

Press release

Protestant Church The Hague and Protestant Church in the Netherlands

30-01-2019

Closure of church asylum: Tamrazyan family can stay in the Netherlands

The Protestant Church The Hague will end the continuous church service that has been held in the Bethel Chapel since 26 October 2018. A political agreement has been reached that ensures a safe future in The Netherlands for the Armenian Tamrazyan family.

The goal of the church asylum was to offer the family safety and to find a solution for families in similar situations. Now that more than 600 rooted children and their parents can stay in the Netherlands, the intended result has been achieved.

Theo Hetteema, chairman of the Protestant Church The Hague: "We are extremely grateful with a safe future for hundreds of refugee families in the Netherlands. For months, we have kept hope high and now that hope is taking concrete shape. We are deeply impressed by all the pastors, volunteers and others who have worked on this church asylum."

The Protestant Church The Hague and Protestant Church in the Netherlands are happy that the cases of so many families will be reassessed and that a long period of uncertainty for them will hopefully soon come to an end.

At the same time, the Protestant Church regrets that the political agreement has major consequences for asylum policy in the future. The Protestant Church will always fight for a humane reception of refugees.

Rev. René de Reuver, secretary of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands: "The biblical call to love God above all else and to love your neighbour as yourself, remains our guideline in our position for a humane solution for refugees."

The continuous service will be closed in a small circle on Wednesday followed by a press conference at which René de Reuver, Theo Hetteema and Hayarpi Tamrazyan, the eldest daughter of the Tamrazyan family, will address the media.

At a later moment the positive outcome of the church asylum will be celebrated with a private church service and a party for everyone who has contributed in recent months.