



Horizon 8

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Human rights protect us all

Starting last autumn, CCSI is part of a national campaign to defend fundamental human rights in Switzerland. Some of these rights are written into the Constitution, but decisions and policies by the authorities (e.g. migration policies) sometimes fail to respect these rights. Yet these are very important principles within the rule of law, such as the right to respect for private and family life, prohibition of discrimination, or prohibition of torture (articles 8, 14, et 3 ECHR respectively). It is also thanks to these principles that CCSI is able to defend the rights of the migrants who come to us, against the threat of deportation or a permit refusal.

However, these rights and the legal infrastructure that supports them (such as the European Court for Human Rights) are under vicious attacks by certain parties and media. It is to raise awareness among the general public as to how human rights protect us all that CCSI deemed it crucial to take part in this campaign. For further information : www.facteurdeprotection-d.ch

Swiss citizenship

The new law on Swiss nationality will come into force on 1 July 2016. The conditions to be able to request Swiss citizenship will become stricter than in the present law. For example, only those in possession of a residency permit (C permit) will be authorized to file a request for citizenship; candidates will have to

be able to communicate well both written and orally in one of the national languages; years spent in Switzerland under temporary admission (e. g. F permits) only count for half. CCSI therefore strongly recommends all persons who meet the criteria to file a request in the present law to seek advice as to the procedures and conditions they might face.

It must be noted that these stricter conditions mostly apply to the ordinary procedure, and that the easier procedures ("naturalisations facilitées", for spouses and minor children) will not necessarily become more difficult.

I'm 8, I can vote !

All foreigners who have been residing legally in Switzerland for at least eight years, and in a Geneva commune for more than three months, have the right to

Parascolaire

The only official days for registration to « parascolaire » (extra-curricular activities) for the 2015-16 school year are **30 May and 3 June. Don't miss them !!**

School meals

CCSI can only request free school meals for your child if you can present a **copy of the health insurance subsidy** and **copies of valid passports.**

New opening hours !

As of 1 March 2015, the reception at CCSI is open at the following times :

Telephone only :

- Monday: 12h - 13h30
- Tuesday to Friday: 8h - 9h30

Telephone and reception desk:

- Monday: 13h30 - 16h30
- Tuesday, Wednesday: 9h30 - 11h30, 13h30 - 16h30
- Thursday, Friday: 9h30 - 11h30

If you have an appointment with one of the consultations outside of reception opening 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.

vote at the municipal level. This usually only allows for foreigners to voice their opinion on a relatively limited range of topics. This year however, all the local authorities – legislative and executive powers – must be renewed. It is a unique occasion for migrants to have their voices heard, and to elect their political representatives for the next four years.

For more information on the right to vote and how to use it, visit the following website: www.8ans.ch. For those who can: on 19 April and 10 May, don't forget to vote!

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 01.08.2011 start school on August 24th 2015.

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 2015**. This deduction is a right that depends on your salary, it will not put you at a disadvantage in the treatment of other procedures. As soon as you get the subsidy, **please bring a copy to the reception** with your name and phone number.

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

If you are the parent of a pre-school child and are looking for a daycare solution the situation in Geneva is very difficult – the waiting-list is long, and one cannot always find a place. However, 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.

Borders

We wish to remind all undocumented migrants in Geneva that it is always dangerous to cross the border with France, and that border checks can lead to deportation. We strongly recommend that undocumented migrants only go to neighboring France if it is truly necessary (i.e., do not go food shopping in France!).

Moreover, please note that the procurations handed out by trade unions (SIT or Unia) unfortunately do not offer protection beyond the canton of Geneva (e. g., they are of no help if you are checked by police in Vaud or Valais).

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!**

Insurance subsidy

CCSI wishes to remind you that only children residing in the canton of Geneva have a right to the health insurance subsidy. CCSI cannot request the subsidy for children living in neighboring France.

Yoga

The permanences volantes by EPER offer a yoga course yoga by a professional instructor, every Wednesday at 7.30 pm, as of 28 January included. The course is open to all migrants, free, and does not require registration.

Where: rue de l'Orangerie 1, 1202 Genève. Information at 022/ 918 00 92 or 076/ 536 81 94, or gaelle.martinez@eper.ch

