We Are Here: half way normal life.

We Are Here has reached one of het goals: refused refugees illegalized migrants gewt access to bed-bath& bread in 24 hour shelters, with guidance in their procedure. They get a chance to regulate their life, if they give up their autonomy, because deportation is still possible.

Another goal of We Are Here is “No refugee on the street or in prison” is far from being achieved. Because every year around 3000 human beings are imprisoned in this country for no other reason but to be at disposal for deportation. These humans are considered unwanted aliens that must disappear. That is why they must be unknown, invisible. Existence denied.

This attitude of denying people being here opens the way for inhumane behavior. When you are in prison for reasons that are beyond your control and beyond your imagination, because you did no crime, you are not even suspect, it can drive you crazy. It can destroy your life.

We see human lives being destroyed every day on the borders of Europe. But also in the Kindgdom of the Netherlands: in the detention ceneters in Rotterdam and Zeist. And even more cruelly on the caribean islands Aruba and Curacao, where refugees from Venezuela locked up in miserable barracks.

In Amsterdam, the authorities finally acknowldge that illegalized migrants do have basic needs that must be fulfilled. Until now, most members of We Are Here

survived by showing themselves, by communicasting with neighbors, volunteers, the media and politicans. They could eat and clothe themselves thanks tot he generosity of the part of society that refuses to close its eyes and hearts to human suffering and systemic injustice.

In the new year 2019, illegalized migrants can choose to go into 24/7 shelter, sponsored by the national government. Shelter with basic needs is much better than being alone and in fear on the street. But still this is far from human rights. Let alone equal rights, also knowmn as “normal life”

Let’s say we are half way normal life. Suppose we accept that in the state sponsored shelter, you are both visible and under control. Then let the govermment also admit, that there is no justification for detention. Let us abolish detention, like we abolished slavery.

Let us start this year well:

ABOLISH DETENTION