

Civil Society Europe calls on leaders of European Institutions meeting for the European Council to set up a structured dialogue on migration

Concerned by the lack of a coordinated and adequate response that is exacerbating fear, racism, and indifference among citizens in Europe, as well as by the violations of human rights experienced by migrants and refugees.

Stressing that the current “refugee and migrant crisis” will not cease in the short term and that longer term policies and a holistic approach combining different policies are needed.

Taking into account the different statements, projects and concrete actions that CSE members have developed (link to CSE members statements) that welcome and facilitate the inclusion of refugees and migrants at national and local level, by ensuring hospitality, education, legal assistance, support for finding a job, facilitating access to culture and meetings with the local communities, we would like to reiterate that:

- All **decisions related to the welcoming and the relocation of refugees must be founded on the indivisible, inalienable, and universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, and the full implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and of International Conventions.**
- The European Union needs to **develop harmonised policies and open safe and legal channels, through the provision of humanitarian corridors or facilitating special VISA procedures** in order to prevent people from embarking on dangerous journeys and also serves to combat traffickers.
- **The inclusion of refugees and migrants at national and EU level must be ensured through a long term plan combining a variety of different policies** such as in the fields of education, training, social protection, health, employment, justice, culture, external relations and international cooperation.

- Such a plan must be sustained by **easily accessible and adequately resourced funding mechanisms at EU and national level.**

Civil society organisations are at the forefront in all policy areas and at all levels of implementation in providing responses to the needs of refugees and migrants. Our voice and expertise is more than needed and we are more than willing to contribute.

CSE calls, therefore, for the establishment of a structured dialogue between decision-makers and civil society organisations in order to develop and implement a rights-based action plan to address the refugees and migrants crisis. This should be at both national and EU level in order to develop a long term response where actors from different fields and sectors play their appropriate role.

contact@civilsocietyeurope.eu

www.civilsocietyeurope.eu

Civil Society Europe brings together more than 30 European networks of civil society organisations working towards regenerating the European project around the shared **values of Equality, Solidarity, Inclusiveness and Democracy**. The main objective is to facilitate and enable horizontal and vertical dialogue between European civil society organisations and policy-makers.