

**Dover Sherborn**

**Berlin**

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**Introduction:**

Berlin, as the generous capital of Germany, draws many immigrants coming into the country every year. These immigrants are often fleeing violence, persecution, and related dangers. The most important things for Berlin to do is to make sure the immigrants that are already in the city are well represented in the government, have decent housing, have schools to attend, are employed, are healthy, and have coalesced well into their society. Essentially, Berlin needs to be able to properly support the number of immigrants.

The influx of immigrants during the crisis beginning several years ago has had a great influence on Berlin's structure and capacity limits. With the surge of new individuals to care for, the healthcare system went from strained to overwhelmed and the mental health system was exposed as inadequate. While Berlin is successful in many areas, such as waste management and effective systems for those who suffer from food insecurity, the city also has plenty of room for improvement. Some examples include more funding for school systems, additional emergency shelters, and more accessible education. The delegation of Berlin's spending should be more focused on finding ways to accommodate the refugees in every conceivable way. Current systems aren't addressing the needs of these people and are potentially exacerbating their issues.

Many problems in Berlin seem to be too specific and only benefitting a small population within the migrant population. Each of the committees reported their own problems and solutions, but the most widespread solution would be to educate the general population and the immigrants as a whole. Education is key for life, if a person is not able to know what immigrants might be going through, or know that not all immigrants speak German or have education, they cannot connect with the immigrant on a person level. This is why the two broad categories of education and a common language are two of our top priorities for Berlin's immigrants. Whether this is helping people learned skilled labor, the language of German, simply more accessible education or more funding for education, or educating people on how immigrants themselves are not unsafe, Berlin as a city would be greatly influenced by this action.

## **Demographics:**

The demographics of Berlin prove to be as diverse and unique as many of the many enticing factors of the city. It has a population of 3.5 million and approximately 3,809 people per square kilometer. The city houses many different ethnicities that make up this population. There are about 101,000 citizens born in Turkey, which makes Berlin the largest Turkish community outside of Turkey. There are also about 47,000 citizens born in Poland, 20,000 born in Italy, 19,000 born in Serbia, and 17,500 born in Russia. Additionally, there are about 16,000 Bulgaria-born citizens of Berlin, 15,000 born in France, 14,500 born in the United States, 14,000 born in Vietnam, 11,500 born in the United Kingdom, 11,500 born in Spain, and 11,000 born in Greece. There are 10,500 citizens that were born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 10,000 born in Austria, 10,000 born in Croatia, 9,000 born in Romania, and 9,000 born in Ukraine. There are even other foreign-born populations in Berlin from places like Lebanon, China, Thailand, and many more countries. According to world population review, “in 2010, 13.5% of the population were of foreign nationality from 190 countries” and in 2008, it was estimated that up to 30% of the population was foreign born. The diversity of demographics in Berlin expand into the religious aspects of Berlin as well. Worldpopulationreview.com states that “about 60% of Berlin’s population have no registered religious affiliation. The city is often referred to as the atheist capital of Europe due to this. Protestants make up 19% of the large religious denominations in Berlin, Roman Catholics make up 9%, Muslims make up 8%, other Christian denominations make up 2.5%, and other religions make up 1% (world population review). There are approximately 10.6 millions migrants in Germany, which is broken up into many nationalities and countries of birth. Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq make up 11.2% of total migrants. According to data gathered by statista.com, many of the private households in Germany find themselves somewhere in the middle range of net income per month, 1,500 euros to 4,500 euros per month. In 2017, there were about 41.3 million private households in Germany and 23.534 million of these were in this large middle range. There are 7.323 million households in the 900 to 1,300 euros per month range and 3.792 million under 900 euros per month. There are 3.28 million households in the 4,500 to 6,000 euros per month range and 2.276 million netting over 6,000 euros per month. With the majority of the wealth being distributed amongst

the middle class, the income distribution in Germany is balanced, however there are still a large amount of outliers that are found in the lower ranges. Berlin's demographics seem to be one of the many great attributes of the prosperous city.

**Key Points:**

- The Economic Integration Committee would like to focus on a more accessible education for migrants to allow them better access and success in work
- The Health Committee would like to see the expansion of healthcare services, particularly in mental health
- The Committee on Youth and Education would like additional funding to be provided to Berlin's school system to support and integrate migrant children
- The Committee on Social Cohesion would like to educate and engage the general population on integrating immigrants to prevent conflicts from arising
- The Committee on Leadership and Governance would like to get more migrant representation in the Berlin Senate as well as continued support migrants in local government
- The Committee of Resilience would favor European nations to jointly shoulder the responsibilities of those seeking refugees

**Background:**

Berlin's government is a complex bureaucracy with a multitude of governing bodies ranging from local to national levels. Accompanying the central government, Berlin has 12 district boroughs, each with a local mayor, council, and assembly. The chief mayor, city parliament, and a 16-person government operate on the state level. The city court system has local and state courts as well as a constitutional court. Berlin couldn't hold citywide elections between 1949 to 1989 due to the division between East and West Berlin. Each half of the city was part of a district in its respective side of the split- East Berlin was East Germany's capital, while West Berlin was West Germany's 11th district. During formal reunification, West Berlin's constitution was amended and served as a "transitional constitution" until 1995. Reconstruction proceeded quickly after that; Berlin was reestablished as Germany's capital in 1999 and became the seat of parliament in 2000. For the next ten years, the mayor belonged to the Christian Democratic Union, with the Social Democratic Party belonging to a coalition with the former (Britannica). In recent years the green party also known as alliance 90' has also had some

influence in Berlin.

Founded in 1953, Berlin's migration agency evolved from a 40-person body, responsible only for looking over asylum applications to a sprawling agency struggling with allegations of corruption and bribery. In the chaos surrounding the end of World War 2, the United Nations converted a former POW camp into a shelter for homeless foreigners. Just a year later in 1947, the UN gave the camp (dubbed the Valka Camp by its occupants) to fledgling German refugee-focused organizations. The Federal Authority for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees was founded in 1953 as a response to new international law set by the Geneva Convention. The Authority moved to new government-sanctioned buildings and accommodation centers after the Valka Camp closed in 1960. Rechristened yet again (becoming the Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees) after the Foreign Nationals Act passed in 1965, the organization still had relatively few asylum-seekers to deal with.

