

Education, Yes! – Only Not for Everyone!?

Joint Statement for May Day 2018 by Bremen GEW and Bremen Refugee Council

*The following joint statement is being distributed at May Day rallies,
in Central Bremen, Bremen North and Bremerhaven.
These rallies are usually attended by well over 5,000 people.*

Education, Yes! – Only Not for Everyone!?

Poverty and deprivation are so much part of the reality of Bremen that it hardly gets noticed when some thousand young refugees finish school and are left without further support by the Bremen Education Department (Bildungsressort.)

These young people don't have any real chance of an apprenticeship and never had the same chances in education which other children and young adults had.

In the two quick years of so called careers orientation and language development classes (Berufsorientierungs- und Sprachbildungsklassen), these young people were expected to achieve the same level of education which other young people achieved after nine years of school here.

Now they're being pumped out of the system and are being forced to compete in the jobs market without an adequate level of German and without vocational qualifications.

We won't let these young people down!

The Bremen Refugee Council and the Bremen State Branch of the Union of Education and Science (GEW) jointly demand:

1 – There should be a right for young people to stay at school after they turn 18. Staying at school after this ages should be based flexibly on the student's needs. It's not possible for young people to catch up 9 years of education in 2 years.

These young people must be given the time to achieve the mainstream basic high school qualification (Erweiterte Berufsbildungsreife) and a level of German at at least the B1* level!

2 – There should be educational and vocational offers for all young people who'll be leaving a vocational college this summer – so that they are not threatened with losing their immigration status with a right to remain

These stabilization offers should be based on the reality of these young people's lives so that it's possible to integrate them into the society in a permanent, sustainable and useful way.

If you want to get active in our campaign please contact

bi-projekt@hb-bremen.de

info@fluechtlingsrat-bremen.de

Online Info (some in English) at

www.fluechtlingsrat-bremen.de/schule/

www.gew-hb.de/projekt-gute-bildung-fuer-gefluechtete/

B1* level = a similar level to a student at A Levels in a foreign language in the UK – See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_European_Framework_of_Reference_for_Languages