Young refugees’ participation in social life
Eight findings from the field ...

... for employees in institutions, youth welfare offices and other agencies

Empathy builds trust.
Take care of young people, respond to their individual needs and concerns and try to put yourself in their shoes.

Children and young people have rights.
Respect them and make sure that you and they are familiar with these rights. Ongoing training is a good way to stay up to date.

Take people’s experiences of racism seriously and take effective action to prevent these experiences from happening again. Be aware of the consequences these experiences have for young people and question your own prejudices.

Confront racism

You are not alone. Get help and don’t just put up with racism. There are people around you who can help you combat it.

Hang in there! There are several ways to obtain a secure residency status. Get others to support you and seek legal assistance, for example from a lawyer.

Develop a plan for staying

Education creates a future. School and education can be exhausting, but a good education will open up new opportunities for you. Keep going!

Form alliances

Together you are strong. Exchange ideas, seek contact with each other, support one another.

Participation gives you the chance to shape your own future. Have courage, express yourself, make yourself heard and be an active part of the community.

Create and find common rules for living together - and hold yourselves to these rules. In this way, everyone benefits.

Enable participation

Let young people participate in decision-making processes. Hand over responsibility and ensure that sustainable participation structures are created. Everyone benefits from this.

Set rules

Establish common rules with young people and establish a culture of talking and discussing. Indicate boundaries without threatening exclusion.

Use education

Network, share experiences and overcome hurdles together. Make your success stories visible. In this way you can improve awareness in young people’s social environments and create a positive climate.

Not everyone learns in the same way. Point out alternative educational paths! School and education are decisive factors for successful integration.

Create trust

Open up and seek advice and support from a trusted person. There are many people you can confide in.

Find out what your rights are. You can only demand recognition of your rights if you know what they are.

Know the law

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