

mutfak 01

Migrant Solidarity Kitchen Newsletter / January – February 2016

"There is a migrant solidarity kitchen in Tarlabası. It is not like any other kitchen. It has neither cooks nor customers. Here, everybody is a cook and all the food is shared. The kitchen belongs to the neighborhood and everybody. Everyone is welcome. So come, bring your ideas and let's share our skills and solidarity!"

In these days we are not cooking so much anymore – but we are still invested in creating solidary bonds in our neighborhood which has been shaped by migration since a long time.

In this newsletter we aim to share what we have been doing in the last two months, our plans for the near future, some notes on ongoing struggles for freedom of movement and politics in the arena of migration. These are not exhaustive, but just to give a glimpse of a context.

We are sorry if we failed to mention any important events – you can inform us via facebook or twitter in case you want us to include something in our next newsletter.

Enjoy reading.

With solidarity! Kitchen Crew

What's up in Mutfak?

We arranged a meeting to give information about migrants' and refugees' legal rights especially concerning health and education. After this meeting, some parents in the neighborhood said they are willing to enroll their children in school. We accompanied these families to deal with issues and legal procedures at schools, ministry of education offices and police departments.

At the time when we are preparing this newsletter, **39 children** have been enrolled at schools in the neighborhood. We are also in contact with their teachers.



Normalde bundan çok daha kalabalık oluyoruz...

Since many kids start school as of the beginning of second term, they need extra support for learning how to read and write. Knowing this, we arranged study halls for these children in the week days. From **Monday to Thursdays at 14:30, Fridays at 16:00** we open Mutfak for study halls.

We also arranged Kurdish reading and writing classes for children who can/cannot/do not go to school. These classes will be on Sundays as of March (exact time will be announced in our program soon).

And of course, the ongoing English, German, Turkish and guitar lessons still continue.

We gathered to share ideas about how to communicate better with the kids and how to deal with discrimination and violence amongst them. We shared incidents we experienced and discussed possible options to get help from. After all this brain-storming we arranged two meetings:

We visited Tarlabası Toplum Merkezi to gain inspiration from their experiences and suggestions, especially about how to communicate with children.



We invited Aylin Vartanyan from **Boğaziçi University Peace Education Application and Research Center** to our meeting. She kindly accepted our call and met with us. Afterwards, she put us in touch with Boğaziçi University Social Service Club members. They are experienced in "Art and Conflict Transformation" activities for children, which we decided to implement in Mutfak.

Every Saturday the team opens Mutfak for some art-work as of March!



7 Ocaktan 4 Şubat'a kadar
Perşembe günleri, ücretsiz
3-6 yaş arası 15.00-15.40
7-12 yaş arası 15.45-17.00

من الخميس 7 كانون الثاني ولغاية 4 شباط
سلاسل من دون مصاريف
عمر 3 - 6 الساعة 3 إلى الساعة 3:40
عمر 7 - 12 الساعة 3:45 إلى الساعة 5

Göçmen Dayanışma Mutfağı
Şakir Ağaoğlu Caddesi No: 56/A
Tarlabaşı / Beyoğlu

Roma Bostani visited Mutfak on Sunday, February 7th with the food they cooked using their crops. We ate together, played games and sang songs.

Photo taken from Roma Bostani facebook page

We accompanied our neighbors to **İnfiAL**. In the cafe, they reserved a corner for clothes for people to leave or take freely.

İnfiAL is at
Tarlabaşı Turan Street
No: 56/A.

Photo taken from sosyalsavas.org

Kurdish classes started!

On **Mondays at 19:00** and open to everyone.

Photo taken from bilgibirikimi.net

We made our first online action. There was a call for action against Denmark's terrible new regulations concerning refugees. We tried to give a voice from Turkey under the hashtags #UtanDanimarka and #ShameonDK. Not sure if we are more experienced in this now, we will see...

