



**Quaker
Council for
European
Affairs**

Submission to the webinar on "Migrants and refugees facing the Covid-19 crisis, what lessons for the post-pandemic time?"

Since the start of the pandemic, QCEA has been gathering data on the impact of Covid-19 in people on the move, and while at the local and individual examples of solidarity with migrants and refugees have been collected, it is crucial that these positive developments towards more solidarity with migrants become an integral part of EU policies that are more pragmatic and empathic.

It will also be important that while in places such as Portugal or Germany restrictions on people of the move have been lessened, as the key role of migrants in the functioning of society was revealed, migrants' contributions in societies are not just reduced to their economic contribution, but their whole humanity and dignity are taken into consideration and that structural barriers of racism, xenophobia and discrimination are removed to ensure their full participation in societies.

In light of the announced post-pandemic economic recession, and in the context of shrinking space for civil society, migrants and refugee-led organisation are under acute threat of disappearing due to lack of funding. Urgent attention needs to be paid to the adequate resourcing of migrants and refugee-led organisation that not only provides specific services to their users that mainstream organisation is not able to reach, but also have unique expertise combined with lived experiences that are much needed to shape more humane policies and more accountable implementation.