Many German cities are currently confronted with an influx of refugees that has been unprecedented since the end of the Second World War. Refugees are fleeing from various parts of the world in which their security and/or welfare are seriously threatened. Some are escaping from war zones in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia or Eritrea; others seek refuge from unbearable conditions for raising a family or maintaining a minimum of wellbeing. The number of refugees has been growing constantly. At the same time, it seems that the current flow of refugees will continue for an unpredictable period of time – longer than previously seen movements such as the wave of immigration that followed the dismantlement of Yugoslavia.

Even if the mere numbers of refugees seem comparatively very low to those affecting cities like Amman or Beirut, dealing with and welcoming such newcomers represents a considerable challenge for German cities and municipalities. What effects do geopolitical changes have on the organization of urban areas in Germany as well as on the neighboring states of the conflict areas? Which circumstances are seen as legitimate reason for flight, which are not? How does one ideally deal with refugees, how are they best welcomed? How does the social, demographic and ethnic makeup of cities change worldwide in the process? Which problems do civilian, political and other actors as well as governmental and municipal authorities have to face? How is a social and economic infrastructure for the refugees established? Where are they housed, where are they admitted to go to school, are they allowed to work – and if so, where and to what extend? Does the strong involvement of volunteers change the relationship between the state and its civil society? And finally: Are there historic continuities in the management of flight and expulsion, especially in the urban context?

At the WeberWorldCafé “Refugees in the City”, experts from academia and civil society will discuss with students how cities across the globe and in different social contexts are managing or have managed in similar situations. We will deal with the institutional, civil and public reactions to these states of emergency. At the same time we will ask what the potential for integration says about the vitality of the cities themselves.

**Cooperation Partners:** Max Weber Stiftung, Europa in the Middle East – the Middle East in Europe / EUME (Forum Transregionale Studien), Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin (ZMO), Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung Berlin, Gesicht Zeigen! Für ein weltoffenes Deutschland e.V.