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North South Centre – Press release

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22nd Lisbon Forum – 24-25 November 2016 **Migration and Human Rights: how to structure an effective collective action in the Mediterranean and European space**



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Migration and Human Rights will be the focus of the 22nd edition of the Lisbon Forum, on 24-25 November at the Ismaili Centre. Organised by the **North-South Centre of the Council of Europe**, the international event will mobilise 200 representatives of governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society organisations, from both shores of the Mediterranean, to promote collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

Ms **Mina Jaf**, a refugee from Iraqi-Kurdistan origin, winner of the Voices of Courage 2016 award, founder and director Women Refugee Route, Iraq; Ms **Hanifa Karimi**, a refugee from Afghanistan and member of the Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE), and a **representative of the Global Platform of Syrian Students**, will share their life testimonies representing the 244 million people, more than 3% of the world population who live outside their countries of origin.

The 22nd edition of the Lisbon Forum will be chaired by **Lora Pappa**, founder of the Greek ONG METAdrasi and laureate of the 2015 North-South Prize.

The 22nd Lisbon Forum will address global flows and local responses, access to human rights and successful integration, discuss emergency needs and long term solutions and enhance capacities for dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination, building bridges based on the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. A constructive exchange of experience, good practice and expertise is expected to lead to specific actions to promote in 2017.

Held in the framework of the EU-funded initiative, carried out by the Council of Europe, South Programme II: support strengthened democratic governance through the creation of effective networks between Europe and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, the 22nd edition of the Lisbon Forum is organised with the additional support of the Portuguese and Maltese Governments, and the collaboration of the Aga Khan Development Network, the Portuguese Platform for Refugees and the NGO, Voices of Young Refugees – Europe.

Established in Lisbon in May 1990, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, more commonly known as the North-South Centre, develops its activities in four dimensions: global education, youth co-operation, women empowerment and migration. With its long experience in the field of co-operation between the CoE and neighbourhood countries, particularly in the Southern Mediterranean, the Centre fulfils a dual political role of representing "the voice of the South" within the Council of Europe and of promoting and transmitting the values of democracy and human rights that are central to the Council of Europe's mission in neighbouring regions.

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