In 1974, this all changed, a massive influx of refugees followed growing domestic conflict in Turkey. There were a record-breaking 100,000 asylum applicants in 1980- over half of whom were Turkish. The Federal Office quickly expanded from 60 to 240 employees to adapt, but its holding camp was still frequently over capacity. A nearly identical upscaling occurred in the early 1990s as the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in further mass migration. Branch offices were established in 48 locations and the number of staff had ballooned to over 4,000. The expansion was short-lived, however, since the asylum compromise of 1993 caused the number of applications to drop significantly; by 1996, the agency had a more reasonable 800 employees. Seemingly unable to commit to a name, The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees emerged from a restructuring period spanning from about 1993 to about 2005, the year the Immigration Act was introduced.

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (thankfully abbreviated as BAMF) “has developed from being purely an asylum authority to a competence center for migration and integration (From the Administrative Office to the Federal Office)”, with various tasks and functions related to migrancy centralized under it. In 2011, BAMF had 22 branch offices and approximately 2,000 employees (From the Administrative Office to the Federal Office). BAMF is currently surrounded by scandal due to a worker in a regional office being accused of taking

bribes and granting over 1,200 migrants asylum between 2013 and 2016. The agency's competence and reliability are being called into question- not only were 4 other employees in the same regional office under investigation for corruption, but a backlog of over 50,000 asylum cases remains despite attempts to improve the system. Frank-Jürgen Weise, the head of BAMF from 2015 to 2016, has vocally criticized the Interior Ministry and Angela Merkel for failing to take appropriate action even as he outlined clear deficiencies within the agency. Weise claims that he spoke to Merkel in-person twice during his tenure heading BAMF about the overwhelming workload staff were forced to deal with. Furthermore, Weise said that "it is inexplicable how, given the situation, it could be assumed that BAMF would be able to cope with the considerable influx in refugees" after management organization supposed to support BAMF claimed it had "never witnessed a government agency in such a bad state of affairs (Problems at BAMF Refugee Agency)." With investigations ongoing, it is unclear how BAMF will proceed going forward (Problems at BAMF Refugee Agency).

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#### Committee on Youth and Education: Anna Davis

The education system in Berlin has been extremely accepting of migrant children and is attempting to integrate them into German classes and society. Berlin's public schools are state-sponsored and decentralized- no zoning rules apply, so families can choose which public school to send their child to (*Expat Arrivals*). Students are automatically assigned a bus route and are picked up and dropped off at the stop closest to their primary address (*Berlin Public Schools*). Of the ethnic non-Germans in Berlin's schools, most are Turkish, Polish, or Russian, but there are over 20 ethnic groups with a general population of at least 10,000 in the city (*Wikipedia*). About 400,000 students in Germany are refugees, and Berlin has educated 20,000 refugee students in the last two years (Davis). About 8,000 of them have been fully integrated into German classes, while the remaining 12,000 are still enrolled in "welcome classes", segregated from native German speakers. In order to teach one of the 1,100 welcome classes across 600 schools in Berlin, educators are required to have at least studied German language

instruction; the city attempts to provide social workers and psychologists as well (Specht). The aim of welcome classes is to provide focus on teaching migrant children German and eventually integrating them into regular classes, but the effort has seen mixed results (Davis). According to an OECD report, 43% of foreign students are performing poorly in school, with test scores approximately 50% worse than their native German peers in critical subjects like math and english (Specht). Only 25% of migrant students are expected to receive a university degree, and 25% of 5-year olds needed remedial German courses in 2016 (*Education in Germany 2016*, Specht). Migrant families are more likely to be impoverished and to have both parents unemployed (*Education in Germany 2016*). Specific foreign nationality doesn't have much of an impact on performance in school, however, since the greatest deciding factor on achievement is whether a student is native German or not (Davis). Migrant students are also disadvantaged by the way schools are organized; students are placed in one of three levels depending on their motivation and academic performance and generally do not move up or down (Expat Arrivals). For most, this system guarantees that migrants are shunted into the bottom track and are not provided with the scholarships or chances to study at a university given to top students (Specht). Furthermore, Germany is lacking in qualified teachers and will need to hire about 24,000 teachers by 2025 to be able to manage the influx of new students. Teaching is a well-respected and well-paying job, but without a centralized plan for educating migrants, some are at a loss with how to deal with language barriers and traumatized refugee children (Davis). Despite Berlin's best efforts, migrant children reportedly feel like their prospects in life are limited and struggle to reconcile their dual identities as German and Turkish/Polish/Russian/etc (Specht). Mentorship and after-school programs (which are not affiliated with public schools) attempting to get migrant kids back on track are seeing limited progress with older students; a teenage class dwindled from 20 students to 3 over the course of the year, and a teacher described his group of 15-year old Turkish girls laughing and on their phones instead of paying attention. These organizations have found that their programs are much more effective with younger kids who are more willing to learn (Arva). This places the older kids who may have already slipped through the cracks in even more danger; teachers are concerned that they will become a "lost generation" (Davis).

Like with education, the German government has devoted significant resources for housing and jobs for migrant kids and unaccompanied youth. Migrant kids aren't expressly forbidden from working in Berlin, but employment restrictions center around one's residual status. According to city law, an application for an employment permit can be submitted "if you hold a valid residence permit, fictional certificate, temporary suspension of deportation, temporary residence permit for asylum seekers, border crossing certificate, or certificate of suspension of enforceability of exit" (Employment – Foreign Workers). The large NGOs in Berlin that involve migrants are generally more focused on training adult migrants to become employed than helping school-age kids (Winchell). At the end of January 2016, there were over 60,000 unaccompanied minors in Germany (Deutsche Welle). Most are about 16-17 years old and came from Afghanistan or Syria, the countries responsible for the most displaced persons worldwide. If an unaccompanied minor arrives in Germany without documents or carrying forgeries, the Youth Welfare Office (a subdivision of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) performs physical and mental tests to estimate age and starts the process from there. The Youth Welfare Office also provides minors with the option to stay with a foster family or at a youth service institution. Then, their residential status is supposed to be clarified, but the process is often slow and "creates uncertainty and frustration" (Deutsche Welle).

