

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# “Welcome to Germany”

ROADMAP  
FOR MUSLIM  
MIGRANTS  
TOWARD A  
SUCCESSFUL LIVING  
TOGETHER  
IN GERMANY



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The MUNICH FORUM FOR ISLAM unites Muslim men and women of various backgrounds, many of us already born in Munich. We live here as an integral part of the civic society and are glad to call this land our home. Here and now we see no discrepancy between the values of the German society in the 21st century and an authentic understanding of Islam and its guidance but rather a mutual enrichment.

We would like to share our accumulated and proven insights and experiences with those who are new to Germany, in order to help them to feel at home here soon.

## A WARM WELCOME!



An Arabic saying goes: »When you live with a people for 40 days you are one of them.« More than 40 days have passed by since thousands of refugees have entered Germany. **This land extends a warm welcome to you!**

This is the beginning of a new era in the life of refugees. In order to facilitate their way to a better future here, they find valuable information so that they may quickly feel accepted and to be able to integrate themselves and to participate in our society.

From the Islamic point of view integration is the balanced way of the golden middle as the Qur'an demands and promotes. The opposing poles are assimilation on one side and isolation on the other side. Therefore Islam asks from the faithful to seek the way of integration, not separation. Integration means lengthy and hard efforts. But those who choose this way will finally reach salvation and success and merit the praise of the Prophet:

الْمُؤْمِنُ الَّذِي يُخَالِطُ  
النَّاسَ ، وَيَصْبِرُ عَلَى  
أَذَاهُمْ ، خَيْرٌ مِنَ الَّذِي  
لَا يُخَالِطُ النَّاسَ ، وَلَا  
يَصْبِرُ عَلَى أَذَاهُمْ

»The Muslim, who complies with the community and becomes integrated and thus takes upon himself hardships that may emanate from people, is better than those, who avoid such hardships.«

(Prophet Muhammed)

## Greeting



The traditional greeting in Bavaria is „Grüß Gott“ (greet God). Since Muslims like to refer to God in their daily doings, it is correct in the Islamic sense to say „Grüß Gott“ as a Bavarian version of „as-salamu aleikum“! When meeting or parting or when being introduced, both men and women in Germany mutually shake their hands while briefly looking into each other’s eyes. When this is accompanied by an honest smile, this is an expression of friendliness – exactly what Islam prescribes:

﴿وَإِذَا حُيِّبْتُمْ بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا  
بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا﴾

»When you are greeted  
with a greeting, greet  
in return with what is  
better than it, or (at  
least) return it equally.«  
(Qur’an 4:86)

لا تحقرن من المعروف  
شيئاً ولو أن تلقى أخاك  
بوجه طلق

»Do not despise a  
good deed, and be it to  
encounter your fellow  
human being with  
cheerful face.«  
(Prophet Muhammed)

السلام عليكم

## Allah / God / JHWH



The ONE, whom Muslims call „Allah“ in Arabic, is called „Gott“ by Christians in Germany (God in English), and Jews use the acronym „JHWH“ in Hebrew. There exists no tension between the „God of the Christians“ and the Islamic „Allah“. And what the mosque means to Muslims is like the church for Christians and the synagogue for Jews. Churches, synagogues, mosques and monasteries deserve to be equally respected by all. It is not fitting for anyone to judge the belief or disbelief of other people. Faith and religion are individual and intimate feelings happening between man and God. This intimacy must be respected and protected. Freedom of religion, diversity of religions and the peaceful coexistence between religious communities and people without religion are the foundation of a human society.

Racism, xenophobia, hate against Jews, Christians or Muslims are equally deplorable and not tolerated in Germany. In matters of faith and religion as well as in all other expressions of life it is important to find the right measure, to avoid excess and exaggeration. Religion must not be misused and there must be no force in religion:

﴿لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ﴾

»There is no compulsion in religion!«

(Qur'an 2:256)

﴿لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ﴾

»To you be your religion, and to me my religion (Islamic Monotheism).«

(Qur'an 109:6)

## Education



Germany is an education paradise. The key to success in this land is the command of the German language. There are many course offers available to achieve this. It is important to learn the language and to discover the culture of the land. Those who want to build a good and successful future in this land for themselves and their children will give this priority over everything else, from pre-school or kindergarten through all stages and phases of the school career! Parents keep contact with their children's teachers and school administration. They cooperate with them, and go to parent-teacher-days; they foster a healthy self-consciousness, an interest for education and vocational training; they promote the natural and artistic talents of their children; they take ample time to play and learn with them. Parents will in no way apply force against their children, but help them to be self-confident. Parents put great emphasis on college/university or vocational education; spend their free time with activities, which support their physical and mental development. Physical education including swimming is an integral part of German school education, equally for boys and girls. As far as possible handicapped and non-handicapped children and youths attend the same classes („Inclusion“).

﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ  
وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ﴾

»Allah will exalt in degree  
those of you who believe,  
and those who have been  
granted knowledge.«  
(Qur'an 58:11)

## Work



Education, civil values as well as diligent and hard work make Germany strong. The engagement of migrants can make Germany even stronger. Therefore people who wish to be well integrated and successful will work hard and correct; they will perform in their job with high quality. Only those who cannot support themselves will seek the help and support offered by the state (social security); they do not leave their workplace unauthorised to pray; they perform their work at this time as if it were a prayer; they will not cheat their employer or the financial authorities of the state. If possible they will create jobs to promote the economic development of the land; they will not allow so called black labour; They will treat their employees fairly; they will buy all the necessary work insurances; they pay their employees appropriately and on time (there is a legal minimum wage in Germany); they will pay their taxes regularly.

﴿مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أَنْتَهَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاتًا طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

»Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while he (or she) is a true believer (of Islamic Monotheism) verily, to him We will give a good life (in this world with respect, contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do.«  
(Qur'an 16:97)

## History



Every people and every country have seen in their history happy and not so happy times, have known brighter and darker chapters. The Second World War and the Holocaust stand undoubtedly for the most horrible pages in the history of Germany, maybe of the whole world. Therefore any admiration of Hitler or the downplaying of the Holocaust is intolerable in Germany and for good reasons forbidden by law. To wage a global war out of sheer megalomania, to wipe out people because of their adherence to a religion or ethnicity and to suppress any form of freedom are crimes which also for Muslims are the most horrible that men can do. Unfortunately there are still people in Germany who suppress or distort history. It is recommended to keep away from them – they are certainly not well intended towards migrants.

In spite of occupation, destruction, division into 2 states and millions of refugees as a result of the Second World War the people of Germany have managed to rebuild their country and to make it one of the most successful and livable regions of the world. That was possible only because old enmities were overcome and conflicts were never again resolved by force. That is an achievement that Germany and other European countries can rightfully be proud of.



## Abiding by the Law!



The name of the German constitution is „Grundgesetz“ (i.e. Basic Law). It is based on the principles of the rule of law, social justice and equality of all. The Basic Law stands above politics, the police, the army and the courts. It is the common and binding basis also for all religious communities. In the Qur’an God asks to obey the authorities (ulu-l-amr) so that society shall not turn into anarchy. This verse demands from the faithful to respect the authorities and to obey the constitution:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ﴾

*»O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and those of you who are in authority.« (Qur’an 4:59)*

Thus the order is on one side to observe the laws of God and the Prophet and on the other side the political leadership that governs our country according to the Basic Law. These are not competing systems. Quite to the contrary they should mutually complement and enrich each other. Those who decide to live in Germany are obliged by the Qur’an to respect and fulfil contracts. The Basic Law is a contract between the citizens and the state. And the laws of the land bind the citizens in the same way as the government:

﴿وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا﴾

*»And fulfil (every) covenant. Verily! the covenant, will be questioned about.« (Qur’an 17:34)*

The democratic system differs from both the theocratic system, which is exclusively based upon religious principles, and the totalitarian system, which e.g. excludes freedom of religion. Religious freedom is the proof of a true democracy. Here everyone can freely choose his or her religion, change from one religion to another or decide to follow no religion at all. Democracy is not only the system that is most compatible with the principles and teachings of Islam. It is also the one which comes closest to human thinking and insight. Therefore we are called upon to assure its survival and continuance, to accept it also internally, to defend it without reservation and to fill it with life.

## „The Dignity of Man is Inviolable“ (Basic Law Article 1)

**RESPEKT  
IST PFLICHT.  
FÜR ALLE.**

„The dignity of man is inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all public authority“. Thus reads the first and most important article of the German constitution. Man is God’s noblest creation and at the same

time God’s deputy on earth. Man ist he most valuable being on earth, i.e. each and every one of us, no matter if he or she is Muslim, Christian, Jew, member of another or without religion. Thus liberty and dignity, faith, life and personal orientation of the individual are inviolable.

