

Charter for Living Together in Diversity in Styria - Abridged Version

The State of Styria has agreed upon a common position regarding diversity. The "Charter for Living Together" which was passed by the State Parliament in June of 2011 summarizes our principles, as well as related objectives and values ensuring that all people in Styria live together in harmony. The following abridged version of the Charter outlines the principles of living together in Styria.

We...

- ... develop an open society based on the European Convention on Human Rights.
- ... promote cohabitation with equal rights and duties for all.
- ... regard linguistic diversity as a valuable asset, our common language being German.
- ... live in a diverse society in which there are no completely uniform groups.
- ... promote equal opportunities for all, which requires, however, own initiative by everybody involved.
- ... see integration as a cross-sectional task for all areas of society – in politics and administration, in business, in associations and in private life.
- ... see mutual respect as the basis for effective cohabitation.
- ... recognise discrimination and eliminate it rigorously in all its manifestations.
- ... consider the diversity of society as a normality, not as a special situation.
- ... have common needs and goals which connect us despite all differences.
- ... define Styria as the area we live in, and share a common home.

The following perceptions, actions and principles allow us to bring the Charter to life:

We...

- ... perceive each and every person as a unique individual.
- ... foster positive curiosity and reject prejudice.
- ... focus on people and see them as self-determined participants.
- ... recognize prejudiced images and move them aside to discover the person behind.
- ... are sceptical when social inequalities are explained on the basis of religious or cultural reasons.
- ... do not assume a general need for help for anybody.
- ... are aware of our tradition and culture and appreciate them as an important part of diversity.
- ... are convinced that diversity is reasonable and that a positive approach to diversity is possible.

These are our objectives which allow us to successfully live together:

1. Assume responsibility and take diversity into consideration
2. Allow for equal opportunities and promote accessibility
3. Resolutely and openly oppose discrimination
4. See Styria as the home of all people living here
5. Jointly contribute to social cohesion
6. Engage regions, cities and communities in the responsibility for living together
7. Develop the Styrian state administration into a model for a professional approach to diversity

The long version of the Charter is available at the following address:

http://www.verwaltung.steiermark.at/cms/dokumente/11562700_108305469/a502daed/Charta_EN.pdf

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