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#### Committee on Social Cohesion: Sarah Bragdon

In Germany's history, their 2016 increase in immigrants has caused problems that haven't gone away even with three years of time for the influx in immigrants to settle down. With so many immigrants coming into Berlin, Germany, the issue of having the immigrants not be able to coalesce with the rest of the population poses a threat to Germany's strength as a nation. If Germany is not able to better integrate its immigrants into society, the country will be less productive and not be a key destination for immigrants anymore.

Berlin has many issues, many of which are caused by the residents of the city, who feel that discriminating against immigrants and saying that immigrants ruin their country is justified. To start off with, the majority of Germany's migrant applicants (not all of are approved) come

from Syria and Iraq, according to 2017 statistics that showed that out of around 222,000 migrant applicants, around 50,000 were from Syria, and 21,000 from Iraq (Asylum Information Database). Many German immigrants are Muslim too, posing a “threat” to right-wing, and ultranationalists in the country. With these extremists still present in the country, many Muslim immigrants do not feel safe in the country that they fled to in hopes of creating a new life, away from persecution, discrimination, and poverty. The cause of the increase in the number of Muslims living in Germany between 2010 and 2016, which rose from 3.3 million to 5 million is partially due to a large number of immigrants coming into Germany in 2016 (Pew Research). Many right-wing Germans also see a threat in letting more immigrants in, thinking that they will have more children than the average non-Muslim. Even though some people feel that discrimination is not a prevalent issue in Germany, others strongly disagree. A son of an immigrant mentioned how Germany needs something called a “We Too” movement. This movement is a spin-off of the “Me Too” movement, but instead of focusing on telling stories of sexual assault, misconduct, and rape, it would be about the discrimination in Germany turning into the “norm” of society (Chazan). Although there is a link between Muslims, having younger median ages and higher fertility rates than non-Muslims, these immigrants must be able to integrate into society, which is not possible with the ultra-nationalist and right-wing parties that are present in Germany today.

With immigrants coming into Germany, the majority of people are either children and parents bringing their whole family, or young adults coming to the country alone. A very small percentage of immigrants coming into Germany are unaccompanied children, being only 4 percent of the total immigrants. Another aspect that affects how easily immigrants are able to connect with others in the country is gender. Compared to women, men make up a larger percentage of asylum seekers and generally have a harder time in the process of getting integrated since many get addicted to drugs and commit crimes.

Although Germany’s social cohesion of its immigrants isn’t anywhere near ideal, their lack of use of technology, policies on migration, and media portrayal show immigrants coming into Germany as much more harmful than in reality. This portrayal and lack of policies and use of technology could also contribute to why many immigrants living in Germany feel as though



they are not well fitted into their community. Germany isn't able to successfully use technology to their advantage while trying to fight the opinions of ultra-nationalists and right-wing parties. Although Germany is portrayed as being unsafe for the immigrants living there, because of the discrimination and extremists, Germany is still a key destination for many immigrants from all over the globe. For families of immigrants living in Germany, parents are able to "get a child benefit", also known as a Kindergeld. Kindergeld is given out to parents with children under the ages of 18, and are given around 190 Euro each month per kid, with that rate increasing if a family has more than 2 children (Why Do People Move to Germany?). Germany is not just a key destination for families with children under the age of 18, but also for people looking for going into a Bachelors or Masters program. These programs are free in Germany, although universities and colleges can cost a lot of money.

In 2016, when other countries were letting immigrants into their own countries, Germany let in over a million immigrants into their country. It is no doubt that Germany let migrants into their country, but did they provide for the massive amounts of people that were soon to be living in such a small area? Germany hasn't done much for the social cohesion of its immigrants, especially considering there are still extremists in the country who believe that immigrants make a country bad and should not be allowed to even come into the country. Another factor that hasn't helped Germany's case for immigrants is the media. The media in general focuses on the bad, the gruesome, and the ugly, so if one immigrant got into a fight, but the other 100,000 were well behaved and didn't cause any trouble, the media would still zoom in on the one person. This portrayal of the immigrants coming into Germany shows them as "bad" people, when a very small percentage of the people cause trouble at all. One main policy/law that Germany has passed is the "Skilled Workers Immigration Law". This law will apply to people who have "professional qualifications- and not only in professions where there is a shortage of workers"(Dernbach). Although Germany has tried to let not just workers where there is a shortage of, immigrants who have been accepted for a job in Germany do not even need qualification proof to live in the country. This could pose a threat, and cause it to be harder for immigrants to connect with the general population if they are only let into Germany based on what their specific skill is.

Germany needs to educate the general population and to provide assistance for all in need of help for integrating into their society, given that many immigrants still experience discrimination in Berlin.

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#### Committee on Economic Integration: William Quinn

Berlin has many aspects that allow it to be a great city as far as immigrants and other migrants are looking for. It has a well developed infrastructure that is diverse and filled with many qualified employees. The economy of Berlin is shaped by traditional firms and strong small to medium sized enterprises, each with less than five hundred employees. It also features a strong service sector and innovative businesses. The location of Berlin is geographically central and it has access to rail system branching out to many parts of Europe. According to berlin.de, “Berlin intensively promotes new fields of technology,” which include “information and communication technologies, optics and microsystem technology, as well as the area of life sciences.” Berlin follows the mixed economy of Germany, which has a free market with government regulations to protect its citizens. The economy of Berlin boasts a long and interesting list of important sectors. There is a strong industrial sector and sectors of energy, life sciences, information and communication, technologies, mobility, microsystems engineering and clean technologies, and even optics. These sectors focus on exports, research and development, and skill crafts. Since Berlin has such a prospers and future-proof economy, it provides a strong and stable option for many migrants from all over the world.

