

To the

**European Parliament**

Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60  
1047 Brussels  
Belgium

**European Commission**

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 170  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

**Council of the European Union**

**Justice and Home Affairs**

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175  
1048 Brussels  
Belgium

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Open Letter for a humane asylum system based on solidarity**

Dear President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz,  
dear President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso,  
dear members of the Justice and Home Affairs Council,  
dear members of the European Parliament, dear members of the European Commission,

considering the fact that thousands of refugees died at the external frontier of the EU during the past years it is clear that a change is needed. The tragedy of Lampedusa, where a single shipwreck led to the death of more than 300 refugees, is representative for all human tragedies that are caused largely by the policy of fortification promoted by the European Union.

Witness statements in some case indicate not only that the death of people is accepted but also that assistance is selectively neglected or even inhibited. There is an increasing number of reports about push-back-operations, which are unacceptable from a humanitarian perspective, where refugees are forced to highly risky manoeuvres without getting the chance to apply for asylum.

Refugees who managed to make it to Europe often have to face discrimination, interminable procedures and inhuman treatment. The Dublin Regulation turned the deportation of refugees into a current method. The non-existing standardization of the European Asylum Policy leads to different minimum standards in the individual Member States. Refugees do not have the freedom of choice regarding the decision, in which European Country they want to have their regular residence. Nevertheless they try to reach the interior European Countries running the risk of deportation, detention and police arbitrariness.

We, a broad alliance of NGOs from different European Member States, call upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Justice and Home Affairs Council, the implementation of actions related to the rescue of human lives and to establish a humane asylum system based on solidarity.

- 1. We claim the establishment of legal escape routes to Europe:** Refugees must not risk their lives to make it to Europe and they must not be criminalised when they apply for asylum.
- 2. We call for the saving of human lives as the main priority of all border protection organisations of the EU and the Member States:** The massive mortality of refugees does not have to be legalised or accepted. Refugees are not enemies that have to be fended off but they are humans searching for life perspectives that need protection. Border protection organisations have to protect human lives and the rights of refugees.
- 3. We ask for a humane asylum system based on solidarity and harmonized minimum standards:** Refugees should be guaranteed a human treatment and a non-discriminatory lawsuit. Equalization payments for countries that with respect to their size, economic power and social situation receive disproportionately high numbers of refugees can have a positive influence on the establishment of common minimum standards.
- 4. We call for the freedom of choice for asylum seekers regarding their decision in which European Country they want to apply for asylum:** The deportation across the European Union has to be stopped. Humans should have the possibility to live where they want and where they have points of contact and not where they first reached Europe.

We, the signing organisations, expect that you, the members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Justice and Home Affairs Council, use all your possibilities to protect human life, respect human dignity and to enable human future prospects. Until now these aspects have not been fulfilled. Facing the deaths of so many people it is time to act.

Sincerely,

**the Supporting Organisations of the Open Letter**

### **SOS Mitmensch**

Zollergasse 15  
1070 Vienna – Austria  
phone +43 1 24 99 00 - fax +43 1 524 99 00 9  
[office@sosmitmensch.at](mailto:office@sosmitmensch.at)  
[www.sosmitmensch.at](http://www.sosmitmensch.at)



### **Alpine Peace Crossing – APC Verein für Flüchtlingshilfe**

Oberkrimml 37  
5743 Krimml – Austria  
phone +43 65 64 723 90  
[info@alpinepeacecrossing.org](mailto:info@alpinepeacecrossing.org)  
[www.alpinepeacecrossing.org](http://www.alpinepeacecrossing.org)



### **Asyl in Not**

Währinger Straße 59/2/1  
1090 Vienna – Austria  
phone +43 1 408 42 10 - fax +43 1 405 28 88  
[office@asyl-in-not.org](mailto:office@asyl-in-not.org)  
[www.asyl-in-not.org](http://www.asyl-in-not.org)



### **Integrationshaus**

Engerthstraße 163  
1020 Vienna – Austria  
phone +43 1 212 35 20 - fax +43 1 212 35 20 30  
[info@integrationshaus.at](mailto:info@integrationshaus.at)  
<http://www.integrationshaus.at>



### **Liga für Menschenrechte**

Schönbrunner Straße 61/1  
1050 Vienna – Austria  
phone +43 1 523 63 17  
[k.preckel@liga.or.at](mailto:k.preckel@liga.or.at)  
[www.liga.or.at](http://www.liga.or.at)



Österreichische Liga  
für Menschenrechte

**Association Européenne pour la défense des  
Droits de l'Homme – AEDH**

Rue de la Caserne, 33  
1000 Brussels – Belgium  
phone +32 25 11 21 00 - fax +32 25 11 32 00  
[info@aedh.eu](mailto:info@aedh.eu)  
[www.aedh.eu](http://www.aedh.eu)



**KISA Equality, Support, Antiracism – Migrant and Refugee Center**

48, Arsenoes Street  
1010 Nicosia – Cyprus  
phone +35 7 22 87 81 81 - fax +35 7 22 77 30 39  
[info@kisa.org.cy](mailto:info@kisa.org.cy)  
[kisa.org.cy](http://kisa.org.cy)



