

## **Getting to work!**

### ***Extend the opportunities to develop and participate in society for undocumented refugees and migrants***

A life without autonomy, without control over your own future, without an opportunity to be of significance to others is detrimental to one's health. In the Netherlands this is a social reality for people with no (residence) status - their lives have been put on hold. They cannot return but neither can they participate in the society in which they find themselves.

Currently the development of these people, many of them young and full of initiative, is being put on hold because they have been excluded from activities such as study and work. They are not even allowed to participate in voluntary work. The undersigned advocate extending opportunities for work and study for people without a (residence) status.

This is in accordance with universal human rights - it will restore people's capabilities and thus contribute to society as a whole.

### ***This will improve the lives of the people involved***

#### **Participation will help people forward**

In study or (voluntary) work people can utilize their skills and develop them further. This will enhance their resilience and give them a greater opportunity to put their lives back on track, whether this be in the Netherlands or elsewhere in the world.

#### **Participation will contribute towards people's health**

Waiting in idleness whilst being dependent on charity over a long period of time is harmful. People who can take control over their own lives and who can be of meaning to others will maintain their self-esteem and will develop fewer (mental) health problems.

#### **Less exploitation through inclusion**

People who cannot leave and who are not allowed to perform a meaningful role depend on the informal circuit for their subsistence. Opportunities for legal participation will render people less vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

### ***This is good for society***

Isolating people and excluding them from participation in society will not serve any social purpose. On the contrary.

#### **Participation will give people the opportunity to make a positive contribution**

Participation will give people the opportunity to make a positive contribution. People who are allowed to participate can use their skills for the good of society. It is a missed opportunity when the talents and possibilities that could be of value for our society are not being put to good use.

#### **Participation is good for public health and public order**

Participation is good for public health and public order. Marginalisation and idleness will increase the risk of people starting to wander around, as well as the risks of substance abuse and ensuing criminality, which in communities would lead to a perception of increased insecurity. This effect will be counteracted through participation.

#### **Participation forms an investment in the future**

Healthy resilient people can cope better, will be less dependent on the help of others and can be better parents for their children. Thus participation will prevent poverty, dependence and will create better opportunities for these and future generations.

### ***Therefore the undersigned make the following proposals***

- revoking the ban on voluntary work and extending the opportunities for doing paid work
- improving the access to education