



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Migration Committee on the rights of persons who are migrants

INGO and NGO access to migrant populations
Access to fundamental rights for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

WEBINAR « MIGRATION AND HEALTH »

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 2024 – 6pm-8pm

Duration of event:

- 60 minutes for presentations
- 30 minutes for introduction and conclusion
- 30 minutes for discussion
- TOTAL : 2 hours

Organizers: Conference of INGOs "rights of persons who are migrants" Committee

- **Daniel Guéry**, Committee Chairman, MIAMSI
- **Marc Van den Reeck**, Committee member, The Smile of the Child
- **Begonia Occio**, Committee member, Pax Romana
- **Salomé Brun**, Committee member and communications officer, moderator

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

- 1- 1- Raise awareness about the health issues and problems faced by migrants, refugees and asylum seekers throughout their migratory journey and once they have arrived in Europe ;
- 2- 2- Help to shed light on preconceived ideas and prejudices based on false beliefs ;
- 3- 3- Propose examples of good practice ;

SPEAKERS

- ° **David Best** – Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Council of Europe
- ° NGO The Smile of the Child – **Eleni Papakosta**, social worker, Panhellenic Center for Health and Social Care Services - Grèce
- ° Association "Medica" Zenica – Dr.sci. **Sabiha Husić** director in Medica Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ° Association Suojellaan Lapsia ry / Protect Children – **Katariina Leivo** (Senior Specialist) – Finland
- ° Associação Protectora de Diabéticos de Portugal (Portuguese Association for Protection of People with Diabetes) – **Isabel Maria Sousa Osório Araújo**, MD, Internal Medicine consultant/Diabetologist

- ° NGO Doctors of the World – Association for the development of tropical medicine at the Lisbon Institute of Tropical Medicine - M. **Carlos Araujo**
- ° NGO MIAMSI – **Marie-Laure Frys** ; **Francis Merckaert** (general physician) – Lille Metropolitan Area (France)

DISCUSSION PANELS

INTRODUCTION (20min)

- presentation of the webinar and its objectives - *Daniel Guéry, President of the Migration Committee*
- intervention by Mr. **David Best**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees of the Council of Europe
- Presentation of the Doctors of the World Portugal report and highlighting of unfounded prejudices - Mr. Carlos Araujo ([the speech](#)) & Mrs. Isabel Osorio ([the speech](#))
- introduction of the three discussion axes - Salomé Brun (Migration Committee of the Conference of INGOs), moderator

I. THE HEALTH OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS: THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE (20min)

This first panel discussion will cover the health vulnerability of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking populations. Issues such as access to vaccination coverage, sanitary conditions in initial reception facilities, delays and obstacles to medical care, and problems of access to various healthcare structures and social services will be addressed.

Speakers : 10 minutes/speaker

- *NGO MIAMSI - Francis Merckaert (doctor) - Lille metropolitan area (France)*
[The speech](#) – [Power Point presentation](#)
- *NGO The Smile of the Child - Greece: the special case of children -*
[Presentation 1](#) - [Presentation 2](#)

II. THE MENTAL HEALTH OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (20min)

The issue of migrants' health cannot be discussed solely on the basis of physical pathologies. The atypical nature of these populations implies mental health issues that need to be known and brought to the attention of professionals in the field who interact with them. The subject of the mental health of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is all the more important to address as the various traumas of the migratory journey lead to numerous psychological pathologies, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The question of reception and housing also plays a central role here.

Speakers : 10 minutes/speaker

- *NGO MIAMSI - Francis Merckaert (doctor) - Lille Metropolitan Area (France)*
[The speech](#) – [Power Point presentation](#)
- *Protect Children - Katariina Leivo (Senior Specialist) - Finland : “The importance of taking into account the mental health of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers to ensure successful integration in Europe”.* [Presentation](#)

III. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (20min)

The final panel discussion will address the issue of the reproductive sexual health of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, with a particular focus on women's exposure to sexist and sexual violence. Rape, pregnancy (voluntary or involuntary) and the lack of follow-up and screening for specific pathologies have a major impact on the already reduced quality of life of these populations. These - sometimes taboo - subjects are central to discussions on health issues.

Speakers : 10 minutes/speaker

- NGO MIAMSI Marie-Laure Frys- Lille Metropolitan Area (France) [The speech](#)
- Association "Medica" Zenica - Dr.sci. Sabiha Husić (Directress) – Bosnia [The speech](#)

CONCLUSION (5-10min)

Speakers :

- **Carlos Araujo** Doctors of the World Portugal
 - **Salomé Brun** Migration Committee Conference of INGOs Council of Europe
[The speech](#)
- Conclusion on deconstructing prejudice: a new focus on the ideas presented in the Doctors of the World Portugal report ;
- Concluding remarks: the place of health in the migratory journey and the construction of parallels with accommodation - *Salomé Brun (moderator)*.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION (30min)