**Český helsinský výbor / Czech Helsinki Committee**

Štefánikova 21  
15000 Prague 5 – Czech Republic  
phone +420 2 57 22 11 42  
[info@helcom.cz](mailto:info@helcom.cz)  
[helcom.cz](http://helcom.cz)



**Dansk Flygtninge Hjælp / Danish Refugee Council**

Borgergade 10, 3rd floor  
1300 Copenhagen – Denmark  
phone +45 33 73 50 00  
[drc@drc.dk](mailto:drc@drc.dk)  
[www.drc.dk](http://www.drc.dk)



**Documentation and Advisory Center on Racial Discrimination – DACoRD**

Medborgerhuset, Nørre Allé 7, 2.sal  
2200 Copenhagen – Denmark  
phone +45 35 36 38 50  
[drc@drcenter.dk](mailto:drc@drcenter.dk)  
[www.drcenter.dk](http://www.drcenter.dk)



Dokumentations- og rådgivningscenteret om racediskrimination

## **Indvanderrådgivningen / Danish Immigrant Counsellin – DIC**

Vesterbrogade 14-butikken

8000 Aarhus – Denmark

phone +45 88 70 98 98 +45 26 22 36 11 - fax +45 88 70 78 70

[postmaster@Indvanderrraadgivningen.dk](mailto:postmaster@Indvanderrraadgivningen.dk)

[www.Indvanderrraadgivningen.dk](http://www.Indvanderrraadgivningen.dk)

## **Refugees Welcome**

Dronningensgade 14

1420 Copenhagen – Denmark

phone +45 50 55 80 11

[kontakt@refugeeswelcome.dk](mailto:kontakt@refugeeswelcome.dk)

[www.refugeeswelcome.dk](http://www.refugeeswelcome.dk)



## **SOS mod Racisme**

Noerre Allé 7

2200 Copenhagen – Denmark

phone +45 42 33 19 69

[sos@sosmodracisme.dk](mailto:sos@sosmodracisme.dk)

[www.sosmodracisme.dk](http://www.sosmodracisme.dk)



## **Eesti Pagulasabi / Estonian Refugee Council**

Vallikraavi 19

51003 Tartu – Estonia

phone +372 517 43 34

[info@pagulasabi.ee](mailto:info@pagulasabi.ee)

[www.pagulasabi.ee](http://www.pagulasabi.ee)



**Eesti  
Pagulasabi**  
ESTONIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

## **Inimõiguiste Keskus / Estonian Human Rights Centre**

Tartu mnt 63 (entrance B, 4th floor)

10115 Tallinn – Estonia

phone +372 644 51 48 - fax +372 646 51 48

[info@humanrights.ee](mailto:info@humanrights.ee)

[humanrights.ee](http://humanrights.ee)

[www.inimoigused.ee](http://www.inimoigused.ee)



### **Coordination contre le Racisme et l'Islamophobie – C.R.I.**

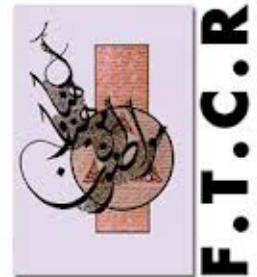
32 Boulevard des Provinces  
69110 Sainte Foy les Lyon – France  
phone +33 6 18 79 76 61  
[bureau@crifrance.com](mailto:bureau@crifrance.com)  
[www.crifrance.com](http://www.crifrance.com)



**LUTTE CONTRE  
L'ISLAMOPHOBIE**

### **Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des Deux Rives**

23 Rue du Maroc  
75019 Paris – France  
phone +33 1 40 34 18 15 – fax +33 1 40 34 18 15  
[contact@citoyensdesdeuxrives.eu](mailto:contact@citoyensdesdeuxrives.eu)  
[www.citoyensdesdeuxrives.eu](http://www.citoyensdesdeuxrives.eu)



### **Parcours d'Exil**

12, rue de la Fontaine au Roi  
75011 Paris – France  
phone +33 1 45 33 31 74  
[contact@parcours-exil.org](mailto:contact@parcours-exil.org)  
[www.parcours-exil.org](http://www.parcours-exil.org)

*parcoursd'exil*

### **AWO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e.V.**

Heinrich-Albertz-Haus  
Blücherstr. 62/63  
10961 Berlin – Germany  
phone +49 30 263 09 0  
[info@awo.org](mailto:info@awo.org)  
[www.awo.org](http://www.awo.org)



Bundesverband e.V.

