

Since March 21, 2020, Munich has opened its night shelter to unsheltered people full-time. The shelter has additionally started to provide food for the residents. So far, the facility had only been accessible for overnight stays for people allegedly ineligible to access the city's regular homeless shelters. This demographic is predominantly composed of workers without German citizenship. On March 18, 2020, homeless people addressed the city with the demand for 24/7 access to shelter. Additional requests entailed that the city should guarantee for enough space and sound sanitary facilities to enable social distancing and personal hygiene. The city's prompt response and effort to ensure that no one will remain without a roof over their head is noteworthy. Nonetheless, requests to ensure the recommended hygienic standards are only met for those groups of people that the city recognises as most vulnerable. Therefore, only families, sick and elderly people will be accommodated in hostel rooms. The situation in the general shelter (Bayernkaserne), however, paints a different picture. Sanitary products are not always available and rooms are overcrowded. The lack of an internet connection has left residents detached from their families and without access to information. Residents of the Bayernkaserne also pointed out the insufficient support by social workers. Given that many people lost their employment due to the current health crisis, they need professional assistance to apply for social welfare or financial support to travel abroad to their families. Many of the workers were employed in precarious jobs in the construction and cleaning sector. The loss of income poses an existential threat to the workers and their families.

We believe the accommodation of all unsheltered people in hotel rooms is urgently needed. We also think it is necessary to support every person with emergency payments who is left without income amid the current health crisis. Additionally, applications for benefits should be facilitated in multiple languages. The majority of hotels all over Munich are left vacant in light of the mounting pandemic. We believe the city has the capacity and the responsibility to provide everyone at all times with shelter that complies with recommended health standards (see e.g. <http://inizivi.antira.info/2017/03/18/wir-wollen-wohnen-bericht-und-materialien-zur-kampagne-2016/> und <http://inizivi.antira.info/2017/08/28/we-won-obdachloser-eu-burger-klagt-recht-auf-unterkunft-vor-gericht-ein/>).