

## **Information on travel documents:**

According to the information sent first by a staff member of the Human Rights team from the Malmö side:

- **“Remember to bring your passport** as it will be checked at the border between Denmark and Sweden and you will need this to enter Sweden.”

According to the information sent the evening before the event by a staff member of the Human Rights team by the Copenhagen side:

- **Regular passport** (or ID for members of EU Countries) - there is **always** border control, if you do not have your traveling documents, you won't be able to cross the border.

The textual issue is the wrong wording stating ID for **members** of EU Countries (which should have stated, nationals of EU Countries). This might have given people the impression any EU ID cards were eligible instead of only those of EU Nationals (excluding anybody not holding the nationality of an EU Country).<sup>1</sup>

The fact that, although without any ill will, the staff member on the Copenhagen side edited the information given initially, adding ID card for members of EU Countries, as an option, has been unnecessarily confusing and possibly led to the situation at the border.

Although the detained scholarship recipients have informed us that they have traveled European Schengen borders before with only the identity cards in question, they are in fact not legitimate means of identification to cross borders for non-EU Nationals following EU Legislation and exposed them to possible issues with border control entities as regrettably happened on August 20, 2021, at the Swedish border.

## **Transportation process:**

The fact that three major Human Rights events were taking place (IPA/Summit and 1:1 Democracy Festival) at the same time, led to the situation in which only one Human Rights Team staff member from the Copenhagen side was able to be present when people boarded the busses in Copenhagen.

In hindsight, we acknowledge that a larger presence of staff from both Malmö and Copenhagen should have been present to escort individual busses to Malmö and back and, possibly, check identification before entering the bus as an extra safety measure to prevent border issues.

A sidenote is the fact that EU rules and regulations on border crossing requirements became rather complex during the ongoing pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/index\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/index_en.htm)

## **Actions taken throughout the day and afterwards:**

When the information reached the WorldPride team in Malmö we initially contacted the border police. They had of course been prepared in advance that there were three busses coming in to the Summit in Malmö from Copenhagen. Even though they had received the information including registration number of the buses they choose to stop one of them checking all travel document. When we reached them the initial information was that the two activists that were detained had to go back to Copenhagen. Meanwhile we were also in contact with LGBTQ+ Asylum Denmark who invited the two activists and had a personal contact with them. We swiftly decided not to start the summit before everyone was at Malmö Live safe and sound, including the two activists detained at the border.

Anna Tenfält, the managing director of WorldPride in Malmö went to the border to see if she could be of any assistance or support there. The security team was in contact with the border police to sort it out as soon as possible. The Malmö team ordered a new bus to pick up all of the activists at the border. While waiting at Malmö Live, the safer spaces team (including therapists, doctors and includers) prepared for supporting the activists when they arrived. When the activists arrived to Malmö Live, most of them chose to attend the summit that started first when everyone was in place. The two activists that were detained got a hotel room each to rest after the stressful experience.

The speakers and hosts all stepped up and showed support throughout the day. After the incident we have been following up with the two activists and Malmö Pride are supporting with taking costs for therapy sessions. Malmö Pride has also been in contact with migration law specialists to confirm that the travel documents wasn't valid. We are also in contact with the anti discrimination bureau in Malmö to see if there are any other actions that was taken by the border police in Malmö that was inappropriate or discriminating. When we've thoroughly gone thru all options we will send in an additional report.