### **Migrationsrat Berlin & Brandenburg**

Oranienstr. 34  
10999 Berlin – Germany  
phone +49 30 61 65 87 55 - fax +49 30 61 65 87 56  
[info@mrbb.de](mailto:info@mrbb.de)  
[www.migrationsrat.de](http://www.migrationsrat.de)

**MIGRATIONS RAT**  
Berlin & Brandenburg **mr**

**Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum e.V. – NMRZ**

Hans-Sachs-Platz 2  
90403 Nuremberg – Germany  
phone +49 911 230 55 50  
fax +49 911 37 85 17 78  
[buero@menschenrechte.org](mailto:buero@menschenrechte.org)  
[www.menschenrechte.org](http://www.menschenrechte.org)



Nürnberger  
Menschenrechtszentrum | **NMRZ**

**Stiftung :do**

Amandastrasse 60  
20357 Hamburg – Germany  
phone +49 40 80 60 92 14 - fax +49 40 80 60 92 15  
[info@stiftung-do.org](mailto:info@stiftung-do.org)  
[www.stiftung-do.org](http://www.stiftung-do.org)



**Antigone – Information and Documentation Centre on racism, ecology, peace and non violence**

29A Ptolemaion  
54630 Thessaloniki – Greece  
phone +30 23 10 28 56 88 - fax +30 23 10 22 25 03  
[info@antigone.gr](mailto:info@antigone.gr)  
[www.antigone.gr](http://www.antigone.gr)



**Κάριτας Ελλάς / Caritas Hellas**

52, Kapoudistriou Street  
10432 Athens – Greece  
phone +30 21 05 24 78 79 - fax +30 21 05 24 79 90  
[caritashellas@caritas.gr](mailto:caritashellas@caritas.gr)  
[www.caritas.gr](http://www.caritas.gr)



**Κάριτας Ελλάς**

**Fondazione Migrantes**

Via Aurelia 796  
00165 Rome – Italy  
phone +39 6 661 79 01 - fax +39 6 66 17 90 71  
[segreteria@migrantes.it](mailto:segreteria@migrantes.it)  
[www.migrantes.it](http://www.migrantes.it)



**Fondazione  
Migrantes**

**Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti umani**

Via Emilio de' Cavalieri 11  
00198 Rome – Italy  
phone +39 6 841 29 40 - fax +39 6 84 08 51 70  
[info@unionedirittiumani.it](mailto:info@unionedirittiumani.it)  
[www.unionedirittiumani.it](http://www.unionedirittiumani.it)



UNIONE FORENSE  
PER LA TUTELA DEI DIRITTI UMANI

Member of  
**fidh**

**Latvijas Cilvēktiesību komiteja / Latvian Human Rights Committee (FIDH)**

Dzirnavu Street 102a-4  
1050 Riga – Latvia  
phone +371 67 28 56 33  
[lhrc@lhrc.lv](mailto:lhrc@lhrc.lv)  
[www.lhrc.lv](http://www.lhrc.lv)



**Lietuvos Raudonojo Kryžiaus Draugija / Lithuanian Red Cross**

A Juozapavičiaus g. 10A  
09311 Vilnius – Lithuania  
phone +370 52 62 80 37 - fax +370 52 61 99 23  
[info@redcross.lt](mailto:info@redcross.lt)  
[www.redcross.lt](http://www.redcross.lt)



**Caritas Luxembourg**

29, rue Michel Welter  
2730 Luxembourg – Luxembourg  
phone +352 40 21 31 1  
[caritas@caritas.lu](mailto:caritas@caritas.lu)  
[www.caritas.lu](http://www.caritas.lu)

**caritas**  
L U X E M B O U R G

**Comité de Liaison des Associations D'Étrangers – CLAE**

26, rue de Gasperich  
1617 Luxembourg – Luxembourg  
phone +352 29 86 86 1 - fax +352 29 86 01  
[migrations@clae.lu](mailto:migrations@clae.lu)  
[www.clae.lu](http://www.clae.lu)

**CLAE**  
**SERVICES** asbl  
COMITÉ DE LIAISON DES  
ASSOCIATIONS D'ÉTRANGERS



**Slovenska filantropija / Slovene Philantropy**

Poljanska cesta 12  
1000 Ljubljana – Slovenia  
phone +386 14 30 12 88 - fax +386 14 30 12 89  
[info@filantropija.org](mailto:info@filantropija.org)  
[www.filantropija.org](http://www.filantropija.org)



**Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía – APDHA**

Calle Blanco White nº 5 Acc.  
41018 Seville – Spain  
phone +34 954 53 62 70  
[andalucia@apdha.org](mailto:andalucia@apdha.org)  
[www.apdha.org](http://www.apdha.org)



**Flyktinggruppernas Riksråd - FARR / Swedish Network of Asylum and Refugee Support Groups – FARR**

Box 391  
10127 Stockholm – Sweden  
phone +46 8 710 02 45  
[info@farr.se](mailto:info@farr.se)  
[www.farr.se](http://www.farr.se)



**Immigrant-institutet**

Södra Allégatan 1B  
41301 Gothenburg – Sweden  
phone +46 739 35 50 05  
[info@immi.se](mailto:info@immi.se)  
[www.immi.se](http://www.immi.se)



**Kent Refugee Help – KRH**

PO Box 192, Whitstable  
CT5 1WA Kent – United Kingdom  
[info@kentrefugeehelp.org.uk](mailto:info@kentrefugeehelp.org.uk)  
[www.kentrefugeehelp.org.uk](http://www.kentrefugeehelp.org.uk)