

# Gutschein für Asylbewerber



## Bargeld statt Gutscheine!!

## Away with the racist voucher system!

In Lower Saxony, unlike in many other federal states (Brandenburg, Hamburg, Berlin, Bremen, Hesse, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Schleswig-Holstein, North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate) refugees mainly receive vouchers to cover their subsistence costs and only little cash. The vouchers are handed out to the refugees once a month. They can only be used in certain shops. Therefore, it is usually not possible to purchase e.g. drugs at a pharmacy, bus tickets in buses, stamps or an ice cream at an ice cream parlor with vouchers. Adding to this is that some supermarkets don't accept vouchers

at all and some other shops limit the return of change and some don't give any at all. Due to this discriminating, and even administratively costly and expensive procedure, many districts (? das w?en dann Landkreise ansonsten: counties (Gemeinden), cities?) such as e.g. Aurich, Göttingen, Hanover, Hildesheim, Lüneburg and Oldenburg have repeatedly positioned themselves against the voucher system in the past.

Nevertheless, the federal state government (CDU and FDP) still insists upon this procedure and instructs the districts to hand out vouchers instead of cash even against their will.



**Demo Saturday. Dec. 1st, 2012  
at 12:00 pm in Hanover HBF**



# Away with the racist voucher system!

Secretary of the Interior of Lower Saxony, Uwe Schünemann (CDU), justifies this uncompromising course of action, stating that the force to hand out vouchers arises directly from the Asylum-Seekers' Benefit Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz).

Other federal state governments apparently are of a different opinion. The secretary for social welfare in Brandenburg, Günter Baaske, for example argues explicitly for the issue of cash:

"Every urban and rural district, that gives out cash to asylum seekers, acts in accordance with the law. I even expressly request that in the whole of Brandenburg cash will be handed out in preference. Because for the people concerned the outdated voucher system is usually completely inept, too expensive and discriminating" (presseinformation potsdam, 04.11.2011). Secretary of the Interior Schnemann on the other hand, still demands the issue of vouchers, and in a response to the city of Oldenburg on April, 4th 2011, frankly names the actual motivation for this: Vouchers have, compared to cash a reduced incentive effect for refugees to enter and stay in Germany. This means that the discriminating function of the voucher system is politically wanted - it is supposed to discourage refugees from coming here!

The issue of benefits in kind or vouchers serves the harassment of, control over and disciplining of fled people and shows them plainly that they are not welcomed in Germany. For the refugees this means paternalism, indignity and stigmatization.

The issue of vouchers, however, is only one part of the German and European policy against refu-

gees. They are forced to live in camps, are not to leave a certain region designated by the authorities (residency obligation law) and are not allowed to work. The rich countries of the West are closing off their borders, so that only the fewest refugees have a chance of getting here and hardly any of receiving asylum. Most refugees are directly forced to return voluntarily or are immediately taken into custody pending deportation.

All these racist laws violate the refugees rights, especially the right to a minimum of sociocultural life (???), the fundamental right to protection of human dignity, the fundamental right to self-fulfillment, the principle of equality, and the fundamental right to freedom of information.

Sign the petition for the abolishment of the voucher system, addressed to the state parliament of Lower Saxony, until November 27th:

<http://www.solitausch.org>

On Thursday, November 29th, the petition will be handed over to the state parliament.

Three days later, on Saturday, December 1st, a statewide demonstration for the abolishment of the voucher system and all other racist special laws, will take place in Hanover.

All of you come to Hanover on December 1st, at 12pm and stand up for the rights of refugees!

***Away with the racist voucher system!  
Against all racist special laws!  
For a self-determined life!***

## **Demo Saturday, December, 1st, 2012 at 12:00 pm in Hanover Central station**