

A Society Based on Solidarity and Inclusion:

**Social Justice and Equal Rights
for All**

Die Linke

NEUSS

Policy Paper: Integration Council Neuss 2025–2030

Neuss is a diverse city. People with migration backgrounds live, work, and engage in the community here—often already in the second or third generation. **Migration is part of everyday life**, not an exception. But political **participation**, social **security**, and **equal opportunities** are still unequally distributed. Those living in Neuss without a German passport often face worse chances in education, employment, housing, and civic participation. Discrimination is a reality—in daily life, in public institutions, and on the housing market.

Discrimination is not limited to the relationship between the majority society and minorities. Prejudices and exclusion also exist within migrant communities themselves—and we stand against these forms as well. Right-wing ideologies and group-focused enmity have no place in Neuss, no matter who promotes them.

Despite some progress, the dominant approach in many areas still follows the old integration paradigm. While the City Council has become more open toward certain groups and types of immigration, exclusion, restrictive policies, and symbolic devaluation still dominate when it comes to refugees and vulnerable groups. One example that gained broad political support was the introduction of the so-called “payment card.” Anti-Muslim stereotypes are particularly influential in shaping the debate. Racism often begins with language: when public institutions are defamed with terms like “Sharia police” or sweeping accusations, this fuels racist resentment.

People who face multiple forms of marginalization — such as Black „FLINTA“ (women, lesbians, intersex, non-binary, trans, and agender individuals) who wear hijabs, queer Jewish people, or refugees with disabilities — often experience heightened vulnerability due to intersectional discrimination. These groups must not fall through the cracks — they need to be included, protected, and actively supported. A society of solidarity and migration recognizes these intersections and acts accordingly.

Our message is clear: Enough is enough. We need a strong stance and concrete measures for a society of solidarity and migration. Integration is not an individual's duty — it is a public and collective responsibility. A just Neuss begins with equal rights for everyone who lives here. Rights, resources, and recognition must be distributed fairly.

DIE LINKE Neuss is committed in the Integration Council to social justice, to combating racism, and to strengthening migrant perspectives.

We stand with those who are excluded, disenfranchised, or systematically disadvantaged. What we are demanding is achievable. What's missing is the political will —and we bring that with us.

Our Demands

1. Anti-Racism Needs Structure

- We demand an independent local complaints office for discrimination and racism—with real authority.
- Mandatory training on institutional racism is needed for public administration, police, schools, and job centers.
- Racist police violence, arbitrary actions by authorities, and structural exclusion must be named, addressed, and prevented.
- Anti-Muslim narratives and racist stigmatization must be identified, analyzed, and stopped. Language shapes reality.
- No cooperation with the AfD in committees or other local bodies. The normalization of group-based hatred must be stopped.

2. Equal Rights for All: Municipal Voting Rights Regardless of Citizenship

- We advocate for municipal voting rights for everyone who permanently lives in Neuss.
- Political participation must not depend on residency status.
- We call for full voting rights—both active and passive—at all levels for migrants who have lived in Germany long-term.

3. Social Justice Instead of Racist Division

- Integration is not the responsibility of individuals—it is a task for society as a whole.
- Migrants are not a burden—they are part of this city. We reject the division into “us” and “them.”
- We support movements like Seebrücke, Black Lives Matter, and local anti-racist and anti-fascist groups.

4. Migrant Quota in City Administration and Participatory Bodies

- Migrant perspectives must be structurally anchored.
- We demand a minimum quota in public administration, participatory bodies, and personnel development.
- Migrant voices must be included in decision-making processes.

5. Protect Labour Rights: End Exploitation

- Many migrants in Neuss work under precarious conditions—especially in logistics, cleaning, and care sectors.
- We demand comprehensive inspections to ensure compliance with minimum wage and occupational safety—regardless of residency status.
- Undocumented people must have access to labour rights protection. Legalization instead of endless temporary toleration!

6. Education, Training, Recognition—for Everyone!

- The systemic disadvantage of migrant children in Neuss's education system must end: more language support, intercultural pedagogy, and multidisciplinary teams are needed.
- The recognition of foreign qualifications must be accelerated—through local guidance, support, and job placement.
- Qualified people should be able to work in qualified jobs—regardless of their country of origin.

7. Health Must Not Be a Luxury

- We demand anonymous access to healthcare for uninsured individuals.
- Access to medical care in Neuss must be guaranteed for all—regardless of residency status.
- Refugees, people with tolerated status, and unhoused individuals need low-threshold healthcare services.

8. Housing Is a Human Right

- End discrimination in the housing market: active monitoring, anonymous application tools, and clear sanctions are required.
- Collective accommodation must be phased out—decentralized housing is a necessity, not a luxury.
- Municipal housing must take migrant needs seriously—especially for large families and older migrants.

9. Culture Is Diversity: Amplify Migrant Voices

- We call for reliable cultural funding for migrant-led initiatives, festivals, and projects.
- The city of Neuss needs spaces for migrant-driven art, music, literature, film, and food culture.
- Culture must not be misused as a tool for integration—it is a form of self-expression and participation.

10. Fund Integration and Enable Solidarity

- We demand the creation of a “Welcoming Municipalities Fund”—and Neuss should benefit from it.
- Investments in public infrastructure, schools, childcare, and social services must also support integration—not just manage it.
- The City of Neuss should join the “Safe Harbours” alliance and enable admissions beyond the official quotas.
- We reject the payment card system—it disempowers, excludes, and makes daily life harder. Refugees in Neuss must not be treated as second-class citizens. Instead of a payment card, we demand regular cash benefits at the level of a solidarity-based minimum income, just like everyone else.

11. Protect Refugees and Defend Human Rights

- Refugee families need safety, unity, and a future—including the right to family reunification with siblings.
- No cooperation with the AfD: We demand that no party—in the Integration Council or in any other municipal body—cooperates with or submits joint proposals alongside the far-right AfD. The normalization of hatred must be stopped immediately.
- No paid deportation sponsorships or local return programs: We reject deportations into insecurity, poverty, or war. Public funds should be invested in participation and protection—not in isolation and deportation. Neuss must not take part in programs that actively promote or reward the deportation of people seeking protection.

**Fair Politics
Deserve Your Vote!**
On September 14,
Your Vote for

Die Linke

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