

Resistance against climate change and racism – fight migration causes and neocolonialism! Join the Antiracist Barrio at the Climate Camp in the Rhineland from 19.-29. August 2016!

### **Who talks about climate change may not remain silent on racism...**

If we want to get active against climate change, we fight against multiple systems of oppression and for a better world for all. Capitalism creates social injustice, misery and myriad causes to escape, also because of climate change, everywhere in the world. At the same time capitalism enforces racism and racist thoughts, structurally but also openly and under the massive use of violence. Nowadays and ever since the colonization of the global south, the countries of the global north exploit and destroy the perspectives of people living in the global south and forces hundreds of thousands to leave their homes. As a response to this migration Germany and other states of the EU erected border fences, militarized the Mediterranean Sea and let thousands of people die on their search for a better world. Alone in the last 20 years more than 30.000 people died on their way towards Europe!

Climate change goes hand in hand with land grabbing, droughts and wars – fought with weapons produced in the EU – and destroys the basis of existence. In the EU in general and in Germany in particular, the response to the people on the move due to these reasons and legitimately claiming a better life is exclusion, racism and a lack of rights. In the course of last year the laws regulating the human right to seek asylum was tightened several times and it's virtually disabled completely these days. There have been numerous attacks on refugees and their houses, racist statements are made without hesitating, refugees are criminalized and the freedom of movement, possibilities to work and future perspectives are withdrawn.

Also the discourse on climate change, international summits and their negotiations (that are again dominated by countries of the global north) are strongly framed by racist mindsets. The summit in Paris in December 2015 that was glorified for limiting the worldwide temperature rise on 1,5°C. Disastrous consequences in the global south i.e. small islands in the Carribean Sea drowning under the rising sea level are neglected and downplayed. .

### **System Change not Climate Change – but how?**

The general topic of this year's Climate Camp is „Skills for System Change“. To remain or become capable of acting as a leftist movement we need discussions, networking, the development of common strategies and especially self-reflections on *whiteness*. The Climate Camp in the Rhineland could be a space for this – therefore we want to create an Antiracist Barrio.

With creating a space like this, it's mainly about learning from each other, to acquire skills with which we can foster a socio-ecological transformation. Dealing with the topic of racism (as with sexism and other forms of discrimination) it is not only about learning new „skills“ but also about **un**learning old internalized power structures. Against the background of the rise of the European right-wing movements, we aim at opening up a space that inspires people to reflect on their internalized racisms and to find ways of overcoming these - together\*. We would also like to invite people who are affected by racism to tell about their experiences and to bring in their wishes and ideas.

Also the discussion of the following questions seem equally important to us:

What could the climate justice and degrowth movement learn from the antiracist movement?

Where are blank spaces and blind spots regarding this topic?

The Antiracist Barrio offers opening up possibilities of getting to know initiatives, campaigns, groups and other individuals who are active against racism and its discriminating structures. Moreover it could be a space to network and develop common strategies of different groups – in order to become a common strong movement „for a good life for all“ (again).

This year's Climate Camp will place emphasis on „Understanding Systems“, „Developing Utopias“ „Conspiring Associations“, „Building Bridges“ and „Breaking Hegemony“ in order to get into discussions more deeply and intensively.

**If you're interested in being involved in the organization, would like to offer a workshop, facilitate a discussion round, present your group/campaign, or if you have questions or suggestions – just leave a message to**

**[burnbordersnotcoal@riseup.net](mailto:burnbordersnotcoal@riseup.net)**

\*We would like to point out that everyone who worked on this text is *white*.