

Sample Proposal: “Municipality X becomes a Safe Harbor”

(Status: September 29th, 2020)

Prolog

Like many other municipalities in the Federal Republic of Germany, the city council/county council/municipal council supports the initiative "SEEBRÜCKE – We Create Safe Harbors." What's more, municipality X is willing to continue taking in refugees voluntarily. Therefore, municipality X officially declares itself a Safe Harbor for Refugees. In doing so, municipality X and its population reaffirm the culture of welcoming that has thus far been well-established. The city council/county council/municipal council appeals to the Federal Government to continue and to intensify all efforts at combatting the causes of flight, while especially advocating for fairer and more effective development and climate change policy and ensuring that those people rescued in the Mediterranean are humanely distributed and sheltered in Europe.¹

Isolationism and human rights violations at the European borders are not legitimate political means.

The obstruction of civilian sea rescue by the European states and the criminalization of sea rescuers must be stopped immediately. The European community of states must live up to their responsibility in active sea rescue and must not rely on the work of third parties, such as the so-called "Libyan coast guard", nor merely condone the death of people.

The current catastrophic conditions in the camps on the Greek islands demand immediate action at all levels. In view of the situation of those people in Moria and in other camps at the European outer borders, all available means must be exhausted to provide fast and unbureaucratic assistance to the people stranded there.

1. Safe Harbor

Municipality X declares itself a Safe Harbor and affirms its solidarity with people who are fleeing. Municipality X advocates for safe escape routes, governmental sea rescue missions, and the humane accommodation of people in search of shelter.

2. Active Support for Sea Rescue

Municipality X positions itself against the criminalization of civilian sea rescue in the Mediterranean and furthermore actively supports sea rescue. Municipality X assumes the sponsorship of a civilian sea rescue ship or participates in such a sponsorship.²

¹ This passage, with minor adaptations, has been taken from the city of Potsdam resolution of December 5th, 2018.

² This passage is from the city of Göttingen resolution of August 30th, 2019.

3. Admissions in Addition to the Quota

Municipality X guarantees the quick and uncomplicated acceptance and housing of people rescued from distress at sea or of people stranded in camps at the outer borders of the EU. This accommodation is additional to the distributional quota of asylum seekers (The Königstein Ratio).³ For the concrete implementation of these additional accommodations, municipality X will reach an agreement with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the responsible state ministry [if applicable: also with district Y], and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

4. Support for Admission Programs

Municipality X welcomes the existing state and federal level programs for accommodating those in search of shelter. Municipality X engages with the Federal State Z and the Federal Government to advocate for the establishment of new programs for the accommodation of refugees—or the significant expansion of existing programs—and for this purpose municipality X itself will offer additional accommodations.⁴

- a) Municipality X calls on the government of the Federal State of Z to adopt an independent humanitarian admission program for refugees pursuant to Section 23 (1) of the Residence Act and thus to assure to refugees a safe arrival to Germany and a secure residence.
- b) Municipality X calls on the government of the Federal State of Z and the Federal Government to permanently and reliably agree, within the framework of resettlement pursuant to Section 23 (4) of the Residence Act and other programs for the safe admission of refugees, on substantially higher admission quotas than heretofore. Only in this way can Germany fulfill its responsibility to spare people the necessity of fleeing via dangerous criminalized routes.⁵

5. Municipalities in Solidarity

Municipality X advocates for the prospects of permanent residence and opposes deportations within the scope of all possibilities. Municipality X is not only a safe harbor, but at the same time a city in solidarity with all people.⁶ [Addendum for municipalities with immigration service agencies: Municipality X instructs immigration

³ This passage combines a slightly adapted version of the City of Göttingen resolution from August 30th, 2019 with the City of Northeim resolution from August 27th, 2020.

⁴ This passage combines the City of Göttingen resolution from August 30th, 2019 and the City of Northeim resolution of August 27th, 2020.

⁵ With slight adjustments, items a) and b) have been taken from the City of Göttingen resolution from August 30th, 2019.

⁶ This passage is from the City of Northeim resolution from August 27th, 2020.

services to exhaust all possibilities in securing for refugees prospects for permanent legal residence and life in this municipality.]⁷

6. Ensuring Arrival in the Municipality

Municipality X ensures the long-term arrival of those in search of shelter by providing all necessary resources for a dignified accommodation, especially in the areas of housing, health, and education, and by ensuring their social and political participation.⁸

7. Municipal Alliance "Cities of Safe Harbors"

Municipality X actively advocate for the implementation of the above points at regional, national, and European levels. Municipality X joins the municipal alliance "Cities of Safe Harbors" and participates in the alliance of all Safe Harbors in Europe to actively shape a European asylum and migration policy in compliance with human rights.

8. Transparency

Municipality X will publish all actions taken to assure it is a Safe Harbor.⁹ Municipality X will inform its European partner cities about this resolution.¹⁰

⁷ This passage is from the City of Potsdam resolution from December 5th, 2018.

⁸ This passage combines the City of Göttingen resolution from August 30th, 2019 and the City of Northeim resolution from August 27th, 2020.

⁹ This sentence comes from the City of Göttingen resolution of August 30th, 2019.

¹⁰ This sentence comes from the city of Northeim resolution of August 27th, 2020