

# **Refugee Housing in Berlin: “Active” and “Cosmopolitan” Citizenship towards Social Change**

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## **Abstract**

This human rights project focuses on the housing condition for refugees and asylum seekers in Berlin. During the summer of 2015 a great number of refugees came to Germany, and since then refugees have been housed in temporary accommodations such as sports halls, former office buildings, container villages and other structures that originally were not intended for housing. These structures are violating the foundations of international human rights such as the right to privacy. Having as its base the shelter where I currently work, the project has both the short term goal of empowerment and long term goals of building sufficient housing for refugees as its aim. The target group is first of all the residents of the shelter, as well as other refugees, volunteers, neighbors, social workers, politicians, bureaucrats, NGOs and other interested participants. In order to do so, the project applies the framing process for mobilization formulated by David Snow and Robert Benford (1988). By following the triple mandate of the social work profession, the project applies Jane Addams’ (1860-1935) and Pablo Freire’s educational pedagogies through a Human Rights Education model where a contribution to education for “cosmopolitan citizenship” or “active citizenship” ultimately is sought.