Berlin is very open to the many immigrants, specifically the job seeking, skilled ones. With the many small businesses and startups, migrants are able to find jobs in Berlin. The majority of migrants that come to Berlin are from poor countries, meaning that they are long-term and committed to starting a new life in Berlin. A study from the Cologne Institute for Economic Research stated that migrants were younger and more qualified than their German counterparts and that they actually benefited the German economy. A second study done by the Cologne Institute for Economic Research highlighted that migrants were paying more in taxes than they were taking from the state. A third study done by the same institute even concluded

that “29 percent of adult immigrants had university degrees, compared to 19 percent of Germans.” Migrants to Berlin have proved to be very entrepreneurial as well. According to economist.com, “in 2015, 44% of newly founded registered businesses in Germany were founded by people with foreign passports,” which was “up from just 13% in 2003.” Maik Leonhardt of IHK Berlin, an association of small and medium enterprises says that “there has been a marked increase in founding activity by people from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.” Skilled migrants that have had a generally successful past succeed the most in finding jobs in Berlin. However, unskilled migrants, often times have trouble finding work. These are mainly the immigrants from areas of great political turmoil and danger, sometimes referred to as “brain waste” due to their lack of contribution to the economy. These unskilled workers go to industrial cities that have high unemployment rates along with their low living standards and conditions. For example in Dortmund, “in the depressed industrial Ruhr region, the immigrant unemployment rate is 27 percent,” which is “nearly double the national rate for immigrants” (Financial Times). Despite the high unemployment in industrial areas, in general, migrants are contributing to the economy. According to ft.com, “studies show that most immigrants find jobs and contribute more to the economy than they take out,” in defiance of the belief by many Germans that immigrants take advantage of the German social security system.

Berlin helps migrants vastly in the process of getting the acquainted with their new home, some even argue too much. Berlin provides welfare to migrants, which cover basic needs like shelter, food, water, clothes, and other essential items. Laws are in place which state that refugees need to provide for themselves unless they are unable to do so and that migrants use their own income first, before tapping into the welfare system. Due to the gauntlet of getting work permits and finding work, many depend on state aid even if they are legally allowed to work. Since many refugees are left under the poverty line, it is important that the state contributes to these people. The state will provide welfare for those without jobs and it will even help those with very low paying jobs by paying part of their rent or something of that sort. There is an average 408 euros per month for a single adult to cover everything excluding rent and health insurance, which are covered by the state (infomigrants.com). German and integration classes for migrants are also included in welfare. Because of the amount of migrants in Germany,

the welfare system is overwhelmed. As reported by voanews.com, “Germany’s bureaucracy is straining under the weight of the numbers of refugees” which is “threatening to cripple the systems designed to provide the most basic care.” The long lines outside of social service offices and inhuman conditions shows the strain that migrants are posing on the social services and welfare systems. With such great supporting factors, Berlin is an economically strong city, with substantial welfare support for migrants, but improving the accessibility of a general education for migrants would greatly benefit their integration into the economy of Berlin.

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### Committee on Resilience: Diego Swaddipong

Germany has a well-ordered and effective system for the management of immigrants, both those fleeing trauma or coming to immigrate without fear for personal health and safety. For the latter, permanent residence in Germany can be obtained by a residence permit, which is granted to those who are seeking employment, are immigrating for family, are permanent residents of another EU member state, etc. It can also be obtained by means of an EU blue card, settlement permit (for which proficient German skills must be demonstrated), or a permanent EU residence permit.

Refugees, including those without a pre-set community, undergo a different process. Upon arrival to Germany, they are received in reception facilities, where they are photographed and fingerprinted. They acquire a proof of arrival document, which entitles them to certain state benefits (regulated by the Asylum-Seekers’ Benefits Act), such as accommodation, medical treatment, and food. They stay there for up until six months or until a decision is made regarding their application for asylum. Personal applications are submitted to the Federal Office, where interpreters and translations of all documents into the applicant’s native tongue are present to ensure that rights and what is being asked of the applicant is fully understood. The information is reviewed, checked with Eurodac, and a certificate of permission to reside is issued. The Dublin Procedure makes sure Germany is responsible for this asylee, and that they have not been granted asylum elsewhere in the EU, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein. An interview is held to ascertain the reason for the migrant’s flight, resolve any contradictions in the

information presented, and for the applicant to describe their situation and how they are being/are likely to be persecuted. At the interview, a member of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees may be present to ensure compliance with the Geneva Refugee Convention.

There are four different categories of protection (entitlement to asylum, refugee protection, subsidiary protection, and a national ban on deportation) and each come with a different set of rights. Entitlement to asylum is granted when the asylee would be subject to serious human rights violations should they return to their country, if they were persecuted on the basis of race, nationality, political opinion, religious views, or membership to a particular social group, without alternative of refuge within the country of origin. From three to five years after this is given, they may gain obtain a settlement permit. These refugees are permitted to seek gainful employment, and are entitled to privileged family reunification. The entitlement to asylum is revoked should they have entered through a safe third country- i.e. an E.U. member state, Norway, or Switzerland. The second class is refugee protection, granted to those outside their country or country of habitual residence with a fear of being persecuted on the basis of race, nationality, political opinion, religious views, or membership to a particular social group. The same rights apply as to those with entitlement to asylum.

The final decision is made by the Federal Office, which notifies the person in concern, their representative, and all relevant immigration authorities. The immigration offices of Germany are connected to the Common European Asylum System and the European Asylum Support Office, which together accomplish tasks like coordinating protections standards across Europe, put resources to use wherever the largest demand is, provide a central analysis of analysis. Above it was mentioned that information was cross-referenced with Eurodac, which is a European fingerprint database that catalogues asylum seekers. The third class is subsidiary protection, where one must demonstrate the risk of serious harm in the country of origin, including the death penalty, torture, degrading treatment, or serious threat to one's life or integrity. This grants a residence permit for one year, and two more years per extension, and a settlement permit may be possible after five years, including the duration of the asylum procedure, if other preconditions are met. Subsidiary protection also gives unrestricted access to

the labour market and gainful employment, but not privileged family reunification. The last class is a national ban on deportation. Those who seek protection cannot be returned to their country if the destination country violates the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or other clearly demonstrable reasons. A residence permit of one year is issued, extensions are possible, and settlement permits may be obtained per the same restrictions as all the other classes of protection. Employment is possible, but permission must first be given by the immigration authority, and privileged family reunification is not offered.

The website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees provides resources for those in or looking to immigrate into Germany, and there are four-hundred and sixty-six youth migration services spread throughout Germany, and seventeen in Berlin. Berlin has several hundreds of free WLAN sites, and so internet readily available. Three-thousand three-hundred and sixty nine miles of roads run through Berlin, which is also serviced by 4G LTE and UMTS 3G cellular networks. The material resources of Berlin are well-equipped to handle immigrant and refugee influx.

