

Results Verkiezingsdialogen



Utrecht, maart 2018

Feeling welcome in Utrecht

- Feeling part of a bigger community
- People taking a real interest and helping you.
- Entering a place where you feel rest.
- If you don't have to talk with someone, on the couch and don't have to do anything.
- Having people to be with (friends who support my work).
- A place where I can totally be myself.
- People greeting you.
- Someone who is offering you food.



Experiences feeling welcome

- A new neighbour who always talks to me and remembers what's important to me.
- Meeting neighbours because something was leaking.
- When I was sad and sitting in the garden of the church, a woman just started talking to me, she had seen I wasn't well.
- People are very helpful, and connect me with people who can give me a chance. They help me know the way. The best thing is getting help without having to ask.
- The second-hand shop I regularly go offered me glasses for free when they heard it was for the AZC. They really wanted to participate. I felt welcome because they are interested in what I do and know me. It feels like a small community.

- I feel welcome in other communities, has a large social network. There are 45 homes in Utrecht where I am welcome.
- Being recognized.
- Feeling part of a group
- For my research a young Syrian man agreed to be interviewed. He welcomed me in his home, and gave me a lot of his time. Time was not an issue at all. He prepared a Syrian meal and was interested in my story. His willingness to share, his openness, the effort he put in the meal and the fact he didn't expect anything in return made me feel very welcome.
- My boss made me feel welcome. My boss is open and makes jokes about Arabs but also about the Dutch. He makes jokes when I'm around not behind my back.
- The supervisor from my internship here in Utrecht gave me much freedom in my research. Also the other students who live with me are very accepting. We had a Sinterklaas dinner and it felt like spending Christmas with family.
- I had an Indian wedding and for the Indian people the wedding is very important. It lasts three days and they spend a lot of money on it. I and two of my Dutch family members spontaneously wanted to learn an Indian dance. We performed this dance at the wedding and the Indian people were happily surprised. They were happy we made an effort to understand their culture.
- I had to do a research for my study on a playground. My teacher warned us that the staff wouldn't be very happy with us around. When we arrived there the volunteers of the playground were very nice and gave us a lot of food.



- When my daughter was very ill and was in the hospital my neighbours were very understanding and cooked us a very nice dinner.
- The language lessons in small groups in De Voorkamer.
- Saying good morning to people on the street.
- ISE introduction week. They divide you into small groups with people you don't know. They made you do a lot of activities. The facilities for international students are very good.
- Caring and helping each other is important to make someone feel welcome.
- 'De Voorkamer is my second home'

Dreams Feeling welcome.

- There is a lot of jasmine (a smell that reminds of home)
- People reach out, try to get to know each other
- You can easily be yourself
- There is a mix of ages, children are playing outside
- When you are in the street, you meet a lot of people you know
- I have an open house
- The city is walkable
- I live in a community with shared spaces, which is also open to the broader neighbourhood.
- It is green, there are old trees (reminder there are communities)
- No winter
- Neighbours know each other.
- No Judgement. I don't want to be judged. In either a good or a bad way.
- Every person is welcome regardless of race, gender, sexuality.
- Make going abroad possible for more people not only if you're rich (I learned a lot when I was travelling).
- Stop judging each other if the other is different make that a positive thing! More respect, more openness.
- Accepting different opinions.
- Let children on a very young age become familiar with different types of background.
- Have more places to sit in the city
- The expat center should know and be able to direct people to places like De Voorkamer in function of where they live and what their interests are.

What to do to feel welcome

- Invite people to my garden in the summer

- Volunteer at a AZC
- Plant jasmine in front of my house
- Talk to someone I don't know.
- Be more interactive; organizing a lunch for a group of friends.
- Saying hello to strangers on the street more often. Interacting with people. Buying a plant for a neighbour.
- Not judging is not possible but questioning whether this it is a good interpretation.
- Applying for a job.
- I will give time to other people to help them. I will take time for that. Plant Jasmine.
- Bring children together to learn about each other, similar to initiative with two schools with very different populations visiting each other.

Insights

- We learned a lot on feeling welcome, offering people a welcome, what to do to feel welcome.
- Nice to talk with people you did not know before about feeling welcome. It is in the small things, being seen and everybody has the same desires.
- Time is needed to take interest in each other. It is about repeated events, accumulation.
- Touched my heart a lot. I learned that you should give a lot of time and help to others.
- It was nice to come more close to others through their stories.
- Important is being open to explore and experience new encounters.
- It is rewarding to be open and be curious. There are many nice people. I would like to give impact.
- You can start with a small step. Nice to listen to experiences of other people, without judging.
- Take a gesture towards the other, the consequences can be very rewarding. Be aware of your prejudices.
- Be more open and proactive. Take initiative.
- I'm not the only one who wants to change things to have a better life.
- It is important to be open and do unexpected things to feel welcome
- It is about acceptance of everyone

Dreams living and working in Utrecht

- I want to work in my area, because I can be more useful there. I worked in IT, but then you come home at night and then you have what? I would like to have more stability, but it takes time.
- I would prefer to live in the city centre, to be close to everything.
- A mix in social and non-social housing.
- More jobs for starters in the social sector.
- A city where we can connect.
- I would be working and living in the same city.
- There is space for animals.
- School and work within cycling distance.
- Affordable and mixed preschools.
- Less assumptions being made on you being a foreigner
- Not having to give up your nationality to get the dutch nationality



Living and working in Utrecht, what to do

- Make more of an effort to learn the language.
- Make the connection to a less happy side of Utrecht.
- Go vote.
- Strengthening the social sector, so that people can be paid for their work.
- Build more meeting space for the community.
- More houses should be built.