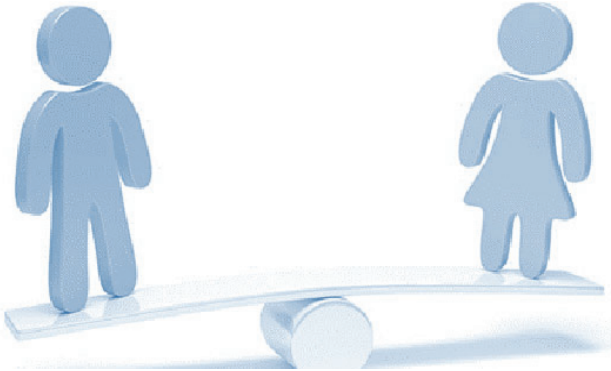
No one has the right to humiliate another person in word or deed because he or she is different from oneself, in no way and under no circumstance. Discrimination on the basis of gender, skin colour, religion or sexual orientation is forbidden in Germany. A Muslim should never utter words that could hurt another man: no name-calling, no insults, no debasing comparisons. In the eyes of God man does not distinguish himself from others by his gender, his nationality, his status or his thoughts, but by his consciousness, his knowledge, his character and his diligence. The legal authorities must and will prosecute crimes of people against other people. Only the legal institutions watch over right or wrong, just or unjust. Whoever experiences discrimination has a legal right to protection and assistance. Under no circumstance is it allowed to react against insults or discrimination with violence. In Germany any form of violence is punishable by law. This includes violence within marriage or in the education of children.

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ﴾

»And indeed We have  
honoured the Children of  
Adam with dignity.«

(Qur’an 17:70)

## Equal Rights and Discrimination



Concerning their obligations and responsibilities towards God and the rule of law state all women and men are equal. In Germany men and women have the same rights. Both men and women choose their partners at their own will and decide freely, with whom to engage in marriage. Although forced or arranged marriages do exist in some traditional societies, they are contradictory to Islamic law, according to which the woman is free to join her life with that of a man or not. She must not fear negative consequences for her free decision, let alone violence!

An Islamic marriage is only valid after it is officially and publicly contracted by a registry office (Standesamt). A marriage concluded only before an imam does not conform to Islam and is not legally valid. When the relationship between the married partners is ruined, both the man and the woman are free to demand a legal divorce. Polygamy is not allowed in Germany, nor does Islam require it. Also the complete veiling of women is not prescribed by Islam and not seen favourably by German society. The face is an integral part of human identity. It should not be covered or veiled, but visibly shown.

﴿الذَّكَرُ نُطْفَةٌ مِّنْ مَّنِيِّ  
يُمْنِي ثُمَّ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ فَخْلِقٍ  
فَسَوَّىٰ فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الزَّوْجَيْنِ  
الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ﴾

«Was he not a drop of semen poured forth? Then he became an embryo; then (Allah) shaped and fashioned (him) in due proportion. And made him in two sexes, male and female.»  
(Qur'an 75:37–39)

إنما النساء شقائق الرجال  
ما أكرمهن إلا كريم وما  
أهانهن إلا لئيم

«Women are of the same value as men. Only the worthy dignify them and the unworthy degrade them.»  
(Prophet Muhammed)

خيركم خياركم لئسائهم

«The best among you is he, who is good to his wife.»  
(Prophet Muhammed)

## Please do not disturb!



﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَرْفَعُوا  
أصواتكم﴾

»O you who believe!  
Raise not your voices«  
(Qur'an 49:2)

من حسن إسلام المرء تركه  
ما لا يعنيه

»Not to interfere in  
matters that are not of  
one's concern, is among  
the virtuous qualities  
of the righteous.«  
(Prophet Muhammed)

وَاللَّهِ لَا يُؤْمِنُ . قَالُوا : يَا  
رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا ذَلِكَ؟ قَالَ :  
جَارٌ لَا يَأْمَنُ جَارُهُ بَوَائِقَهُ

»My God, he does not  
believe!« – He was asked:  
'Who, oh Messenger of  
God?' He answered: 'He,  
whose neighbour is not  
safe from his malice.'«  
(Prophet Muhammed)

Privacy is very important to the people in Germany. Respect for each other demands not to meddle in the private dealings of other people. For the most part private life plays in the home. People hardly spend lengthy times to chat with each other in the streets. Streets are especially not suited as a playground for children. People rather meet in cafés, beer gardens or at night in pubs and restaurants. And at home they want to enjoy peace and quiet. Even when windows are not covered with blinds or curtains, it is improper to gaze at what is going on in other people's home.