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Committee on Leadership and Governance: Matthew Cichocki

While migrants make up a considerable piece of the Berlin populace, they are minimally represented in both Berlin's and Germany's legislative parties. Although "there is considerable support" for candidates with a migrant origin from "both among those with and without immigrant backgrounds," "this is not always linked to a voting preference for migrant-origin candidates"(Tandford online). This presented a problem for Berlin's migrants as those creating the policies and laws surrounding immigration have little insight into what it is like to be in their situation. This problem also means many migrants are still languishing in the bureaucratic web, even after Germany has diminished the influx of migrants. Germany's (and therefore Berlin's) new goal is to draw in skilled migrant workers while training up the millions that came to Germany between 2014 and 2016. About two-thirds of the migrants who were illegal aliens due to overstayed visas have either been deported or legalized; however, those that have been legalized face many hurdles before they are able to fully participate in society.

To understand how Berlin responds to issues, one must first understand how the government functions. The government of Germany is a democratic one. Its model of representation has begun, in recent years, to shift towards a more representative party, including more race and ethnic minorities. This transition will take time and will not come easily; however, it is a necessary progression for the German Government.

The German voting system is similar to that of many democratic nations. An election for members of Bundestag is held every four years in which anyone eighteen years or older is able to cast two votes. The first vote is cast for the direct candidate. The second vote is cast to elect a party list that is comprised of a group of politicians from one of Germany's many parties. Bundestag is comprised of seats that are represented by each direct candidate that was elected by a majority vote in their electoral district. The rest of the seats in Bundestag are based on the people nominated by the parties. Bundesrat is also known as the upper house and its members are not elected but appointed by state governments. Bundesrat is significantly less influential than Bundestag.

Bundestag and Bundesrat are essential for making decisions for all of Germany, however the parties Berlin is controlled by conflict with them. Berlin's government is supported by the parties of Die Linke(The left), Alliance '90/The green party and the social democratic party of Germany all of which support migration to some degree. This is in contrast to Germany, which because of the immigration crisis "fueled the growth of far-right groups and eroded support for both of Germany's major mainstream parties"(Britannia). These major mainstream parties are the ones that support Berlin. Although Berlin sets the trend for many of Germany's cities, its decision to stop the deportation of immigrants has not caught on in other areas of Germany.

The independent city of Berlin is a state, as well as the capital of Germany. Berlin itself is split into twelve boroughs. Each borough is controlled by a council which includes a mayor and five councilors. The borough council is elected by an assembly. The mayor advises the Berlin Senate. The borough's council is not independent and their power is limited by that of the Berlin Senate. The interaction between the local governments and the national government is based almost entirely off of electoral districts and voting. The local government is a representation of how the citizen's vote and therefore the local governments view surrounding the direct

candidates and the party list sways how the vote will go. Besides this, there is very little interplay between the national and the local Berlin government.

This is related to immigration as some migrants have been elected to councils in which they are able to represent the migration demographic. The number of immigrants on Berlin city councils is on the rise. “Among German states, Berlin is the leader, 10 percent of its councilors having immigration backgrounds”(Boell.de). However, for the most part, they have not been able to rise past the counselor level and get into the more powerful Berlin Senate where large scale policy changes can be made. Although there is no national representation of the migrant communities in Berlin, the large amounts of small scale representation allow for the possibility of it in the future.

Berlin has begun to change its policies regarding immigration to finish accepting the immigrants who are still not legalized. A task force of fifty thousand has already begun its work to integrate many of the so-called illegal immigrants into Berlin. Most of those considered illegal is due to overstayed visas which is a result of the poorly functioning bureaucratic system. Those that are legally recognized are having an easier time at adjusting then those who are still undocumented; however, the undocumented immigrants are being helped through the process. This is in stark contrast to the rest of Germany which has begun to make policies concerning the deportation of illegal immigrants, the tightening of borders and the targeting of labor market demand.

The documentation of the immigrants has been slowed by a lack of technology, specifically fingerprint scanners. In 2016 as much as forty percent of migrants remained undocumented as the databases through the city were incompatible and in some cases there simply were not enough. Immigrants either take advantage of this poorly functioning system by applying for multiple benefits or simply remained undocumented. Even today the effects of this inadequate system show as much as “372,000 appeals are still awaiting examination by the court's” and “in Berlin, ‘more than two-thirds of the cases have not yet been dealt with by the administrative court for asylum law’”(The local.de). This problem is slowly being resolved but will take quite some time.



Currently, Germany is not very welcoming to undocumented unskilled immigrants and seeks to deport them. In fact, Germany has “taken an official zero-tolerance policy toward illegal immigration” and has emphasized, “the need to deport current illegal residents and illegal workers”(humanity in action). Berlin, however, is an exception and has stopped the deportation of undocumented immigrants but due to national policies is unable to receive any more unskilled immigrants.

Berlin is accepting only skilled workers from now on as evidenced by their new migration laws. These laws are meant “to attract skilled migration” as the “lack of qualified workers” “will soon hamper economic growth”(Handelsblatt). Berlin's next goal is to train the unskillful workers to raise the German economy. Although many classes teaching skills are available migrants, however “rather than gamble on a system they don’t fully understand” many migrants “would rather perform unskilled labor immediately to earn at least a meager living for themselves and their families.”(Newsdeeply) The overall outlook towards legal documented working migrants is positive. However, migrants who fall short of this are looked down upon by German citizens. In order for Berlin's economy, as well as its political and social climates to thrive, immigrant integration which includes teaching German and skilled labor is essential.

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#### Committee on Urban Planning: Caroline Bedikian

Berlin has been a multiracial city for quite some time; in fact, 30% of the city’s inhabitants are from a migration background. However, the city has taken recent actions to not entirely reverse, but reduce migrant activity. Asylum seekers flooding the city are in desperate need of asylum, and although Berlin has exhausted its resources on emergency shelters and even special need protection, it has also passed legislation, security processes, and new residential city plans to regulate the crisis.

