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To the mayor of Hamburg
Dr Peter Tschentscher
Senatskanzlei
Rathausmarkt 1
20095 Hamburg

Letter of complaint: #LeaveNoOneBehind

April 2020

Dear Dr Tschentscher,

due to the current situation we feel the urge to write this letter. People all around the world are experiencing a unique situation at the moment, so do we here in Hamburg. Due to the extensive spreading of the Covid-19 virus the daily lives of all citizens of Hamburg are dictated by special curfews, quarantines, social distancing and general uncertainty.

However, the current situation does not affect all the citizens of Hamburg equally. Whereas most people profit from a social security system and a secure access to healthcare, refugees and homeless people are excluded from such supporting measures.

Even worse: Instead of experiencing protection or help, refugees and homeless people experience repression and violence as for example the violent eviction and removal of the Lampedusa tent which was an important point of protest, political self-organisation, information and social interaction since almost seven years. Already marginalised people are being let down ruthlessly without secure access to shelter, healthcare or food.

Not only in Hamburg this is being watched indifferently by ruling people. This approach follows a very inhumane and despicable refugee policy which is for example exposed by the situation in the refugee camps on the Greek islands and at the European border. The critical living conditions in the camps is characterised by catastrophic hygienic conditions, scarce medical care and the lack of food and water supply. This situation is not only being accepted tacitly but is being actively influenced by politics of Germany and Hamburg.

While on the one hand refugees and homeless people are being actively excluded in Hamburg and other places in the world our society is being urged to show solidarity. A solidarity which seems not to apply to everybody.

“STAY AT HOME” – which is being expected of everyone at the moment is actually a privilege because firstly it is not possible for everyone and secondly it is no safe for everyone.

Therefore we request the city of Hamburg to immediately take protective measures which include everyone!

We demand solidarity with refugees and homeless people!

We demand:

1. Immediate right of residence for refugees following §23

2. Immediate right to healthcare for everyone
3. Immediate access to safe housing for homeless people and refugees
4. Open the hotels for homeless people and refugees
5. Stop mass camps
6. Stop deportations
7. Right to work for refugees
8. Stop racial profiling
9. Immediate reconstruction of the Lampedusa tent
10. Immediate stop of institutional violence and the murder of refugees at the EU-borders and on the Greek islands
11. Immediate evacuation of all refugees from camps everywhere
12. Save and legal access routes to Europe and the integration of refugees in solidary cities

With solidary regards,