



Lisbon Forum 2016 – Side Event

Roundtable on Women Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean:

Meet the immediate emergency need and
find the longer term solutions

25 November 2016
Ismaili Centre, Lisbon

Recommendations



GOVERNO DE
PORTUGAL

MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS
ESTRANGEIROS

I – CONTEXT

1. An annual event since it was established in 1994 by the North South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Lisbon Forum (LF) is gathering since then high level participants from the Quadrilogue (representatives of governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society) from Europe, the Mediterranean and other neighbouring regions, as well as other continents, to discuss different topics related to the priorities and agenda of the CoE.

2. Currently, women and girls represent half of the 244 million migrants and 21.3 million refugees¹. They are, with children, the most vulnerable and those who are significantly exposed to human rights violations in forcible displacement situations. Women refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are facing multiple discrimination, gender-based violence, rape, exploitation and human-trafficking. It is fundamental for these women to find immediate assistance with gender-sensitive trained personnel. On the long run is also essential to establish or reinforce gender-based refugee, migrant and asylum policies.

3. One of the objectives of the NSC Empowerment of Women programme is to raise awareness about new forms of violence against women in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. In this context and at the occasion of the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against women², a roundtable on the theme of: “Women Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean: meet the immediate emergency needs and find the longer term solutions” was held in the framework of the Lisbon Forum 2016, with the support of the Government of Portugal.

¹ Statistics data and information provided by [UN Women](#) and [UNHRC](#).

² By [Resolution](#) of 17 December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem on that day.

II – RECOMMENDATIONS

Representatives from Governments, Parliaments, Local and Regional Authorities and Civil Society Organisations should coordinate their actions to:

- 1.** Promote the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- 2.** Implement comprehensive policies and specific measures to ensure that women and girls refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are protected and facilitated access to the services needed, in particular legal support and access to justice in relevant languages.
- 3.** Raise awareness about violence against women refugees, migrants and asylum seekers through data collection and information shared between all relevant non-governmental and governmental agencies, and international organisations.
- 4.** Ensure effective implementation of gender policies, legislation and international standards aiming at to respond immediately to the specific needs of women and girls refugees migrants and asylum seekers.
- 5.** Include women in the decision-making processes in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of gender policies, which should be reinforced by providing effective access to education, language classes and labour market, in order to enable women to have equal work possibilities and benefits.
- 6.** Eliminate discriminative laws such as child marriage and unregistered temporary marriage.
- 7.** Provide specialised training and sharing of good practices in order to increase the capacity and expertise of humanitarian actors and the number of gender-sensitive trained personnel.