First and foremost, as deemed by the Homeless Association, over 850,000 of Berlin’s people lacked proper accommodation in 2016, of which on half were immigrants. 52,000 people lived on the streets in 2016- a substantial rise from the previous years. Housing shortage, homelessness, and rising rents have been an increasing issue as a result. Rising rents affect not

only refugees but natives primarily. Apartment prices have risen over 10% since 2017. The market is tight.

Berlin executes a distributional process based on tax income and an area's size. For instance, refugees seeking stay are referred to a living space based on their situation and financial stability ('Königsberger Schlüssel'). Housed in Erstaufnahmeeinrichtungen, refugees are subject to a residential requirement meaning they cannot leave their district (Bezirk). Overstay on the owner's property can also violate the constitution- a problem the Senate hopes to address.

Even with regulations though, a high concentration of refugees makes it necessary to house immigrants in former barracks, office building, gyms, and even airports: the uneasy part of this is the expanding concentration of migrants in a confined territory. Only so many premises are suitable for asylum seekers. Relating to the concentration of migrants in a single area, as a result, certain areas of Berlin are socio-economically weaker. For several years, migrants were typically housed on the outskirts of Germany's cities. Native born people are now housed in a general area.

Special need protection of migrants has strained Berlin's government, for single-parent families, those with disabilities, and severe illness advancing through the borders, qualify certain migrants for particular care and resources. Because of this, Berlin needs up to 20,000 new apartments each year. Government officials are working to improve lives for immigrants still.

*The legislation, proposed by Berlin Mayor Michael Müller of the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), would have amended Section 36 of Berlin's Public Order and Safety Law (Allgemeine Gesetz zum Schutz der öffentlichen Sicherheit und Ordnung, ASOG), which currently allows police to enter private residences only in extreme instances, to "avert acute threats," that is, to fight serious crime. Müller wanted to expand the scope for warrantless inspections to include "preventing homelessness." (Gatestone).*

With benefit, Berlin has a strong social housing stock system. Social stocking units for immigrants are substantially decreasing, going from 142,151 in 2014 to 107,776 in 2019. Dwelling sites, however, are continuing to prosper. It is expected that by 2025, a fair new 30,000

dwelling will be made in smaller sites throughout the city. There are currently 25 residential sites with 50,000 dwellings and other large to medium ones with 70,000 units.

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#### Committee on Health: Katherine Whittle

Since 2015, approximately 1.4 million refugees have streamed into Germany<sup>1</sup>. Every 5th person in the nation comes from an immigration background<sup>1</sup> and nearly every 4th child born in Germany (2016) was conceived by a foreign mother<sup>1</sup>. This influx brings about issues of providing sufficient healthcare, handling food insecurity, and advancing Berlin's mental health care services.

The German health care system is the oldest in Europe, dating back to the 19th century<sup>2</sup>. It states that every person residing in the country must have health insurance. It enables access to all public health institutions, such as medical treatment and check-ups<sup>2</sup>, but also has limitations such as dental implants and consultations with private doctors<sup>2</sup>. Health insurance in Germany is a dual system with public health insurance--also called statutory<sup>2</sup> or compulsory<sup>19</sup> health insurance--and private health insurance<sup>2</sup>. SHI, often called "sickness funds," is a right to all German citizens and residents<sup>2</sup>. Generally, people who receive an income between €850-€4,462.50 use this<sup>2</sup>. Individual's contributions are determined depending on income<sup>2</sup>. In 2018, the uniform contribution of a resident's income was 14.6%<sup>2</sup>. Half the contribution is paid by the employer and the other half by the employee<sup>2</sup>. Registered non-working dependents who live at the same address are covered as well<sup>2</sup>. In this type of insurance, people receive what they need<sup>2</sup> from not-for-profit, non-governmental funds<sup>16</sup>. It's believed that about 86% of the German population uses SHI for primary coverage<sup>16</sup>. Private health insurance is often used by people whose gross income is above €4,950 (2018), which is above the income threshold, and by those who meet the specific criteria to obtain it<sup>2</sup>. Unlike SHI, it is regulated by the government<sup>16</sup>. Users of PHI receive benefits according to what's stated in their contract and may be offered services

not covered by SHI<sup>2</sup>. These contracts may have a more broad range of services, such as optometry and rehabilitation, and lower premiums<sup>16</sup>. The fee for utilizing PHI is normally higher than SHI<sup>19</sup> and is calculated based on a “risk-adjusted capitation formula<sup>16</sup>.” Age, sex, and morbidity from 80 serious or chronic illnesses are taken into consideration<sup>16</sup>. About 11% of the German population receives their primary coverage through PHI<sup>16</sup>. Public-sector employees, such as police and members of the military, are covered under special programs<sup>16</sup>. The health care available to migrants and refugees is dependent on their status<sup>19</sup>. Depending on the country they came from, there can be more regulations and rules<sup>19</sup>. If you came to Germany with old, valid insurance, then all that’s required is to have an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card)<sup>19</sup>. This insurance is only made for emergencies, so not all benefits are covered<sup>19</sup>. There are more special regulations for asylum seekers who get a special status during the course of the asylum procedure<sup>19</sup>. This entitles them to become part of the PHI, but there are limitations<sup>19</sup>. Refugees and undocumented immigrants are covered by social security in case of acute illness or pain, or regarding pregnancy<sup>16</sup>. Some are recipients of long-term welfare benefits (including dependents)<sup>5</sup>. About 1 out of every 6 people receiving these benefits is from 1 of the 8 countries of origin that most asylum seekers flee from<sup>5</sup>. On the other hand, illegal immigrants don’t have the insurance card that’s needed in order to receive full medical treatment<sup>18</sup>. German asylum laws state these immigrants have the right to emergency medical treatment, but they have to reveal their identity<sup>18</sup>. This puts them in the position of possible deportation<sup>18</sup>. Germany is considering creating an anonymous health insurance card for case-by-case use for its illegal population<sup>18</sup>. Welfare offices would be responsible for covering the cardholders’ treatment expenses<sup>18</sup>. Although Germany’s healthcare system is well structured, it’s struggled to care for the refugees the country’s taken in<sup>5</sup>. The sheer numbers have brought many hospitals to capacity limits and caused a great need for translators, something most citizens are usually unkeen to finance<sup>5</sup>. It’s estimated that the total cost of hiring translators would be €100 million<sup>5</sup>. In addition, Germany’s egalitarian medical culture has proved difficult for many immigrants to adjust to because they may be used to a paternalistic medical culture<sup>17</sup>. Basically, they’re used to doctors taking responsibility for decisions<sup>17</sup>.

