

THE CITY IS FOR ALL

Mission statement

The City is for All (A Város Mindenkié) is a volunteer based grassroots organization led and operated by homeless (currently or past) people and by non-homeless activists of Budapest. We represent a wide range of people living in poverty and/or homelessness. We are looking for social justice in a more fair and equal society. Our goal is to unite marginalized and homeless people in order to fight for their rights and human dignity.

History

The organization was formed with members who are homeless and non-homeless participants trained by Picture The Homeless from New York, after their visit in Budapest in August, 2009. The organization operates as an informal advocacy group. It is an independent group that depends on the financial support of its members. The group's goal is to empower homeless people to stand up for their human dignity and to fight for the right to housing. Homeless people play a leading role in all aspects of the group.

Activities

The City is for All regularly organizes events that contribute to the protection of homeless people's rights, advocate for their interests, and change the social perception of homeless people.

The group frequently appears in the media in order to change the misconception that homeless people are incapable and hopeless.

The City is for All co-operates with other grassroots organizations representing the concerns of socially disadvantaged groups and fights together for housing rights and against marginalization.

Two members of the organization observe and participate in the meetings of the Council of Ten, which is the consultative body of homeless service providers in Budapest.

The City is for All also acts as an advocate for homeless people using the shelter system by analyzing complaints and concerns about social services and forwarding them to the responsible authorities and representing the claimants.

The group continuously organizes outreach sessions in homeless shelters and drop-in centers to make homeless people aware of their rights and to promote their self-determination.

Organizational Structure

The City is for All works in working groups and also has weekly plenary sessions discussing general issues and the reports of the teams. The organization has four working groups.



Housing Working Group

The team works on a housing rights campaign that brings the issue of unused real estate properties in the city to the attention of authorities and the public. These apartments (after legal issues are resolved and volunteers are recruited) could provide residence to those homeless people who live in public space, in shelters or are invisible. The committee wants to pressure the authorities to adapt, implement and expand different forms of social and public housing in Hungary.

Social Services Working Group

The team protects and promotes the rights of homeless people in order to receive proper social services and empowers them to participate directly in the decisions that affect them. The team is in contact with the directors of homeless shelters in Budapest.

Public Space Working Group

The team protects the rights of homeless people who live on and use public spaces. The team provides training and informative brochures about legal issues and operates a mobile, street-corner legal clinic in co-operation with other legal advocacy organizations.

Media Working Group

The team is responsible for the development and realization of media strategies. The group organizes all media appearances. They publish reports on the work of the organization in Budapest's homeless newspapers and run a weekly radio program on a non-profit internet radio station.

References

The City is for All website <http://avarosmindenkie.blog.hu>

Picture The Homeless website <http://www.picturethehomeless.org>

"Muzsikus" Internet radio station <http://muzsikusradio.hu>

Contact Us

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