Photo taken from European March for the Refugees Rights facebook page

We supported the **Safe Passage Now** action on February 27th via our social media accounts.

Here is the list if you say "I would like to join Mutfak crew but what can I do?"

- **Helping the children on study hours** to learn alphabet and supporting them in their homework. Study halls are at 14.30-16.00 from Mondays to Thursdays and at 16.00-17.30 on Fridays. Knowledge of Kurdish or Arabic is not necessary but would be an advantage.
- **Organizing political campaigns** concerning migrant / refugee rights.
- **Spread or design** flyers and posters for our activities
- **Supporting Kurdish reading and writing classes** on Sundays if you know Kurdish. (Exact time to be announced soon on our program.)
- **Keep the overview over the weekly program** and renew the flyer when it changes.
- **Cleaning** and washing dishes not to forget! And dealing with reiterations in mutfak when necessary.
- **Translating** flyers, posters, texts, and translation during plenaries, children activities or events in mutfak. Most relevant languages: Kurdish, Arabic, English, French, Turkish.
- **Supporting** the families of the neighborhood to **enroll their children to school** and other necessary administrative steps
- **Accompany** migrant and refugee friends of Mutfak in case of need for support administrative works such as government offices, police station and legal procedures.
- **Supporting** each other regarding basic needs as far as we can: how to get information on **rights and legal situation**, work, health, translation... Write information brochures about these.
- **Produce** things we can sell on the **solidarity kermeses** we regularly participate in or take one of the shifts.
- **Organize solidarity parties** or other events to finance our rent.
- **Supporting** each other regarding basic needs as far as we can: how to get information on **rights and legal situation**, work, health, translation... Write information brochures about these.
- **Cook!** In the end it is a kitchen, but we are not making use of it so much anymore
- **Organize** film, discussion, music, information **events** in Mutfak.
- **Contact us** via facebook or simply attend one of our meetings happening on every **Friday at 20:00** if you want to do any of these or have any ideas to contribute.

We have a twitter account now. Our account name is @MutfakGDA Please #ff :)

Göçmen Dayanışma Mutfağı twitter hesabı
Migrant Solidarity Network twitter account
dayanismanamutfagi.blogspot.com.tr

TWEETLER 36
TAKIP EDİLEN 63
TAKİPÇİLER 126

We have a facebook page. Now we created a facebook profile to announce our activities more effectively. Please add the friend :)

News About Struggles for Refugee Rights and Freedom of Movement



<https://www.facebook.com/events/586531178166656/>

#SafePassage

On the 27th of February in more than 100 cities there were demonstrations organized for a safe passage to Europe.

In Turkey, Izmir, Bodrum and Ankara participated with activities at the protest. These were the demands:

"We are demanding that European authorities and governments take action now to open safe passage routes for all those who seek protection.

#safepasssage means adequate standards of reception and asylum in all European countries, no longer diminishing the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, allowing refugees to keep their belongings, allowing them to be reunited with their families and providing stability as far as their right of residence is concerned."

#safepasssage means protection for refugees on their travel through Europe

#safepasssage means legal and safe routes: no more deaths at our borders



New Year's Greetings at Kumkapı Detention Center

At the new year's eve a group of musicians and friends visited the Kumkapı detention center in Istanbul to welcome the new year together with the people in detention and send a musical message of solidarity to them. The invitation for the greeting was as follows:

If there is hope, we would like to share it without borders, without limits

We are calling everyone for showing solidarity without applause or slogans with the migrant friends behind the windows, even so with small greetings.

We know that everyone grumbles silently his own trouble in his language, but let's whisper to each other this time as much as we could tell without any discrimination.

We are waiting for the ones who are passing by, the ones with musical instruments to be in solidarity with migrant friends.



Photo taken from <http://yeryuzuneozgurluk.blogspot.com.tr/>



Stand up!

