

Liebe Schwalmtaler, dear refugees!

Please be so kind, and give me 5 minutes to adress some words to you all.

First of all, in behalf of the asylkreis I would like to say welcome to you all!

We are very glad that you are here, and that you decided to take part in our annual summer festival.

It is a couple of years ago, that I took part in a hot discussion about development aid in the „third world“. Suddenly I was interrupted. An angry man explained, that we are all living in one world, and the term of the “third world” has to be avoided strictly.

This is now a few years ago, and the term „one world“ is established. But has something radical changed?

Isn't it so, that we are all still in the train with first class seats for europeans, second class places for russian and brazilian persons and third class for the rest of the world ? And isn't it still so, that there are many persons sitting at the train station and being unable to buy a ticket at all?

Why are we astonished, that those people start and walk and walk and walk until they find a better way of life?

I am sure, that we europeans, americans or japanese people will not preserve our secure, healthy, rich and free living, when we are not capable to reduce the great social distinctions between Europe and the rest of the world.

So we must start and overcome anxiety and open our mind and our heart.

It is time to make new friends – now. So let us start today.

Have a good time!