

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Conference of INGO – 08th-10th April 2024

MIGRATION COMMITTEE ON THE
« RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE MIGRANTS »



Source : <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/international-migrant-day-council-of-europe-publishes-guidance-on-how-to-better-protect-children-against-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>

A LOOK BACK AT THE MIGRATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE "RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE MIGRANTS"

Mandate 2021-2024

THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVES

* Two working themes:



Access to migrant populations
for NGOs and INGOs.



Access to fundamental rights for migrants,
refugees and asylum seekers.

* Keeping a close eye on latest news



- October 6, 2021: "Communiqué on Afghanistan migration flows".
- October 28, 2022: "Communiqué on migration and tensions on the Polish-Belarusian border".
- March 9, 2022: "Communiqué on the conflict in Ukraine and refugees".
- June 19, 2022: "Communiqué on a shipwreck off the coast of Greece".
- October 9, 2023: "Ad hoc communiqué on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh".
- October 10, 2023: "Communiqué on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh".
- November 2023: "Communiqué on the situation of Ukrainian children deported or forcefully displaced to the Russian Federation or temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories".

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

More than 20 INGOs/NGOs participating :

ACISJF - B'NAI B'RITH - Caritas Europa - Choose Love - Comenius - Danish Refugees Council - ESAN - EUROCEF - EUROGEO - European Doctors - Eyba - FIACAT - FIUC - Justice et Paix Europe - Médecins du Monde - Mental Heath Europa - MIAMSI - OENDDF - Pax Romana - Picum - QCEA - RENATE - Réseau EU Eglises et Libertés - Smile of The Child - SOS Méditerranée - UNAEC



A team of entertainers :



- Daniel Guéry (MIAMSI) : president of the Committee
- Marc Van den Reeck (*The Smile of the Child*) : expert and project manager ;
- Salomé Brun, Éléna Bortolin : communication managers.



COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Regular meetings of Committee members (visio and face-to-face) :

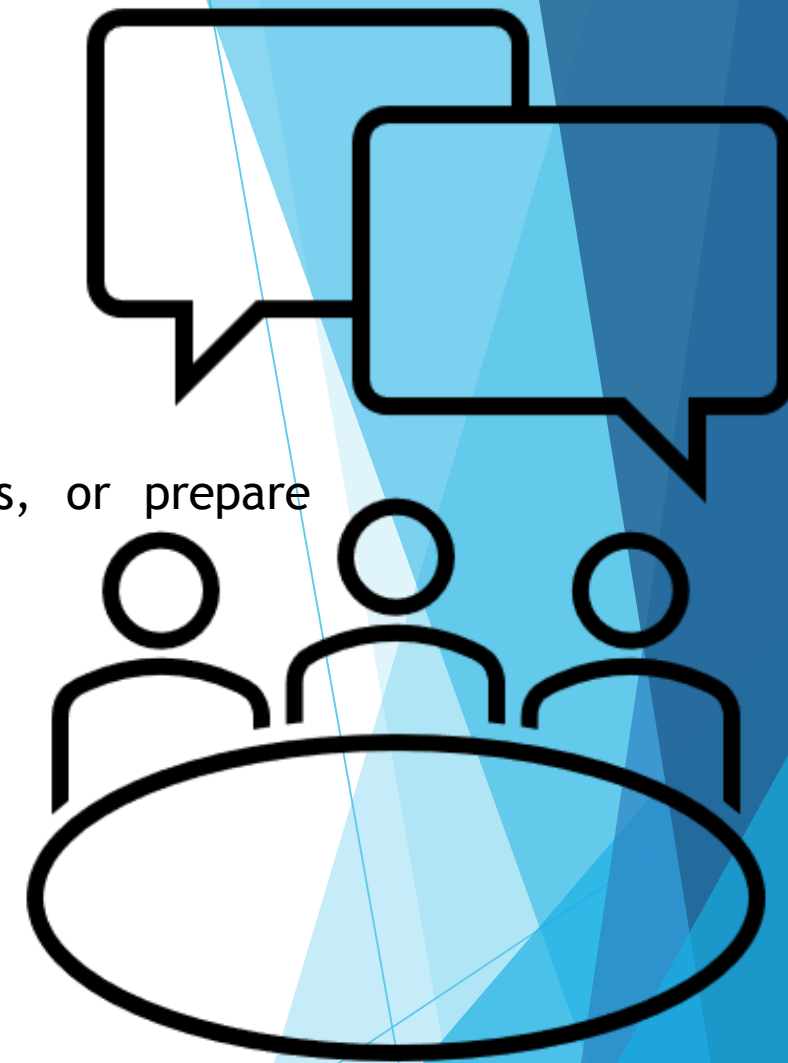
- Thematic meetings ;
- Working groups to draft documents, organize webinars, or prepare meetings with various Council of Europe bodies;
- Writing, proofreading and completing various texts;
- Website updating.

