Integration Concerns Us All

Outline

Welcome!

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Get involved!

You live in Munich, you might be foreign or not, you might be Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or you might not be a member of any faith community; you live in this city, work here, might have a family or might be single. Everything that happens in this city concerns you directly – you can help change and form the environment - and you should know what people are concerned about. The Integration Concept knows that this diversity is the city’s most valuable resource.

If you want to know more, click www.muenchen.de/interkult for the full text of the Integration Concept or, for a small cover charge, order the text per e-mail at interkulturellearbeit.soz@muehlen.de.

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Integration Principles

On 20 February 2008 the Munich City Council unanimously approved the Principles and Structure of the Munich City Integration Policy (Intercultural Integration Concept).

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What are the essential principles?

The basis of the Integration Concept is the following for the entire city community.

The sense of solidarity within the city of Munich is the responsibility of every individual. Understanding between the diverse social groups is the basis of integration. Municipal policies and services promote the existing competencies of all individuals living in Munich, regardless of age, gender, skin colour, religion, cultural and social origins, disabilities, illnesses, philosophy of life or sexual orientation. Special emphasis must be given to the position of children and adolescents. We must ensure that each person has equal opportunities to participate in life in the community and in local policy decisions and has access to resources.

Integration depends on the recognition of common, free and democratic standards. The basis of all discussion is the German Basic Law. This law provides the foundation, for example, for the right to Islam religious instruction in the building of mosques. Human dignity, freedom of action or physical integrity are, on the other hand, rights that are guaranteed in the law and are not to be challenged. Consequently, female circumcision and forced marriage, for example, cannot possibly be allowed.

Integration can only be achieved if institutions adopt a policy of intercultural orientation and intercultural mainstreaming.

Intercultural orientation means that institutions recognise that people of different origins, with different interests and needs live in the city, and it must be possible for these diverse groups to voice and stand up for their interests on a basis of equality. Intercultural mainstreaming is the realisation of all in everyday practice; this means that all facilities and services provided by the city authorities must be equally available to anyone living here.

Intercultural integration stands for equal access for all to information, education, culture and the arts, sports, job opportunities, housing, services and healthcare regardless of age, gender, skin colour, religion, social and cultural origins, disabilities, lifestyle, philosophy or sexual identity.

Integration does not mean levelling down but equal opportunities for everyone.

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