

Press release

Human rights without walls - neither in heads nor on borders.

“The human rights situation in Europe is changing. The rise of right-wing populists or extreme movements across many national borders is a matter of concern. This could lead to a further decrease of human rights standards. There is already a significant increase in hate crimes in Germany,” says Taner Aksoy, Director of the anti-discrimination association FAIR international – Federation against Injustice and Racism e. V. on the occasion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th December. Aksoy continues:

“As an anti-discrimination association it is a matter of our understanding and the core area of our activity to draw attention to human rights violations. Unfortunately, concerning human rights claims and realities often differ. Inhuman conditions in refugee camps; the omnipresent danger refugees have to live with; the bare hatred they are confronted with; all these are just a fraction of what puts Europe to the test. Building border fences and barring refugees is the wrong signal here.

Not only refugees but also other minorities are affected. We observe that Muslim women who wear headscarves due to their religious beliefs are often discriminated against, for instance in the field of education, in the workspace or in daily life. It still occurs that people of color are ejected from public transports only because of their skin color. Applicants with foreign names are systematically disadvantaged in their professional life. The advancement in the educational system is far more difficult for children with a migration background.

We consider this day as an opportunity to remind ourselves about these troublesome circumstances and to find ways of improving the situation. Everyone, without exception, is equally entitled to all human rights. This must be defended.”