

### Hanau

#### Remembering means changing

You are holding the new district newspaper of 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen' in your hands. In the newspaper you will find information about new developments in the district and at 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen'. There is also information about legal issues, interviews, political texts, etc.

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On 19 February 2020, nine people in Hanau were cruelly torn from their lives and those of their families and friends. The attack in which they died was not an isolated incident and the perpetrator was not a lone perpetrator. The attack joins a long list of right-wing and racist violence and attacks in Germany.



One year after the attack, we put up a banner and photos of the murdered on the corner of Gröpelinger Heerstraße and Lindenhofstraße. With this action we want to remember the young people who were killed in the attack in Hanau. But remembering also means changing: Therefore, the action is also a call to all to fight against racism and fascism in this society and elsewhere.

Many people live in Gröpelingen who experience racism themselves and would have a lot to say about the issue. We think it is important to talk about it together and to think about what we can do against everyday racism but also the structural racism that is deeply rooted in this society, politics and institutions. At 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen' has recently been an anti-racist committee. The aim is to make the issue in Gröpelingen more public and to bring people from Gröpelingen together to build up an anti-racist organisation in the district in the long term. If you want to join us, please contact us.



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## Solidarisch in Gröpelingen current issues

### Advice on legal issues

The district union of 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen' starts the year 2021 with a new counselling service:

From now on we offer counselling in social law, labour law, tenancy law and residence law issues. Under the current conditions, the counselling is unfortunately limited and only available by appointment.

When the Corona situation allows it again, we will offer open counselling hours. During the open counselling hours, in addition to counselling on the content, there will also be support in reading, understanding and translating letters. We are also looking for people from the district who would like to be present during the open counselling hours and help with reading, explaining or translating letters. Please feel free to contact us.

#### Why do we do this?

The district union of 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen' is a political and social district organisation. It is a place in the district where people come together and fight for concrete improvements in their living situation. Nobody gets paid for working at 'Solidarisch in Gröpelingen'. We are financed exclusively by membership fees and the support of neighbours who show solidarity. This is important to us so that we are and remain independent.

The first step to fight for an improvement of our living situation is to learn about our rights and to work on urgent problems. Legal counselling is therefore an important component.

Through legal counselling we can strengthen ourselves, reduce stress and avert existentially threatening situations. But legal counselling alone is not enough in the long run. Often, one also has to negotiate and fight for an improvement in this way. Because many laws are themselves unjust and mainly protect the profit interests of others rather than our basic needs. In labour law, for example, longer and more flexible working hours have been legally enshrined over the years. Tenancy law regularly provides for constantly rising rents and the right of residence contradicts basic human rights in so many places.

Good and professional legal advice is therefore only one leg of the district union. Joint organising, general assemblies and collective action is the other. Because one finger can be broken, but five fingers are a fist.



**You want advice?**  
 Call 0174 5361588 and leave your phone number on the answering machine. We will call you back.  
 Or write to us via whatsapp or by email: beratung-sig@riseup.net

## Solidarisch in Gröpelingen current issues

### Tenants of vonovia in Gröpelingen organize themselves - are you with us?

We are the housing committee of Solidarisch in Gröpelingen.



The housing committee has been in existence since 2018 and is where tenants of vonovia in Gröpelingen organize themselves. Together we fight against high utility bills, rent increases after modernizations and other problems. We also want to scandalize how vonovia earns money - namely on the backs of its tenants. We want to show that we no longer accept this! And we are not alone in this.

Recently, the nationwide campaign "voNOvia" was launched, in which individuals, tenants' associations, lawyers and groups like us from different cities are participating. The goal is to jointly prevent vonovia from making profits on operating costs and modernizations.

To implement the nationwide campaign in Gröpelingen, we want to build a strong tenants' committee for 2021.

To do this, we are looking for people who want to be active. We need people who like to plan, organize or feel like approaching and motivating other tenants and neighbors to stand up for a different rent policy. So that at some point housing is no longer a commodity that can be speculated with and simply taken away from people.

You want to join us? Contact us!  
 stadtteil-soli@riseup.net / 0163 9711409

### New nationwide tenants' alliance voNO!via hands over open letter to vonovia

On March 01, 2021, the newly founded nationwide tenants' alliance published an open letter to vonovia. In the letter, more than 20 tenant organizations demand, among other things, a nationwide refund of janitor costs and unfounded rent increases due to alleged modernization. The housing committee of Solidarisch in Gröpelingen is also involved. Real estate companies like vonovia make profits at the expense of tenants. In order to prevent this, tenants from different cities must join forces and take joint action. The alliance is a big step in this direction. You can find the open letter on our website: www.solidarisch-in-groepelingen.de



### Resumption of the investigation in the case of Mohamed Idrissi

On June 18, 2020, Mohamed Idrissi was shot dead by police in front of his apartment in Gröpelingen. The investigation into this case was initially closed. As almost always when non-white people and people with mental disabilities are killed by the police. The alliance "Justice for Mohamed", to which Solidarisch in Gröpelingen also belongs, cannot accept this decision. We continued to demand justice for Mohamed and his family, collecting obvious contradictions and emphasizing the incomplete investigation of the police. Mohamed Idrissi's daughter Aicha Meisel-Suhr was leaked a second video showing what happened after the shooting. The video and probing questions about the crime eventually led to the reopening of the investigation in late January 2021.



As reported in the media, the video shows police still handcuffing Mohamed Idrissi, who had already been shot, and then dragging him across the floor, seriously injured. What reasons can there be for dealing with a human being in this way? Was Mohamed Idrissi still alive at this point? Would he have survived if he had been taken care of directly instead of being dragged across the ground with his hands in handcuffs? In what disgusting way will it be explained that this behavior was also appropriate and that the officers only wanted to protect their lives? We are prepared for the worst. Our goal is to continue to break the silence after the murder of Mohamed and to fight for clarification and justice. We continue to fight!

justiceformohamed.org

### Who are we ?

Solidarisch in Gröpelingen (SiG) is a political and social neighbourhood organization. At SiG people with similar problems in daily life such as problems with rent, trouble with the Jobcenter, stress at work, experiences of racism or sexism, get organized. We aim to come together and struggle against those issues together.

For this purpose we inform about the legal situation and think about how we can collectively stand up for an improvement of our living conditions.

Solidarisch in Gröpelingen also brings together people who are convinced that a radical change in this society is necessary. We think that such a change is only possible if more and more people get organized together and fight the roots of their problems. And at the same time learn to solve their everyday affairs in solidarity and together. To make this possible, we also need places where we can meet, exchange and get to know each other. Therefore we also organize cultural, social and political activities like movie nights, events, open meeting, etc. We do regular open activist meetings, currently online. If you are interested, contact us.

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 Solidarisch in Gröpelingen

Solidarisch in Gröpelingen is independent from political parties, official institutions, trade unions, and religious facilities. We are financed by donations of everybody who wants to support the project or is involved in it. The idea lives from the fact that more and more people in Gröpelingen organize themselves in solidarity and actively participate.