

# Silent University Ruhr Presents

## The Political participation of refugees and Immigrants in Germany

**The Political Role of Integration councils in the Municipalities**  
A case study of the Integration Council in Mülheim a.d.Ruhr NRW

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# Introduction

- ▶ Silent University introduced the concept of political education to bring awareness about our daily lives -those Asylum seekers, immigrants and other citizen in the city of Mülheim an der Ruhr.
- ▶ That Politics live in us and we live in Politics.
- ▶ When we, both Active and Passive Politicians, put in efforts to meet up our obligations and commitments, then we will have very little to Complaint.

# Definition of Terms

## What is the politics/ Actors Perspective

- ▶ Rules our daily activities, not a strange thing
- ▶ Many definition: state, power, government
- ▶ Normative: Polity, Policy, Politics.
- ▶ Two actors:
- ▶ Active Politicians: Leadership / Govern, etc.
- ▶ Passive Politicians: Participants, observers: Assignment- Voting of Active

# What is the integration council

- ▶ The Integration Council is the communal representative Council of all migrants.
- ▶ The Integration Council has the status and political weight of a migrant representative and a committee of the Municipal Council.
- ▶ It is composed of directly elected migrant representatives as well as Councilors with voting Rights sent by the City Council.
- ▶ The composition of two thirds of migrant representatives and one third council members, is provided by the States Integration council of NRW, It has proved its worth and is now recommended by the legislative explanatory memorandum of § 27 (1) NRW.

# What is its role in the Municipalities

- ▶ It enables migrants to participate in the political process of the city
- ▶ It represents the interests of immigrants at the municipal level
- ▶ Advisory function - advises the organs of the municipality in all matters concerning foreign residents.
- ▶ As Role Model : Members as part of the municipalities- Integration Council work for Mülheim an der Ruhr

# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr

## Organisation/ structure

- ▶ The council and Secretariat
  - ▶ Council :
    - ▶ 24 Voted immigrants
    - ▶ 8 Councilors
- ▶ Secretariat
  - ▶ 1 Secretary

# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr

## Organisation, structure

- ▶ Founded as a foreigner advisory Council - 1980
- ▶ Since 1989 Known as Municipal Integration Council according to § 27 NRW Community regulation
- ▶ The Director Responsible for the Integration Council Lord Mayor Ulrich Scholten
- ▶ Structure office
- ▶ The new Integration Council was elected on 25 May 2014
- ▶ Consists of 24 members - 16 directly elected, 8 from the Political Parties in the Council,



# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr

## Objektives/Activities

- ▶ The integration council in Mülheim an der Ruhr is committed to the following topics:
- ▶ Better political participation of migrants;
- ▶ Communal suffrage for all;
- ▶ Intercultural opening up of administrations, social services and schools
- ▶ Intercultural school and children's day care facilities;
- ▶ Programs to help young people to start their careers;
- ▶ Offerings to improve the health and housing situation of migrants;
- ▶ Promoting the work of migrant organizations; Integration of federal and state laws in the municipalities;
- ▶ Anti-discrimination and equal treatment of all citizens in the municipality.

# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr Members Elected in 2014



# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr Committee

- ▶ Working Group I: Public relations
- ▶ The meetings take place on the first Friday of each month at 5 pm.
- ▶ Working Group II: Youth Work and Social Affairs
- ▶ The meetings take place on the first Friday of each month at 4 pm

# The Integration Council in Mülheim an der Ruhr Committee

- ▶ Award of Integration Price ,
- ▶ Dialogue Forum to fight against Right Radicalism,
- ▶ Collaboration in the organisation of Intercultural Week
- ▶ Conduct of seminars
- ▶ Membership of the NRW Land Integration Council
- ▶ Distribution of Grants to migrant self-organizations and Public relations

# Conclusion

- ▶ Participation in politics - makes the Immigrant community visible in the municipalities.
- ▶ Promotes belonging and identification as participating community.
- ▶ Influence and shape decisions in urban or Municipal policies
- ▶ Immigrants are actively called upon to participate both as Active and Passive Politicians for a better management of our multicultural and Multinational City of Mülheim an der Ruhr.

**Thanks for your Attention**

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# Discussion

- ▶ Is the Integration council an Asset or a liability to the Municipal council of Mülheim?
- ▶ How popular is the Integration Council?
- ▶ What proposal can be made to improve its Popularity?