



Horizon 6

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Domestic workers: national campaign

On 5 March 2014, the national campaign «No domestic worker is illegal» ends in Bern, with the delivery of the petition to the federal authorities. The activities and actions that took place throughout the year, in several cantons, have raised awareness among the public about the essential work done by migrants in private homes (cleaning, child care, caring for elderly or dependent persons).

However, a lot remains to be done, to achieve true social protection all over Switzerland, or to obtain residency permits. Finally, the ILO Convention (n°189) *Decent work for domestic workers* will probably be ratified by the Parliament in 2014. It is an important step towards better working conditions for domestic workers.

If you still have petition sheets, please bring them back to the reception or sent them to the address mentioned on the petition (if possible by 15 February 2014). You can find more information on the campaign and the follow up on the national site: www.aemni.ch

Attention !

It is absolutely necessary to let us know if :

- You are leaving Switzerland ;
- You are leaving Geneva for another canton ;
- You and your family receive a residence permit ;
- You change your address or phone number.

Please contact the reception!

Finally, if you wish to remain informed as to the future developments of the campaign, please mention it to the reception at CCSI or to write us at: admin@ccsi.ch!

Our opening hours

The opening hours of CCSI (telephone and reception) are as follows:

- Monday: 1.30-4.30 pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday:
8.30-11.30 am and
1.30-4.30 pm
- Thursday, Friday :
8.30-11.30 am

Our contact number is : **022.304.48.60**. If you have an appointment with one of the consultations outside of office hours, please wait in the hall by the elevators. Someone will come to fetch you.

Important

Please note that CCSI is not able to assist you in finding work or housing in Geneva.

Drivers, beware of police checks

If your immigration status in Switzerland is irregular, it is risky to drive a car. Controls by the police are quite frequent and during one of these routine checks, your irregular immigration status can easily be discovered.

It is particularly dangerous to drive with a license that is no longer valid or that is not recognized by the Swiss authorities. Violations of the driving rules are registered in your record and can then affect the proceedings for a residency permit.

CCSI turns 40 !

This year, CCSI celebrates 40 years of existence. Several events are planned for the autumn to mark the anniversary. For this occasion, it is important to us to give the migrants that we meet working at the Center the opportunity to express themselves. We invite you to take part in:

- The theater workshop held by the Permanences volantes (EPER), to prepare short plays that will be acted on the day of the CCSI anniversary party on 11 October (Contact Gaëlle Martinez : 076 536 81 94, rehearsals on Thursdays at 7pm).
- The workshop to produce a "migrant's magazine", to share your reality, past and/or present. The group will meet on 8 April at 7pm at CCSI, but you can also leave your contact details at the reception.

Don't hesitate to ask for more information to the person attending you at CCSI. As of September, you will find a detailed program at the reception and on our website: www.ccsi.ch

And book the evening of 10 October 2014 to celebrate with us. Don't forget, the 40th anniversary of CCSI is also your party!

Parascolaire

The only official days for registration to « parascolaire » (extra-curricular activities) for the 2014-15 school year are **17 May** (8-12am) and **21 May** (4-8pm). **Don't miss them !!**

Primary school : registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of its legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2010 start school on August 25th 2014.

To be accepted at school, your child must have an health insurance. CCSI is in charge of the affiliation for children without a residence permit. Make an appointment or come directly to the reception with the ID for the child and his/her legal guardian. Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come by the CCSI.

Health insurance subsidy

The subsidy for your child's health insurance must be requested **each year**. If you haven't yet, please **make an appointment to request the subsidy for 2014**. This deduction is a right which depends on your salary, it will not put you at a disadvantage in the treatment of other procedures.

Health insurance: caution!

Do not sign any documents related to your health insurance (basic or complementary) with an insurance broker who has come to your home! The pressure might be strong, but it is dangerous to sign such documents. Contact us before making any changes regarding your (or your children's) health insurance.

Daycare

Are you the parent of a pre-school child? Are you looking for a daycare solution? Although the situation in Geneva is very difficult – the

waiting-list is long, and one cannot always find a place – CCSI might be able to increase your chances.

If you live in Geneva city, go to the Bureau d'Information de la Petite Enfance (BIPE, 4, rue Rousseau, 1201 Geneva). If you live in another area in the canton of Geneva, you must go to the Secteur de la Petite Enfance in your commune – if there is one. If not, pre-register your child in the daycare center(s) closest to your home or workplace. To do so, you must present your child's insurance certificate.

After that, CCSI can write a letter of recommendation to support your request. For this, you will need to **make an appointment, preferably in February or March**, with the Permanence Petite enfance, santé et genre at CCSI, so that your child can start daycare as of August. Please note that there are no guarantees that your child will have a place in daycare.

The cost of monthly payments depends on your income. For full-time daycare, for the lowest income, the cost is approx. CHF 250 per month. For the time being, there are no financial aids for those costs.

Obtaining a EU permit: housing conditions

If you are an EU citizen and you have found a job, your employer will ask for a residency and work permit on your behalf. Unfortunately, conditions are very strict.

On the permit application form, your address must be indicated and a second form, completed and signed by your landlord, must be attached, as well as a copy of the lease contract for your apartment. If one of these documents is missing, they will be requested by the « Office cantonal de la population ». If you are not able to provide them, it is very unlikely that your permit will be granted.

In order to get permits for your family members (family reunification), your accommodation must be considered sufficiently large by the authorities. Should this not be the case, granting permits for your family will not be possible !

Meet & play for pre-schoolers

For children in pre-school age, Geneva offers several meeting and playing places (open to all and free) where parents and their children meet other parents and children, as well as childcare professionals. Here are a few addresses in Geneva city:

- Le Cerf-Volant, Bd. Carl-Vogt 82, 1205 Genève (Monday - Friday 2.30-6.30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday morning 9 am - noon, Saturday 2 - 6 pm)
- Espace parents-enfants, rue du Temple 10, 1201 Genève (Monday and Thursday 10 am - 1.30 pm, Tuesday 5.30 - 8.30 pm, Wednesday 10 am - 4.30 pm)
- UPA, chemin Surinam 7, 1203 Genève (Monday and Thursday, 9-11.30 am).

Your contribution

From 1st January 2012, we kindly ask you for an **annual financial contribution of 50 francs** (this amount can of course be negotiated if you have financial difficulties).

This decision was taken in order to face the financial difficulties our association is going through, as our funds are diminishing. The subsidies we receive are not enough to cover the operating costs. We ask you to contribute to our organization efforts, and **thank all of you who have already paid their contribution this year!**

