

BUILDING LEARNING SOCIETIES



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decent life

## WANTED: SOLIDARITY AT THE HEART OF EU MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

In the last two decades the Mediterranean Sea has become synonym for human tragedies as thousands of migrants died in their attempt to reach European borders seeking international protection, better life and better opportunities. This human tragedy cannot be ignored and requires immediate action by the European institutions.

There are many reasons why people migrate. For many of these people migration is not a choice but a necessity. Countries in the Middle East and North Africa are points of origin, transit and destination; they are important destinations for millions of migrant workers. In addition, the recent political turmoil, regime changes and wars in Libya and Syria, political instability in Egypt and other MENA countries as well as EU neo-colonial policies towards countries of origin of migrants have had an impact on people seeking asylum and international protection.

Nevertheless, the EU migration policy seems to be driven more by fear and constructed security concerns than by vision and reason. The logic of “invasion” fed by the reactionary attitude of certain EU leaders, leads to increasing public fears, racism and xenophobia and reducing sense of solidarity amongst EU Member States.

We call for a change in the EU migration, development and neighbourhood policies, based on consultation with migrants, social partners and civil society organizations. The European Union has the responsibility to contribute to avoid these tragedies, primarily through reflecting in what ways its policies are causing them, and to tackle the root causes for migration.

This can be done by working on three levels:

### 1) MORE SOLIDARITY IN THE EU MIGRATION POLICY!

#### How?

By promoting a right-based migration policy based on a more efficient **responsibility-sharing system** and improved **harmonisation of protection's standards** among Member States which the mechanisms that are in place now such as

the Dublin system<sup>1</sup> and FRONTEX missions fail to ensure. Also, by deconstructing the discourse of securitisation of borders, which is the basis for the multiplication of dangers on the migratory routes into EU and for strengthening the smuggling networks.

In particular, we recommend the following concrete actions:

<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EU) No 604/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person  
Directive 2001/55/EC on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons - July, 21st 2001

- We call on the European Institutions to invest in rescue operations that have the primary objective of saving human lives. To this aim, we call for the support of the Italian Prime Minister – who is currently holding the presidency of the European Union – to propose the immediate opening of **humanitarian corridors** with the involvement of the United Nations.
- We urge the European institutions to ensure that people seeking asylum are able to freely choose the Member State in which they want to move in. The implementation of the **European residence permit for temporary protection** foreseen by the Directive 55/2001<sup>2</sup> could be a way to partially overcome the obstacles derived by the Dublin Regulation that stipulates that asylum seekers have to ask for asylum in the country where they arrive.

## 2) MORE SOLIDARITY IN THE EU INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT POLICY!

### How?

By promoting a rights-based approach to international cooperation and development policy aiming at improving **economic and social development** in the country of origins as well as promoting **human and social rights**.

In particular, we recommend the following concrete actions:

We ask the European institutions to guarantying that the Post 2015 development framework promotes human development

and social justice. Promotion of **decent work and social protection** for migrants has to be one of the main pillars to develop priority actions for a more efficient short term use of European policies and tools.

We call on the European institutions to promote **international labor standards** as cornerstones of EU migration, development and neighbourhood policies. Take the lead in the ratification process of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189), Migration for Employment (C97), supplementary provisions on Migrant Workers (C143), as well as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICMW).

## 3) MORE SOLIDARITY MEANS ALSO ACCESS TO PUBLIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### How?

For those arriving in Europe the EU member states shall stick to their engagements and offer at least respect of human rights through providing access to health and care services, education and housing on equal grounds.

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SOLIDAR is a European network of 60 NGOs active in over 90 countries working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning. For more info [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)