Although Germany's healthcare system is advanced for managing physical issues, the country's mental health services are lacking. The system is failing refugees<sup>4</sup>, as it was already strained before the crisis, and is now completely overwhelmed<sup>6</sup>. Clinical psychologist Henrike Zellmann (MSF) stated "when it comes to prevention and help, there's almost nothing<sup>6</sup>." Refugees struggle before, during, and after their journeys<sup>14</sup> with little aid<sup>4</sup>. Emotionally, they often feel alienated<sup>4</sup> or marginalized<sup>1</sup>, lonely<sup>4</sup>, pessimistic<sup>14</sup>, bored<sup>14</sup>, fearful (of deportation and/or persecution)<sup>14</sup>, desperate<sup>4</sup>, overwhelmed<sup>4</sup>, and out of control<sup>14</sup>. Essentially, sentiments that often lead to mental health issues or exacerbate existing ones<sup>14</sup>. Their feelings of social disconnection<sup>14</sup> have been amplified by the growth of anti-immigration sentiment<sup>14</sup>. Radicalization or suicidal behavior can be observed in more vulnerable refugees<sup>4</sup>. It's known that many have attempted suicide, but the number is likely a lot higher because Berlin doesn't keep data on attempts<sup>4</sup>. PTSD<sup>4</sup>, depression<sup>4</sup>, anxiety<sup>4</sup>, and psychosis<sup>14</sup> run rampant in the refugee population and has been described by the Human Rights Watch as a "silent crisis<sup>14</sup>." Germany's largest psychotherapists association estimated--in 2015--that up to 40% of refugees had symptoms of depression or anxiety caused by their original inhabitation or their journey to Europe<sup>6</sup>. These mental disorders, if left untreated, can prove disabling to the individual, costly, and dangerous to both the individual and population<sup>6</sup>. Several relatively recent attacks in the nation had supposedly involved refugees or asylum seekers with untreated mental issues<sup>6</sup>. Fortunately, the German government is beginning to expand and improve its mental health resources<sup>4</sup>. It's funded schemes to train therapists, often from the refugee population, who speak Arabic and Farsi<sup>4</sup>. This creates jobs and improves the inadequate services. The refugees who seek psychological help are most often unable to find it or spend months waiting to see a therapist<sup>4</sup>. Hopefully, these initiatives will improve the unemployment rate of refugees while helping to break the language and cultural barriers that prevent many from receiving mental health care<sup>6</sup>. Most refugees are unaware counselling is available or have trouble with speech since insurance doesn't cover translation services<sup>6</sup>. The refugees serving as psychosocial peer counselors are employed by the local hospital and overseen by psychiatrists<sup>6</sup>. They teach stress management and coping mechanisms, but also have the benefit of being familiar with the culture and issues refugees come from<sup>6</sup>. The standard intake procedure entails a one-on-one meeting

which may transition into group therapy sessions<sup>6</sup>. Here, people can relate to each other and begin to work through their respective problems<sup>6</sup>. This includes violence, detention, torture, self-harm, sexual assault, kidnapping, combat situations, and other unimaginable hardships<sup>14</sup>. Therapists accompany patients in hospitals as translators<sup>6</sup> and work to access their safety. Their training includes the immediate recognition of difficult cases<sup>6</sup> which is critical to Germany. Processing large numbers of refugees overwhelmed the country making it difficult to detect, let alone treat, the various conditions<sup>14</sup>. Now, therapists and the implementation of tests--such as the PTSDSSI for PTSD<sup>14</sup>, PHQ-D for depression<sup>15</sup>, and the GAD-7 for anxiety<sup>15</sup>--are opening more doors to recovery<sup>13</sup>. The next issue that needs to be addressed is the reception facilities, in terms of staff and the grueling experience. These areas are often overcrowded and isolated, and keep refugees there for prolonged amounts of time, despite having been made initially as emergency placements<sup>14</sup>. The interminable asylum process deteriorates the refugees' already fragile mental states and the facilities are less than ideal for those with mental health needs<sup>14</sup>. Many of the refugees' mental disorders interfere with their ability to present their asylum claims<sup>14</sup>. Those suffering from PTSD (and related conditions) often present their stories in a choppy manner because they have difficulty remembering traumatic events<sup>14</sup>. This can be detrimental to their asylum claim because the credibility assessment is a core piece of the asylum process<sup>14</sup>. Essentially, refugees are required to prove a legitimate fear of persecution if they didn't flee, but dissociative symptoms make it difficult for asylum officers to gauge credibility<sup>14</sup>. Some examples include memory loss--where the refugee can only provide a fragmentary narrative--the inability to feel emotions, and the misrepresentation of events<sup>14</sup>. Having these people repeatedly confront past traumas in places that aren't therapeutic could trigger dissociative symptoms which, in turn, negatively affects their credibility<sup>14</sup>. Worse, some refugees might link asylum officers with those who harmed them before--called transference--and possibly triggering reactions<sup>14</sup>. These can range from lack of emotion to physical paralysis<sup>14</sup>. Asylum officers often lack the training to work with these people or are unaware of the prevalence of mental disorders in the refugee population<sup>14</sup>. Although Germany is advancing in its psychological care of refugees, there is still a considerable lack of research and data on the impact of mental disorders on the asylum process<sup>14</sup>. According to the FRA (EU Agency for

Fundamental Rights), most member states don't collect systematic data on the health status--physical and mental--of newly arrived refugees<sup>14</sup>. Despite being imperative for the appropriate medical care of migrants, epidemiological studies on their mental disorders are rarely conducted<sup>15</sup>.

