

BAFF - Alliance for arrival center, refugees and land conservation Heidelberg

Climate justice - this term expresses that the climate crisis is a question of social justice and political responsibility. Global warming and the overexploitation of mankind and nature cannot be separated from each other. The issues of migration and the preservation of arable land are also at the heart of our concerns, and here in Heidelberg.

Heidelberg is home to the Arrival Center for Refugees, where all refugees who come to Baden-Württemberg are registered and medically examined, and where they are also supposed to apply for asylum immediately. It is located in the former US city of Patrick-Henry-Village (PHV) in the SW of Heidelberg.

A new urban district will be created on these conversion areas in the next few years. But instead of integrating the arrival center here structurally and socially, the refugees are to make way, and the arrival center is to be relocated to the Wolf Gardens. This was decided by the municipal council in June with a narrow majority - and with green votes, by the way.

The Wolfgärten are an area on the city limits of Heidelberg, located at the freeway junction. It is wedged between two freeways and a railroad line, and in the long run, it will remain an isolated urban fringe. It is loud and exclusionary. Direct access to urban life is very difficult for refugees. Opportunities to get to know each other and to make contact do not arise spontaneously under these conditions.

At present, the Wolfgärten represent fertile arable land and an important cold air area. Fields near the city contribute to the supply of regional food. In order to accommodate the fugitives there, the field is cultivated and sealed. Noise protection walls and high buildings hinder both the development and the flow of cold air. A new heat island is created, which has an impact even on more distant districts, especially on summer nights when there is a lack of cooling.

Where can we succeed in gaining acceptance among the refugees, where can we live together better than in a newly emerging, socially, and ethnically colorful, lively district? What is the point of cultivating a field for a lot of money and removing cold air from it, if there is another way? In particular, opportunities for a change in politics and a new way of dealing with one another are being missed.

In order to revise the decision of the municipal council, a broad alliance of initiatives, associations, and parties has formed in Heidelberg to initiate a citizens' petition. Fridays for Future is a member of the alliance.

If we have collected around 8,000 signatures by the beginning/mid-November, we, the people of Heidelberg, will be able to decide for ourselves in March next year whether the arrival center should be moved to the Wolf Gardens. We can still prevent it.

Today you can sign here directly at the protest. All people over the age of 16 who live in Heidelberg can sign the petition. Please sign here and now. Make yourself known and collect signatures in your surroundings, in the neighborhood, in the district. Thank you.