Sunday is the official day of rest in Germany. Also the hours between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each day are considered as nighttime rest. One should avoid discussions, music or recitation of the Qur'an to be so loud as to disturb others. On the bus, in the train, in the shopping centre or on the street it is polite to speak or telephone quietly in order not to disturb other people. One should also avoid visits or calls during the nighttime rest. Neighbours should meet friendly but in an unobtrusive way.

## Cleanliness and Environment



Cleanliness and purity are the basis of religion and also of everyday life. The body and the clothing must be kept free of stains and dirt, the environment of damage. Most people in Germany place great importance on cleanliness and act environment-friendly. This includes respect for nature, the protection of natural resources and the careful use of energy. They separate waste into various categories and dispose of them at special collection containers. These places are no waste dumps and should be kept clean. It is totally unacceptable to throw even small packages or cigarettes simply onto the street or into nature.

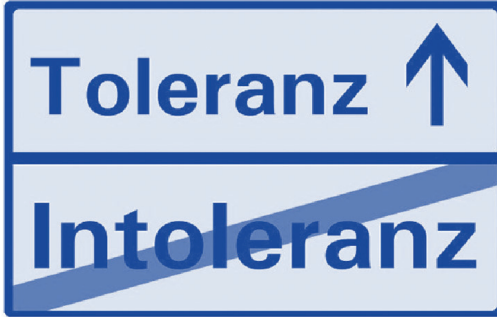
﴿وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ  
وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا  
لَاعِبِينَ﴾

»And We created not  
the heavens and the  
earth, and all that is  
between them, for  
mere play«  
(Qur'an 44:38)

إِمَاطَةُ الْأَذَى عَنِ  
الطَّرِيقِ صَدَقَةٌ

»To dispatch  
something that could  
inflict damage on  
others, is like charity  
and a good deed.«  
(Prophet Muhammed)

## Tolerance!



The *new* migrants must be aware that they now live in a society that allows them to freely live their religious, cultural, and social life. They must estimate the virtue of this big-hearted society, which accepts millions of immigrants from foreign cultures with tolerance and assists them

regardless of their religious affiliation.

As Muslims we must meet their tolerance with our tolerance. Tolerance for different religions of faith groups, tolerance for different life styles and convictions, tolerance for ways of dressing, which may seem strange or improper.

Unfortunately there are also people in Germany who are afraid of strangers, who even oppose them with aggression and hate. In such cases it is highly recommended to call upon the police, the courts or other institutions of support. Never return the aggression yourself. When someone hurts or insults you, remember this verse from the Qur'an:

﴿فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ﴾

»So turn away from them, and say: Salam (peace)!«

(Qur'an 43:89)

Always be tolerant!

Because the tolerant have nothing to lose. The intolerant are the ones who lose.

*»Oh God! Teach us that tolerance is the highest expression of strength and that the lust for revenge is the first sign of weakness!*

*Oh God! When we sin against other people, give us the strength to say we are sorry!*

*Oh God! When people sin against us, give us the strength to forgive!«*



Freundschaft  
Toleranz  
Demokratie  
Achtsamkeit  
Sanftmut  
Aufrichtigkeit  
Bildung  
Hoffnung  
Gottvertrauen  
Demut  
Offenheit

Vertrauen  
Menschenwürde  
**Barmherzigkeit**  
Freiheit  
**Gerechtigkeit**  
Gemeinschaft  
Liebe  
**Respekt**  
Gleichberechtigung  
Mitgefühl

»*أَلْعَرَفُ*  
*خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ*  
»*Übe Nachsicht  
und gebiete  
Gütigkeit*«  
(Koran, 7:199)

**Glaube**  
**Gewaltlosigkeit**  
Verantwortung  
**Frieden**  
Solidarität  
Glaubwürdigkeit



**MFI**

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