



About the situation in Afghanistan, the ensuing migration flows

Gathered for its General Assembly, the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and more particularly its "**Migration Committee on the rights of migrant persons**" join the message of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe¹, Mrs. Dunja Mijatovic, who urges the Member States facing the arrival of Afghans, "not to undermine human rights protection".

On the basis of the informations received by NGOs in the field, they fully recognize themselves in the recommendation of the Commissioner for Human Rights for the member states to take three specific measures to address the situation:

- ✓ When receiving newcomers from Afghanistan, "cater for the specific needs and situation of women and girls, unaccompanied children, LGBTI people and other vulnerable groups".
- ✓ Ensure that the "announced goal of preventing 'irregular migration' does not lead to the de facto denial of human rights" including the right of accessing the asylum procedures.
- ✓ Provide solutions respecting human rights "for Afghans who are already present on the territories of Council of Europe member states".

The Conference of INGOs and its Migration Committee also support the PACE Resolution 2403 (2021)² which, among other things, calls on the governments of member states

- ✓ To fulfill their international responsibilities and obligations and "ensure the respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*" by refraining "from enforcing forced returns to Afghanistan",
- ✓ To provide more opportunities for resettlement "in dignified conditions",
- ✓ To "introduce humanitarian visas" and "reassess asylum applications".

¹ https://www.coe.int/fr/web/commissioner/view/-/asset_publisher/ugj3i6gSEkhZ/content/in-their-response-to-afghans-seeking-safety-council-of-europe-member-states-should-not-undermine-human-rights-protections?_101_INSTANCE_ugj3i6gSEkhZ_languageId=en_GB

² <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/29527/html>