

Ausländerbeirat der Landeshauptstadt München



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Who is the „Council of Foreigners“ (Ausländerbeirat)?

The „Council of Foreigners“ consists of 40 members who are non-German or naturalised citizens of Munich. They represent, on a voluntary basis, the political interests of about 290.000 foreigners who are residents in Munich. The „Council of Foreigners“ is elected by Munich’s foreign community for a period of six years.

What does the „Council of Foreigners“ do?

The „Council of Foreigners“ advises the city council and the administration with regard to all questions concerning foreigners in Munich. The „Council“ is publicly committed to political, legal, social and cultural equality for Germans and Non-Germans alike. The Council opposes right-wing radicalism and the discrimination of minorities. It supports projects and events which help to promote integration and dialogue between Munich’s multicultural society. The „Council“ maintains close contact with all groups and societies in Munich that are involved with migration.

How does the „Council of Foreigners“ work?

The „Council of Foreigners“ makes decisions regarding demands, recommendations and applications in open general meetings of the members. The resolutions are prepared by a body of experts and then presented to the city council and the administration.

The city administration is obliged to consult the „Council of Foreigners“ whenever Munich’s foreign community is concerned. In this way foreigners are able to influence the city council’s policy on foreigners. In addition, the „Council of Foreigners“ remains in the public eye by taking part in political and cultural events.

Why is it necessary to have a „Council of Foreigners“?

Apart from citizens of the European Union (who can vote in local and European elections) foreigners in Germany have no voting rights and are thus excluded from the political decision making process. The „Council of Foreigners“ gives the foreign community in Munich a voice and protects their interests. The council is an integral part of the humane social structure of the city that promotes open-mindedness toward minorities.

The members of the „Council of Foreigners“ represent a multitude of political affiliations and nationalities, and in spite of all the difficulties this may create they are all able to work together successfully. So therefore, the „Council“ can be regarded as a model for tolerance and international understanding.