

Corona: What Houseless People Demand in Munich

In the last few days, at least 23 cases of Covid-19 ended up taking lives in Germany and at least 8000 cases were detected (17.03.2020). The Bavarian government declared state of emergency and people were encouraged to stay indoors and cautious. High risk groups are warned to take serious measures of protection.

For people experiencing houselessness it is almost impossible to follow the official recommendations to fight the Corona crisis. They cannot protect themselves sufficiently. It is difficult to take part in fighting the pandemic when you live on the streets.

On March 17, 2020, about 15 people who sleep at the municipal homeless shelter "Bayernkaserne" in Munich have verbalized their plausible demands to overcome the pandemic:

1. Every houseless person should get shelter 24/7 and have the possibility to avoid crowded situations. The rooms of the Bayernkaserne should be registered in a certain order; people should be provided rooms for 2 to 4 persons; everybody should be able to use one locker and they should have their own keys; people should use the same room/lockers all the time and shouldn't pick a bed or locker randomly each and every time. This will enable a stability/consistence in their personal use. People should be allowed to choose their roommates.
2. There should be continuous medical support (medical personnel) in Kaserne.
3. Hygiene materials for the people should be provided properly in the bathrooms and everywhere (disinfectants, soap, paper towels etc.).
4. The shelter should be kept properly clean all the time. Bayernkaserne is currently very messy and dirty. There should be certain places in the bathrooms where people can leave their cleaning material, tooth brushes, towels etc. during the showers and during other uses of the bathrooms.
5. People who don't have personal identification documents and/or health insurance should also have access to health services in and outside Kaserne.
6. Warm food and proper meals for everyone should be provided in the shelter.
7. Some people are concerned about not being able to leave Munich anymore. Travel tickets for those who want to leave Munich should be provided free of charge.

For the case of quarantine in the shelter:

8. People who stay in the shelter should be able to communicate with their loved ones. In particular, proper internet access would be important.

9. In case that the shelter is put in quarantine, the necessities of people who are inside should be provided (such as proper meals, cigarettes and hygiene products). People may also need some activities to spend time under quarantine (at least, things like TVs, games, books). They may also need psychological support, and hence, personnel for both mental and other physical health issues.

It shouldn't be forgotten that these demands concern the health of everybody who is under the threat of the virus, at home or homeless.

Many hotel rooms are empty and could be used for shelter free of charge to allow for physical distancing as suggested by the authorities.

Kampagne Wir Wollen Wohnen, 18.03.2020