Halkevleri organized a demonstration in front of the German consulate in Istanbul on the 13th of February with the message "No bargaining on the lives of refugees. Stand up against the partnership of EU, Merkel and AKP"

Photo taken from sendika9.org



Forum and Demonstration of Antikapitalistler

"No to racism! To be a refugee is a human right!" The forum at the 23rd of January aimed to raise awareness about growing racism towards refugees and find ways how to react to racist attacks and how to make the life of refugees easier. The forum was followed by a demonstration at Tünel and on the following day a Turkish-Greek demonstration at the border.

Photo taken from marksist.org

We will not forget Jesca Nankabirwa Migrant Women are not alone!

Women Without Borders continues to observe the trial about the murder of the Ugandan migrant woman Jesca Nankabirwa who had been living in Istanbul and who was found dead in September 2014. After the trial on the January 21st "it's getting more likely that Jesca has been pushed out of the window according to the released reconnaissance report. The suspect is still under arrest. The report will be sent to the Forensics Department."

The next hearing will be on the 14th of April.



GDA Ankara was one of the participants who signed the common declaration Urgent Peace for Children.

The declaration states that "From Suruç massacre of 22 July upto date, the conflicts and curfews have resulted in such negative conditions where children even the ones in their mother's wombs have become direct targets for armed forces of state and 55 children have lost their lives because they were not able to receive health services."

The aim is "to (say) 'STOP!' (to) the present state government which has been impairing children and youngsters cruelly by oppressing them, restraining their development and violating their right to live." in reference to UN Child Rights Convention, which is signed by Turkey in 1990.



Photo taken from gundemcocuk.org



Photo taken from sendika9.org

Alarm Phone Watch the Med

The watch the med Alarm Phone is a 24h hotline for boatpeople in distress which aims to support protecting lives and the right of freedom of movement. It is an alarm number to support rescue operations, but not a rescue number. The Alarm Phone makes sure that distress calls are noted and acted upon. If this is not happening the Alarm Phone will apply pressure through informing the public. The Alarm Phone Crew is a transnational network with more than 100 activists from many countries. Newly shift teams from Turkey joined the network as well.



WATCH THE MED ALARM TELEFONU
+ 334 86 51 71 61

ALARMPHONE WWW.ALARMPHONE.ORG
Bu bir kurtarma hattı değildir! Bu alarm numarası arama-kurtarmayı desteklemek amaçlıdır.

DENİZDE TEHLİKE HALİNDE
1. Kurtarılmak için sahil güvenliği arayın.
2. Bu alarm numarasını arayın. Biz sahil güvenliği bilgilendirip takip edeceğiz.
3. Eğer kısa zamanda kurtarılmazsanız, medyayı ve siyasetçileri bilgilendirerek baskı yapacağız.

"GERİ-İTME" DURUMUNDA
1. Bu alarm numarasını arayın.
2. Biz müdahale etmeye çalışıp, olayın tarihi olarak belgelineceğiz.
3. Biz medyayı ve siyasetçileri bilgilendirerek baskı yapacağız.

Mümkünse telefonda İngilizce yada Fransızca konuşun.
utm-alarm-phone@antira.info
www.facebook.com/watchthemed.alarmphone



WATCH THE MED ALARM PHONE
+ 334 86 51 71 61

ALARMPHONE WWW.ALARMPHONE.ORG
THIS IS NOT A RESCUE NUMBER! But an ALARM NUMBER to support rescue!

DISTRESS AT SEA (DANGER OF) PUSHBACK
1. Call coast guard for rescue.
2. Call our Alarm Phone. We inform & watch the coast guard.
3. If you are not quickly rescued, we inform media & politics to make pressure.