Unlike healthcare, Berlin's food support system is stable and effective for citizens and refugees alike. In 1993, the *Tafel* ("Table") food banks were created to help Berlin's homeless population<sup>7</sup>. Now it's expanded to include those who have very low or no income with eligibility being the reception of an income less than or equal to the federal unemployment pay<sup>7</sup>. It's the only nationwide immediate food assistance available<sup>7</sup>. Almost all welfare recipients and residents have access to at least one food bank in their district, but it's not able to reach all of the city's food-insecure residents<sup>7</sup>. It appears that those who utilize the food banks are merely a fraction<sup>7</sup>. Users of the system are often 7-10 times more food insecure than the general population<sup>7</sup>. Among these people, there's a high prevalence of overweightness or obesity which is estimated to be around 68% and especially pertains to those born outside of the country<sup>7</sup>. They're also at a higher risk for poor health behaviors or conditions, and many reported suffering from a chronic disease (if not more than one)<sup>7</sup>. Most food banks work together under *Tafel Deutschland* ("Table Germany"), a federal association financed by donations alone<sup>7</sup>. These places primarily provide healthy, fresh food, but the distribution of foods largely varies between the participating banks<sup>7</sup>. The majority of the food handed out each month are fruits--something people with a lower socioeconomic status reported eating once a day or less-- and vegetables, followed by baked goods, milk products, and meat and meat products<sup>7</sup>. Dry and frozen food, such as beverages and desserts, are occasionally given in small quantities<sup>7</sup>. Often, the amount of food is given in predetermined quantities to households based on their size for free or for a small charge<sup>7</sup>. Sometimes shoppers can pick what they'd like, but it depends on the food bank<sup>7</sup>. There's also what's called "social supermarkets" where eligible people can purchase their food at a reduced price<sup>7</sup>. Most of the banks allow food to be collected once per week, but soup kitchens and children's food banks have a tendency to be open every day<sup>7</sup>. The food banks have the potential to improve their users' diet among other things<sup>7</sup>. The *Tafel* system provides food with high nutritional value, but also supports additional services<sup>7</sup>. Of the participating food banks,

45% offered at least one extra service related to food whether it be nutrition or recipes<sup>7</sup>. Some will deliver food to elderly or disabled clients or hand out recipes, for example<sup>7</sup>. 50% of the banks provided at least one extra service that's unrelated to eating<sup>7</sup>. This includes, and isn't limited to, social counselling school supplies<sup>7</sup>. 7.48% donate food to other organizations--earning the nickname "delivery food banks"--including drug rehab facilities and youth centers<sup>7</sup>. The German food banks rely heavily on donations, often food from local retailers and time from volunteers<sup>7</sup>. This makes them an unreliable food source for parts of the population who are especially vulnerable, despite reporting few recent challenges<sup>7</sup>. The *Tafel* food banks are usually run by charitable organizations<sup>7</sup>. They collect, store, and dispense food given to them by retailers, farmers, and the food industry<sup>7</sup>. Germany's welfare system is considered to be very gracious when compared with those of other countries, and the *Tafel* food bank system is evidence of that<sup>7</sup>. Unfortunately, data on the individual food banks' activities and the characteristics of those who utilize them is absent on the national level, thus creating a sentiment that there needs to be an implementation of a food security monitoring system<sup>7</sup>. The food banks originally aimed to give temporary emergency assistance, but sadly those who use them today tend to regularly visit for many years<sup>7</sup>.

Berlin's sanitation system is effective, eco-friendly, and progressive. It was one of the first German federal states to introduce a "model waste separation strategy" in January of 2013<sup>10</sup>. The city government is mostly responsible for garbage collection with almost 100% coverage of separate door-to-door collection<sup>10</sup>. In place is what's called the PAYT scheme which states that waste will be collected based on material<sup>10</sup>. Collection is usually weekly or biweekly<sup>10</sup>. These categories consist of paper/cardboard, light packaging/non-packaging material of the same type, glass, and biowaste<sup>10</sup>. Of everything that's collected, 27% is recycled and the other 73% falls under "other recovery."<sup>10</sup> The collection of paper and cardboard--which makes up about 36% of collected materials--covers all of Berlin<sup>10</sup>. People can opt to have door-to-door collection by placing their paper and cardboard in wheeled blue bins or by bringing it the BSR (*Berliner Stadtreinigungsbetriebe*) civic amenity sites located throughout the city<sup>10</sup>. Those who chose to use the blue bins often have to pay an additional fee for collection<sup>10</sup>. It's sometimes free in suburban areas or included in the rent of large tenement buildings<sup>10</sup>. For private households, the



cost of emptying on bin is €2.38<sup>10</sup>. Light packaging or non-packaging material comprise plastic, metal, or composite materials<sup>10</sup>. One recycling bin has been created from previously separate systems<sup>10</sup>. Glass makes up 14% of recycled material<sup>10</sup>. There's separate collections throughout Berlin<sup>10</sup>. There's door-to-door or green and brown wheeled bin provided for apartment buildings<sup>10</sup>. The green and brown bins are used to separate white and colored glass<sup>10</sup>. Biowaste makes up for 16% of collected material<sup>10</sup>. Organic waste is collected in brown wheeled bins by the BSR in the inner-city. 80% of apartment buildings now participate in this system referred to as "BIOGUT" collection<sup>10</sup>. 21% of people are covered in Berlin's suburbs<sup>10</sup>. Many households, however, compost their biowaste themselves in their garden<sup>10</sup>. BSR recognizes 20 different recyclable materials and 30 different hazardous waste categories<sup>10</sup>. The collection and disposal of it occurs at 4 BSR depots<sup>10</sup>. Citizens can dispose of their domestic recyclables at the depots including wood, electric and electronic waste, and bulky waste items<sup>10</sup>. Consumers pay the "Basic Waste Collection Fee," a tariff charged by the BSR for waste services including road sweepings<sup>10</sup>. In terms of toilets, Berlin uses the conventional system and is working to incorporate gravity separation toilets<sup>11</sup>. The conventional system is a flush toilet linked to a sewer<sup>11</sup>. Gravity separation toilets have separate outlets for urine and feces<sup>11</sup>. Both are transported to a nearby farmer to be used in agriculture<sup>11</sup>. Greywater is often transported to a constructed wetland for treatment<sup>11</sup>.

Berlin is an innovative city that provides many resources and benefits to its residents. While sanitation, cleanliness, and nutrition aid are well addressed, the formerly strained healthcare system has now been fully overwhelmed by the refugee crisis. The city needs to focus on improving healthcare, particularly mental health care, so migrants can become comfortably integrated into German society.

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