You are not just housed here. You are a human being with dignity, rights, and entitled to be respected and get protection, including protection from discrimination. In Germany, fundamental rights apply to all people – regardless of origin, religion, residency status, or sexual orientation.

These include, among others:

1. Human dignity
2. Personal freedom
3. Equality before the law
4. Freedom of expression and of the press
5. Freedom of assembly
6. Protection of marriage and family
7. Freedom of religion
8. Inviolability of the home
9. Access to information
10. General right of personality

These rights cannot simply be restricted. Interventions are only permitted if they have a clear legal basis, are necessary, and are proportionate!



THE REALITY IN SHARED ACCOMMODATION

This type of accommodation is emotionally very stressful for many, as it gives many the feeling of having no control over their own fate. A self-determined life under these circumstances can seem very difficult, even impossible. Many residents report similar experiences:

- ▶ Cramped shared rooms
- ▶ Little privacy
- ▶ Many unexplained rules
- ▶ Constant checks by security personnel
- ▶ Insecurity in daily life
- ▶ Fear of consequences for complaints
- ▶ Strong dependence on authorities
- ▶ No peace and quiet

It's important to know that certain laws and regulations restrict your freedoms. However, authorities and staff are not allowed to act arbitrarily and are obligated to uphold the law. Ask for the house rules; you should receive them upon arrival at the facility, and they should also be available in your language! The house rules establish guidelines for living together in the accommodation and outline rights and obligations. They apply to all residents.

The Brandenburg Refugee Council and the VASiB network are committed to ensuring that you receive information about your rights, advice, support, and guidance from the very beginning of your stay in Brandenburg.

Having rights and enforcing them is becoming increasingly difficult. This flyer aims to empower you, support you in standing up for yourself, getting involved, and raising your voice in cases of injustice.

CONTROL HAS CLEAR LIMITS.

Even in shared accommodation, your room is your private space, even if you share it with others!

That means:

- ▶ No entry without reason
- ▶ No searches without a legal basis
- ▶ No arbitrary inspection of personal belongings

Often problematic or impermissible are:

- ▶ Entering rooms without cause
- ▶ Searches without a clear basis
- ▶ Inspection of personal belongings
- ▶ Opening or withholding mail
- ▶ Blanket bans and restrictions on visits without justification
- ▶ Cameras in living or common areas
- ▶ Regular attendance checks without cause

Such interventions must always be justified and verifiable.

YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE – YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- ▶ Privacy and retreat
- ▶ Visits and social contact
- ▶ Information and access to media
- ▶ Respectful treatment

You are allowed to:

- ▶ Read the news
- ▶ Use the internet
- ▶ Access information freely

Information is important. Knowledge is power! If you know your rights and obligations, you can better protect and defend yourself.

COMPLAINTS ARE YOUR RIGHT.

Making a complaint is not wrong. You can take action.

Many people are afraid of negative consequences. This fear is understandable. That's why it's important to seek support – for example, from independent counseling centers or initiatives. You can find an overview of counseling centers in Brandenburg on the Brandenburg Refugee Council website. Because you don't have to go through this alone.

Many people think, "There's nothing I can do."

This feeling is understandable – but it's not true.

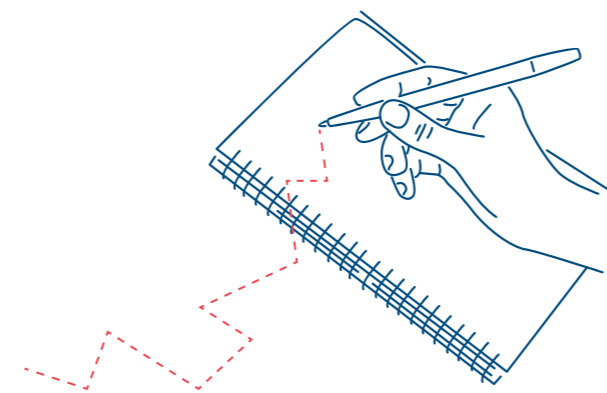
You have options:

- ▶ Ask questions and demand explanations
- ▶ Question decisions
- ▶ File a complaint
- ▶ Seek support
- ▶ Get advice/counseling

Documenting incidents can be helpful:

- ▶ Date and time
- ▶ People involved
- ▶ What exactly happened

This creates clarity and helps you assert your rights.