Link with the field through :

- Surveys among members of the Conference of INGOs;
- Solid, regular contacts with other field INGOs and NGOs ;
- Personal or delegation visits.



Publication of a newsletter (11 editions during the mandate) to regularly share information within the Committee and with some of our partners.



THE RESULTS ACHIEVED

COMMITTEE ON THE "RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE MIGRANTS"

Mandate 2021-2024

DRAFTING A RECOMMENDATION



[Recommendation for a Global Approach of the Rights of Refugees and Migrants and the Role of Civil Society](#) (adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 26 April 2023 on the proposal of the Migration Committee)



Based on :

* An **in-depth survey** of over 50 Conference INGOs in the first few months after the Committee's creation:

[Questionnaire on migrations issues and NGO access to migrants](#)

* An **analysis** resulting in two fundamental texts on :

→ [NGO access to the migrant population](#)

→ [Access to fundamental rights for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#)



CARRYING OUT A FIELD STUDY TRIP

An on-site visit (Greece), giving rise to conclusions that are essential for finalizing the recommendation.

- [Report of the field visit to Greece organised in collaboration with the local NGOs](#)
- 21-23 Nov. 2022

Ojectives of the visit :

- Confronting the Committee's reflections with reality on the ground;
- Meeting with local NGOs;
- Highlighting of new ideas and issues to be included in our work.



NEWS RELEASES ON MIGRATION ISSUES

*The Committee on the "Rights of Persons who are Migrants" followed up on the "migration monitoring unit" set up in the two previous mandates (2015-2018 and 2018-2021) and, in this capacity, published **6 communiqués** on behalf of the Conference:*

- October 6, 2021: "Communiqué on **Afghanistan** migration flows".
- October 28, 2022: "Communiqué on migration and tensions on the **Polish-Belarusian** border".
- March 9, 2022: "Communiqué on the conflict in **Ukraine** and refugees".
- June 19, 2022: "Communiqué on a **shipwreck** off the coast of **Greece**".
- October 9, 2023: "Ad hoc communiqué on the situation in **Nagorno-Karabakh**".
- October 10, 2023: "Communiqué on the situation in **Nagorno-Karabakh**".
- November 2023: "Communiqué on the situation of **Ukrainian children deported** or forcefully displaced to the Russian Federation or temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories".



ORGANIZATION OF WEBINARS

Migration Committee on the »Rights of Persons who are Migrants « webinars:

- Webinar on migration and health - February 13, 2024
- "Push-backs - Contemporary perspectives and challenges in Council of Europe member states" - October 25, 2022
- Trafficking in human beings fleeing conflict - Impact of the war in Ukraine" - October 18, 2022



Migration and Health Webinar. - 13.02.2024

Webinars in collaboration with other committees :

- "The interfaith and interconvictional dimension of welcoming migrants, refugees and asylum seekers" - November 20, 2023 (with the Interfaith and Interconvictional Dialogue Committee)
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- "Child migration from particular contexts" - November 17, 2023 (with Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child)



Webinar "Human trafficking on the flight from conflict" - 18.10.2022



LINKS WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES

COMMITTEE ON THE "RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE MIGRANTS"

Mandate 2021-2024

THE COMMITTEE AT THE HEART OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



- **Within the Conference of INGOs :**
 - Reporting to other committees (for webinars, surveys, background texts)
 - Relationship with the Standing Committee (for press releases and projects)
 - Link with Presidency (for links with other bodies and representations)
 - Link with secretariat (for website updates and other facilities)

- **With other Council of Europe bodies :**

- PACE Committee on Migrations, Refugees and displaced persons (participation in meetings, exchange of views)
- Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (information exchange)

- **And also various steering committees such as GRETA, ECRI, Children's Rights, etc.**



- **With the Council of Europe Secretary General's special delegates for migration: Mr Stéfaneck - Ms Kayacik - Mr Best**

Regular contacts, quarterly meetings for coordination with all Council of Europe stakeholders involved / migration involved

- **With the Commissioner for Human Rights and her team**



TO CONCLUDE...

COMMITTEE ON THE "RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO ARE MIGRANTS"

Mandate 2021-2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OPENING REMARKS

A few beliefs :

- Migration must be treated in all its complexity, without complacency, respecting the law, all people and institutions;
- The role of civil society is essential in dealing with migration issues;
- Links with the Council of Europe's migration bodies are also essential;
- The Migration Committee has a watchdog role within the Conference of INGOs and the CoE.

Special thanks to :

- To the INGO members of the Committee and their delegate(s), to The Smile of the Child for hosting the field visit;
- To the INGOs, partner NGOs, other Committees and the Standing Committee;
- To the three successive SRSGs and their secretariats;
- To the secretariat of the PACE Migration Committee.



A FUTURE COMMITTEE?

Accommodation, the key to solving major problems!

Call for participation from all INGOs interested in joining the Committee, and call for all INGOs to respond to future solicitations.