

Call for the establishment of a migration advisory council

Treptow-Köpenick founds a migration advisory board!

Dear fellow citizens,

Treptow-Köpenick is diverse. Almost 20% have a so-called “Migrationsgeschichte“. This means that they or their family came to Germany as migrants or refugees or have been affected by the effects of racist discrimination. Diversity is often not visible in politics and administration. Many people in Treptow-Köpenick are not allowed to vote, and if so, often only partially. To ensure that the interests of all neighbours are heard and taken into account, Treptow-Köpenick is founding a migration advisory board. It will consist of people from Treptow-Köpenick who are migrants or refugees and live, work, volunteer, study or do an apprenticeship in the district. Representatives of advice offices will also be part of the board.

The migration advisory board advises and supports the district office in all questions of integration and equal participation of migrants and refugees. The migration advisory board can send a representative to the public meetings of the committees of the district assembly (Bezirksverordnetenversammlung or BVV) and regularly seeks exchange with Berlin’s advisory board as well as the migration advisory boards of the other districts. The migration advisory board can make a real difference. In order for this to succeed, we call on all interested people to apply to become a member.

Do you live in Treptow-Köpenick or are an active member of the district otherwise? Did you or your family come to Germany as migrant or refugee or are affected by racism? Then you can apply with a short introduction about yourself, your motivation and vision for the migration advisory board by 31.12.2022 to:

Bezirksamt Treptow-Köpenick von Berlin
Büro des Bezirksbürgermeisters, Integrationsbüro

Rudower Chaussee 4
12489 Berlin

integration@ba-tk.berlin.de

We strongly encourage Black people, People of Color, queer*LSBTIQA persons and persons with disabilities and/or chronic illness to apply.

Gregor Postler, Participation and Integration Officer for the district of Treptow-Köpenick

Katharina Stöckl, Coordinator for Refugee Affairs and Public Relations in the Integration Office of the Treptow-Köpenick District Office

FAQs on the Migration Advisory Board

Why is the migration advisory board being founded and what does it do?

In almost all districts of Berlin and also at the state level, there are already migration advisory boards with different outlooks. With the new law on migration and participation for Berlin public administration, migration advisory boards have become obligatory for all districts. The migration advisory board advises and supports the district office in all questions of integration and equal participation of migrants and refugees. The migration advisory board can send a representative to the public meetings of the committees of the district assembly (Bezirksverordnetenversammlung or BVV) and regularly seeks exchange with the migration advisory board for Berlin as well as the migration advisory boards in the other districts.

What is the composition of the Migration Advisory Board?

In Treptow-Köpenick, the migration advisory board will consist of people who themselves or whose families have come to Germany as migrants or refugees and now live, work, volunteer, study or do an apprenticeship in this district. In addition, representatives of civil society are able to contribute to the work of the advisory board due to their knowledge in questions of integration and equal participation of migrants, refugees and racialised people. The members who are migrants and refugees have to form the majority. A deputy is elected for each member. The integration office of the district's public services participates in the meetings of the advisory board in an advisory capacity and provides organisational support.

How is the Migration Advisory Board convened?

The constituent meeting of the migration advisory board will take place at the beginning of 2023. Interested persons can apply to become a member until 31 December 2022. Interviews will take place in the beginning of January. The selected members will adopt rules of procedure and determine how the migration advisory board will meet as well as when and how new members will be elected in the future.

Who can apply to become a member of the Treptow-Köpenick migration advisory board?

People who themselves or whose families have come to Germany as migrants or refugees and now live, work, volunteer, study or do an apprenticeship here. In addition, representatives of civil society can become members if they have in-depth knowledge of questions of integration and equal participation of migrants, refugees and racialised people.

What does "Migrationsgeschichte" mean?

Many migrants and refugees suffer losses because they have to leave their families, friends, networks and belongings behind. Many of them are unable to bring their professional qualifications, education and training successes into the local system on a one-to-one basis. There are problems with the recognition of degrees and the German language first has to be learned to a professional level. In addition, many have a precarious residence status and thus have less access to education, work, housing and political participation.

Often, disadvantages are so massive that they still affect children or even grandchildren of immigrants. Many young people and children do not have a so-called “migration background“ according to the previous definition. But they are disadvantaged by effects of migration and related discrimination and exclusion.

Racially discriminated people are meant by the term “Migrationsgeschichte“, too. This includes non-white Germans or people who are identified as Muslim, Jewish, Sinti and Roma. They are often attributed a migration background because of their name, appearance, religion or language. Whether such attributions and/or racial discrimination happen to them should be assessed and stated by the persons themselves.

How can I apply?

You can apply with a short introduction about yourself, your motivation and vision for the Migration Advisory Board until 31.12.2022 to the following address (by post or electronically):

Bezirksamt Treptow-Köpenick von Berlin
Büro des Bezirksbürgermeisters, Integrationsbüro

Rudower Chaussee 4
12489 Berlin

integration@ba-tk.berlin.de

What are my duties as a member?

Your duties will include regular attendance at the Migration Advisory Board meetings, preparing for the issues discussed by the Migration Advisory Board as well as networking. If you take on a specific role, other tasks may include e.g. participation in committees of the BVV, inviting and organising the meetings of the advisory board, managing the finances, public relations or chairing the advisory board.

Honorary office allowance and travel and meeting allowance

Like members of the BVV and citizen deputies, members of the Migration Advisory Board receive an expense.