



8th Meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration

***30 November 2023 (9.30am - 5pm)
and 1st December 2023 (9.30am - 12.30pm)***

Hybrid meeting

(Room G04, Agora, Council of Europe, Strasbourg and by Zoom video link)

Annotated agenda

Thursday 30 November 2023

9.30 - 9.45

- 1. Opening of the meeting by Leyla Kayacik, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG) and Chair of the Network of Focal Points on Migration***

9.45 - 11.15

- 2. Presentation of new Council of Europe standards and tools relevant for migrants and refugees - and information on relevant ongoing activities***

- **[Guide for practitioners on administrative detention of migrants, June 2023](#)**

Presentation by Francesco Crisafulli, Vice-President of the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ),

This non-binding guide has been developed by the CDCJ for professionals working in the field of migration as a practical tool to help improve their ability to prevent any risk and form of abuse or violation of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, and to strengthen respect for their dignity and fundamental rights, in accordance with existing international and European standards.

The presentation of this guide will be followed by an **exchange of views**.

- ***New material from the European Human Rights Training Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP) (online courses on LGBTI Persons in Asylum Procedures and Transition to Adulthood)***

Presentation by Giulia Lo Presti, HELP Programme.

Both modules were published on the HELP platform in July 2023. The [first one](#) offers a better understanding of the rights of LGBTI asylum-seekers in different stages of their asylum-claim, covering both the substantive and procedural aspects. [The second module](#) focuses on presenting the existing standards and guidelines designed to ensure that young refugees and migrants can enjoy their fundamental rights after the age of 18, both in law and in practice.

The presentation of these modules will be followed by an **exchange of views**.

11.15 - 11.45 - Coffee break

11.45 - 12.30

- 3. Update on the activities of the SRSO Office and the implementation of the CoE [action plan](#) on the protection of vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum in Europe (2021-2025)***

12:30 - 14:00 - Lunch break

During the lunch break, the Focal Points on Migration are invited to discover the exhibition " Beyond borders: Ukraine's untold stories ", based on the work of Council of Europe photographer Sandro Weltin.

14.00 - 15.30

4. Update on the situation of people having fled Ukraine - Presentation of the Survival Relief Platform

- Tour de table on developments in Council of Europe member States.
- Presentation by Ms Anna-Maria Chaikovska, expert in the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine on European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Survival Relief Platform is an online tool set up in Ukraine to facilitate contact with potential victims of conflict-related sexual violence and to respond to their needs.

The presentation of this platform will be followed by an **exchange of views**.

15.30 - 16.00 - Coffee break

16.00 - 17.00

5. Update on the issue of migrant smuggling

Presentation by Mr Clément Bailly, European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC).

This topical issue comes after the declaration of the Heads of State and Government meeting in Reykjavík on 16 and 17 May 2023. The declaration calls on the Council of Europe and its Member States to intensify efforts to foster and improve international co-operation on the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, while continuing to protect victims and respect the human rights of migrants and refugees.

The discussion on this topic offers an opportunity to explore possible areas of intervention by the Council of Europe, particularly in the light of the information meeting that was organized on 13 October 2023 focusing on the fight against migrant smuggling at the European level.

The Focal Points on Migration will be asked to exchange views on the following questions:

- *What are the current challenges in the fight against migrant smuggling (legal framework, state of international cooperation, prevention, investigation, prosecution, and protection of victims)?*
- *What role should the Council of Europe play in this area?*

17.00 - Closing of day 1

17.30 - Reception for the Focal Points on Migration and permanent representatives of Council of Europe member states

Ambassador Gilberto Jerónimo, the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe, will host a reception at his residence for the Focal Points on Migration and other permanent representatives of Council of Europe member states.

Experts from the Consultative Group of Children of Ukraine (CGU), which is holding its meeting on 30 November and 1st December 2023, will also be invited to attend this reception.

Friday 1st December 2023
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9.30 - 10.30

6. Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report and other recent instruments of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Presentation by Ms Maria Daniella Marouda, Chair of ECRI.

The Chair of ECRI will speak about the main trends outlined in [ECRI's annual report 2022](#) on migration. Additionally, she will reference the [ECRI General Policy Recommendation N°17](#) on preventing and combating intolerance and discrimination against LGBTI persons. This recommendation includes a dedicated chapter addressing asylum claims by LGBTI persons.

The presentation of these documents will be followed by an **exchange of views**.

10.30 - 11.30

7. *Presentation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's [report](#) " Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile "*

Presentation by Mr Paul Galles, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (Luxembourg, EPP/CD).

Mr Galles will present the complex situation of the 200,000 to 500,000 Belarusians who have fled to other Council of Europe countries, their access to protection and rights in these countries. He will also share the recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The presentation of this report will be followed by an **exchange of views**.

Additionally, updates will be provided on other reports adopted or currently in preparation by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, with a specific focus on the [report](#) addressing the humanitarian crisis emerging for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees.

11:30 - 11:45 - Coffee break

11.45 - 12.15

8. *Updates from Focal Points on recent legal/policy developments in their country concerning the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons in the context of migration and asylum*

12.15 - 12.30

9. *Preparation of the next meeting in June 2024*

10. *Any other business*

11. *Closing of the meeting*