

Hello all,

As always, text is dictated in English and Google Translate is used to translate it to Arabic, Farsi and Turkish. All in one lengthy mail.

Scroll down to get to your language. If anything unclear ask day coordinator for explanation or return a question by email.

September 9th and then?

Yesterday we did not get our wished clarity about the follow up. As we want to properly plan ahead we stated that we want at least three days in advance indication whether a movement is going to take place and if so, where to. So we stated that you are welcome to stay here at least till the 12th of september. If by Friday 9th it is still unclear we will add yet another 3 days. In the mean time there are negotiations going on with COA and government and we hope that we can arrange something with local government, but no promises.

Visitors

Yesterday we were surprised by an unexpected visitor. Sorry to say but this was a once only experience. You cannot invite people to this location. If someone wants to meet you outside the church territory there is no problem. If you speak in advance to the day coordinator we can arrange for room in the other church (where you got your clothes), but please tell us at least one day ahead! But no visitors at this site.

Showering time tonight after surprise meeting of 20.00 tonight! We've got all evening.

Public transportation card

In the Netherlands you cannot buy a bus ticket with cash money! You need to have a public transportation card. In Zuidlaren you can buy an anonymous card at the supermarket COOP in the south, address: De Klencke 47. The card costs 7,50 euro itself. Next you need to put money to the card before you are able to travel with it. You can choose how much money: 10, 20 50 euro. Public transportation is expensive! A single trip to Groningen costs easily 4 to 5 euro. A single trip to Ter Apel takes 12 - 13 euro!

Next step asylum procedure

You will get a request to go for the next step in the procedure. You can try to go on your own to Ter Apel but most probably you just waste 25 euro on the trip and will not get through or to the next stage of the procedure.

Cultural differences

In general: Respect others in their opinion and behaviour

Freedom of speech/expression

This is a complex topic. In the Netherlands people are entitled to say a lot of things. Things that do sometimes upset people. There are some legal borders to what you are allowed to say. But it is often a grey area and sometimes people bring some events to court to get a judgement if certain speeches or expressions were beyond legal boundaries.

Separation of State and Church

In the Netherlands there is a clear separation between State and Church.

It relates to topics like equal treatment of all people, principle of neutrality and freedom of religion. Religion is kind of tolerated as long as the expression of the religion does not cross borders set by the law. It is often translated to: You're free to express your religion but it stops the moment you want others to follow your religious guidelines.

People are free to choose and only the law by the State enforces actual boundaries.

That being said, if any of you want a certain moments in a separated space to express your religion come to the day coordinator and we will try to find a solution