

ting between good and bad immigrants earning their opportunities or losing them. We fight for collective rights, for the recognition of everyday practices in the law and for the realization of social and political rights.

The Association for Legalization is not looking for a quick gamble. The Association is a global enterprise that wants to expand and prepare for a different future. The profit to be gained is a different society. Become a partner or associate. Take out shares. Organize!

**We are among you.**

**Association for Legalization**

**GESELLSCHAFT  
FÜR LEGALISIERUNG**  
**WWW.RECHTAUFLEGALISIERUNG.DE**



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# First Declaration of the Association for Legalization

## We Are Among You and We Demand Legal Status!

As many as one million people in Germany and millions more in Europe are living in limbo – their papers are either insufficient or they have no documents at all. There might be two or five million others supporting them voluntarily or inadvertently in many ways. In any case, we are here living among you and are being deprived of legal status and basic rights each day: in the streets, during ticket checks on public transport, at the work place, by the authorities, at school, at kindergarten and sometimes when least expected.

The Association for Legalization officially announces its decision to revoke the social contract that has been established in the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union. It is the Association's purpose to push for the recognition of essential rights to legalization and mobility.

Looking at Europe today, we see that it is possible to enter, reside and travel within the countries bound by the Schengen accord. Yet, the price is high and often means living illegally. We know from the unofficial story of migration that people have always managed to subvert regulations and stipulations as well as avoid confinement. We know that people without a work permit, stamp in their passport, or even lacking a passport all together are nevertheless not powerless or without rights.

We have the right to claim our wages – with or without work permits. We have the right to accident insurance at work. We have the right to send our children to school. And, where there is no recognition of these rights, we will continue to claim them and organize for change.

Without a doubt, the price of living without legal status is high: living illegally makes you sick. Some people pay with their lives, others are caught without papers and deported. As a rule these stories, for better or worse, unfold with little or no exposure. Few people are willing to stand for it. More often than not problems are dealt with individually and so the fight starts from scratch each time.

Meanwhile, legalization exists, but silently while the rhetoric of integration dominates what can be heard. When we demand papers, the vote, dual citizenship, and access to social and economic resources, we break the silence left behind by the enforced conformity of integration. Undocumented, illegal migration is merely the tip of the iceberg within a differentiated system of deprivation and exploitation of migrants. The Association for Legalization refutes the racist stratification of opportunities for a good life in this country.

The Association for Legalization is mobilizing across the country. A series of events are being organized and a network to create change is being built across Europe. Ordinary and extraordinary social circles are invited to join us and become official associates or silent partners in the Association for Legalization. We work to educate people through media and the arts, and we organize direct actions. By producing our own images of this criminalized issue, we redefine its performance. The events speak to the everyday struggles of local migrants and refugees as they attempt to find work, a place to live, an education and health care all the while fighting for basic rights, such as to mobility. We provide a multitude of ways to participate in the Association's activities, expanding its service area and opening up new branches.

The Association for Legalization is not bound by an official contract. It is an open invitation to participate and for our members to empower themselves while taking actions that promote legalization.

The Association for Legalization does not need prestigious offices. Its place of business and official headquarters exists where the autonomy of migration takes place daily. Its branches are the cities, the streets, the cafés, the marketplaces, the group residences, the work places, immigration offices and deportation centres, in which people defend themselves each and every day. In its subsidiaries, solidarity is practiced continually. Its location is a movement that will push through the right of legalization and the right of mobility in the Europe of Schengen.

The Association for Legalization expects prosperous returns on its product. There is movement in the marketplace. Workers without labour permits have been successful in their strikes against wage fraud. Roma and Sinti have occupied churches, party offices and border checkpoints in Germany for decades. Sex workers without papers are coming together and creating mutual support organisations in the bigger cities. Across the country, refugees are organizing and demanding the abolition of the racist laws regarding asylum seekers. Countless initiatives make for trans-national trafficking in solidarity.

Germany's immigration and asylum legislation is outdated. The new immigration law – if it is ever passed – will not amount to much more than a hit-and-run in the land of Alhanya. The Association for Legalisation over-writes the traffic signs regulating immigration in this country. We are not interested in integration, or differentia-