EMPOWERMENT: YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Many problems don't just affect you. Other people have similar experiences.

This is precisely where empowerment comes in: It's about strengthening each other, sharing knowledge and information, and exchanging experiences to be better able to act together.

Empowerment also means standing up for your rights together and raising your voice. When people join forces, they gain more strength, visibility, and the ability to better represent their concerns and initiate change.

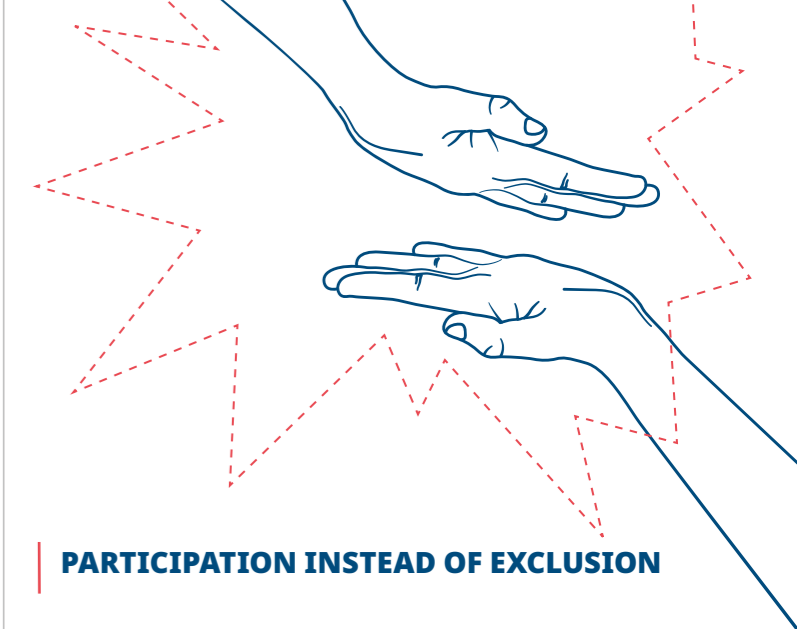
Acting together therefore also means actively engaging in dialogue with other residents: What experiences are they having? Where do they have common ground? What problems keep recurring? This exchange can foster solidarity that supports and strengthens.

Together, you can support each other, formulate demands, and find ways to achieve improvements. Migrant self-organizations also play an important role in this. There are initiatives and associations of people with their own experiences of displacement or migration that you can contact. There, you can find support, get involved, and connect with others.

Empowerment means:

- ▶ Strengthening each other
- ▶ Sharing knowledge
- ▶ Exchanging experiences
- ▶ Standing up for our rights together
- ▶ Raising our voices
- ▶ Joint activities

When people organize, they gain more strength and visibility. Change rarely happens alone – together, more is possible.



PARTICIPATION INSTEAD OF EXCLUSION

All people should have the same rights to participate equally in life.

Participation means that all people, regardless of their residency status, can participate in social life, have a say, participate in decision-making, and shape their own lives autonomously. Participation in social life includes access to work, education, culture, and leisure, as well as the abolition of exclusionary and discriminatory laws.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Many government structures are heavily focused on control and administration, and legal restrictions further hinder participation.

Instead, we need:

- ▶ More rights and participation
- ▶ Less control for no reason
- ▶ Better access to advice/counseling
- ▶ Transparent and fair procedures
- ▶ Equal opportunities for all

People must be able to participate from the very beginning.