1. Call our Alarm Phone.
2. We try to intervene, use witness & document.
3. We inform media & politics to make pressure.

If possible, call in English or French | utm-alarm-phone@antira.info
www.facebook.com/watchthemed.alarmphone

<http://alarmphone.org/en/>



Source: http://infomobile.w2eu.net/files/2016/03/12805887_1090423567689047_2075300577492064061_n.jpg

Protestors at Idomeni
Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3467992/Greece-says-70-000-migrants-left-trapped-country-Pope-Francis-urges-countries-share-burden-fairly.html#ixzz42VF9KREP>

Refugees resist the border regimes of Europe

Europe's struggle to gain control about the borders and stop people on the move is met with strong resistance by the travellers. Since weeks thousands of persons are stuck in Idomeni at the Greek-Macedonian border. People are stuck in other parts of Greece as well, as Greek authorities try to prevent them from continuing their way towards the border.

Everyday there are protests in various forms like blockades of railways or hungerstrikes, to demand the opening of the borders so that they continue to their destinations. Conditions at Idomeni are devastating and apart from the physical conditions the uncertainty about the future is very challenging. Daily update in English from Idomeni, Greek/Macedonian border is available on bordermonitoring.eu social media accounts.

Migrant Solidarity Network Ankara

has produced stickers to raise awareness about the situation of refugees



"If you have to migrate one day, you might be kept for days in detention centers."

"If you have to migrate one day, you can live an isolated life camps."

"If you have to migrate one day, the hopeful way with which you aimed to save your life might be your last one."

The international Conference of Refugees & Migrants in Hamburg

Many of our friends have made their way to Europe during the last year so that they now attended the international conference of refugees and migrants in Hamburg. Here a summary a dear friend shared with us:

During three days started on 26 and ended on 28 February, More than 1000 refugees and migrants with many activists, journalists, organisers and volunteers met together in the international conference of refugees and migrants in Kampnagel in Hamburg/Germany.

The conference was the first vital attempt in self organise across the borders supported by a collaboration of several refugees support groups including Refugees Movement Berlin -Refugees Protest Camp Hannover -Lampedusa in Hamburg and funded through the support of three german foundations.

Several activities and workshops took place during the days of conference concerning the refugees affairs and struggling for their Human rights due to what occurs currently in Europe especially since the beginning of wars in the Middle East and what so-called Refugees Crisis.

Media was effectively covering the conference by some agencies like NDR -Al Jazeera -Deutschland radio and others, and was a good networking and connections for the participants generally and for the refugees particularly.

Additionally, the legal team was offering free consultations for the refugees there regarding their own rights and details about asylum seeking process.

Aiming to better conditions for refugees and asylum seekers, speaking up, empowering the existence of them was the mutual target and conclusion that all the conference participants agreed in such an international meeting.



Mülteciyim Hemşerim

Istanbul has always been a city marked by migration. "Mülteciyim Hemşerim" wants to strengthen the solidarity ties between the "old" and the "new" migrants of the city who are now each others neighbors.

Mülteciyim Hemşerim is mainly active in Yarımburgaz and Okmeydanı, creating there education and playing spaces. They ran a campaign to provide stoves and coal for people. They also collect donations of clothes and furniture and redistribute them. Moreover, they support new neighbors on administrative and legal procedures in state offices.

<https://mulateciyimhemserim.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MulteciYimHemserim/>

Housing-Website for Refugees

Many challenges for migrants coming to Turkey are occurring. One huge area is concerning fair and suitable housing provision. In solidarity with refugees we asked ourselves why displaced people shouldn't be able to live in common flats-hares or houses instead of camps?

We believe there is a need of a warm welcome to displaced people in seek of shelter and want to create a platform to share life beyond ethnic, religious and political boundaries.

Therefore we gathered in a small group of people in Istanbul with the goal to connect displaced people with local residents. Our main goal is to create a network for housing purposes. Starting by solving housing issues the long-term perspective of this platform is to address further emerging questions, such as search for a job, transition to a new country or other daily life challenges.

We are currently working on a website where hosts and refugees can create their profile and get connected according to their personal preferences. By this website we can promote immediate, practical solidarity without complicated bureaucratic acts. We count on people who want to get an active member of the community, exchange their resources and demands and make change happen where it counts.



what's up in mutfak?

