Dr. Zsuzsanna Vegh

Director General BM Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal 1117 Budapest Budafoki út. 60.

Dr. János Áder

President of the Republic Hungary 1536 Budapest, Pf. 227

Prof. Dr. Máté SZABÓ

Commissioner for Fundamental Rights 1387 Budapest Pf. 40.

Dr. Sándor Pintér

Minister of Interior Jozsef Attila u. 2-4 1051 Budapest

7 June 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, undersigned, hereby submit our petition to all relevant bodies.

According to the Act LXXX of 2007 on Asylum the recognised refugees in Hungary must enjoy equal rights¹ as Hungarian citizens but this is not the case in reallity.

This petition we would like to address several issues that we request the Hungarian government to take into consideration:

- Rights to work in EU member states
- Status of refugee children born in Hungary
- Travel document for refugees Convention 1951
- Access to Hungarian citizenship

Right to work in EU member states:

The refugees in Hungary are disappointed that, when it comes to the right to work in the EU, they have been ignored by Hungarian government as well by EU institutions. Even-though the recognised refugees in Hungary, are legally residing in the EU they are not given equal rights as other EU citizen. We believe that this is not the EU approach and for this reason we do request for them to be treated equally.

Refugee children born in Hungary:

Another issue that refugees face in Hungary is that all children of recognised refugees born in Hungary have unknown citizenship. We do not accept such a position knowing that Hungary is a State and has a Constitution. Several years ago Germany had the same approach, but finally they recognized that it was mistake. Now any child born in Germany from the parents that have legal permission to stay in Germany get the German citizenship.

¹ Based on Act LXXX of 2007 on Asylum, refugees who are recognized in Hungary have equal rights as Hungarian citizens. Legal Status of Refugees 10. § (1) Unless a rule of law or government decree expressly provides otherwise, except as set out in subsections (2) and (3), a refugee shall have the rights and obligations of a Hungarian citizen. Available at: http://helsinki.hu/wp-content/uploads/Act_LXXX_of_2007_on_Asylum.pdf.

Travel document for refugees Convention 1951:

Several years ago the travel document was valid for two years but the Hungarian authorities changed the validation of this document to one year. We think that this was a wrong decision because in practice this document is valid only for 8 month.² Based on the Geneva Convention 1951 the document shall have a validity of either one or two years, at the discretion of the issuing authority. Even though the certain member state of Geneva Convention can decide about the validity of the travel document we believe that authorities have made a wrong decision by changing the validation of this document from two to one year.

Also the travel documents' fee for children/adult is 2.500 HUF/ per year. Based on the Geneva Convention Paragraph 3 "the fees charged for issue of the document shall not exceed the lowest scale of charges for national passports".

If we look at the domestic law the fees about national passport we can see that refugees are paying more.

The fees for national passport are:

- 2.500 HUF for an under 6 year-old child for 3 years validity.
- 2.500 HUF for 6-18 year-old child for 5 years validity.
- 7.500 HUF for the 18-70 years-old for a 5 years passport, and 14.000 HUF for a 10 years validity period..

In this case a travel document cost $2.500~{\rm HUF}$ for each year which is the same as the national passport's fee ($2.500~{\rm HUF}$) but the validity period is three or five years

We believe that recognised refugees are not treated equally in this regards and we ask the authorities to change the validation of travel document for two years.

Hungarian citizenship:

We know that 3 years after receiving refugee status recognised refugees have right to apply for citizenship. However, taking into consideration that the process is very difficult. In some cases, even if the refugees are passing the exam, the President refuse to grant them citizenship. We ask the Hungarian Government to give the recognised refugees the same rights to access citizenship as they gave to Hungarians outside Hungary. By paying the taxes and voting in local elections the recognised refugees are already involved in a part of Hungarian citizenship. Hungary should take Sweden as example where after 5 years staying in Sweden they are getting automatically the citizenship.

We hereby urge the above authorities to find solutions to the mentioned issues and to ensure that the recognised refugees who are residing in Hungary get the same rights as Hungarian citizens.

Sincerely	,
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Dzavit Berisa

Contact person:

Dzavit Berisa Szent Vendel ut 7 2300 Rackeve, Hungary 0036 30 2931019

² After you submit your application you have to wait one month for travel document this means that you got 11 month left. In case you need to apply for visa then the passport cannot be valid less than three month, which means that your travel document is valid only 8 months.

Cc:

Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, Eurpean Commission

Nils Muiznieks, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights

UNHCR Office in Hungary

UNICEF Office in Hungary

Austrian Embassy in Hungary

Belgian Embassy in Hungary

Cyprus Embassy in Hungary

Czech Embassy in Hungary

Danish Embassy in Hungary

Estonian Embassy in Hungary

Finnish Embassy in Hungary French Embassy in Hungary

German Embassy in Hungary

Greek Embassy in Hungary

Irish Embassy in Hungary

Italian Embassy in Hungary

Latvian Embassy in Hungary

Lithuanian Embassy in Hungary

Maltese Consulate in Hungary

Dutch Embassy in Hungary

Polish Embassy in Hungary

Portuguese Embassy in Hungary

Romanian Embassy in Hungary

Slovak Embassy in Hungary

Slovenian Embassy in Hungary

Spanish Embassy in Hungary

Swedish Embassy in Hungary

British Embassy in Hungary

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