

## **An open letter to negotiators in the European Commission, the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament ahead of the final negotiations on the EU Pact on Migration**

We are writing as concerned human rights defenders, and as people who see and work with the stark consequences of political choices.

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum will mirror the failed approaches of the past and worsen their consequences. There is currently a major risk that the Pact results in an ill-functioning, costly, and cruel system that falls apart on implementation and leaves critical issues unaddressed.

If adopted in its current format, it will normalise the arbitrary use of immigration detention, including for children and families, increase racial profiling, use “crisis” procedures to enable pushbacks, and return individuals to so called “safe third countries” where they are at risk of violence, torture, and arbitrary imprisonment.

It also betrays the spirit of existing EU work, such as the EU Action Plan on Integration and the EU Action Plan Against Racism which recognises the intersectional impacts of racism and the specific vulnerability of migrants and refugees. The Pact, as it stands, risks perpetuating discriminatory practices within the very structures meant to uphold justice and protection for all.

We are acutely aware that politics is often about compromise. But there are exceptions, and human rights cannot be compromised. When they are weakened, there are consequences for all of us.

Rather than channelling funding towards more camps, walls, and surveillance, resources should go towards providing effective solutions, based on protection and assistance, of the kind offered to people fleeing Ukraine. Europe's solidarity and commitment to human rights cannot be defined by place of origin, race, ethnicity, or immigration status.

We should strengthen, not weaken, our reception and asylum systems and provide mechanisms to fairly share responsibility between European states. We need support for - not restrictions on - rescuing people at sea. We need more, not less, access to legal aid, asylum, medical and social support for people in need. We need real accountability for border forces that violate our laws. And we need more safe routes for people to move, work and settle in safety and dignity.

We have recently witnessed a dignified and compassionate response to displacement with the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive. This stands as a testament to the principles of human rights and protection that should guide our collective approach to these reforms. The New Pact must reflect and build upon this dignified response rather than leading Europe in the opposite direction.

There are times when political choices can make a profound difference, for better or for worse, to people's lives. Today is one such time. We're asking you to show leadership for the just and compassionate Europe we all want to live in.

Sincerely,

ActionAid International  
Amnesty International  
Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI)  
Balkanbrücke  
Be Aware And Share (BAAS)  
Birlikte Yaşamak İstiyoruz İnisiyatifi / We Want to Live Together Initiative  
The Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN)  
Caritas Europa  
Centre for Legal Aid "Voice in Bulgaria"  
Civil initiative Infokolpa  
CNCD - 11.11.11.  
Collective Aid  
Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)  
Divest Borders  
Dokustelle  
Equal Legal Aid  
Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice  
Europe Cares  
European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)  
European Coalition for Migrants and Refugees (EUC)  
European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights (ELDH)  
EuroMed Rights  
European Network Against Racism (ENAR)  
European Network on Religion and Belief (ENORB)  
Generation for Change CY  
Greek Forum of Migrants (GFM)  
Grenzenlose Wärme - Refugee Relief Work e.V.  
Habibi.Works (Soup and Socks, e.V.)  
I Have Rights  
Intereuropean Human Aid Association Germany e.V.  
International Rescue Committee  
Ivorian Community of Greece  
JRS Europe  
KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism  
La Cimade  
Legal Centre Lesvos  
Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH)  
Love Without Borders  
Media and Migration Association (MMA)  
Migrants Organise  
Migrant Voice  
Mobile Info Team

NLA (Northern Lights Aid)  
Oxfam  
Pikett Asyl  
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)  
ReFOCUS Media Labs  
Refugee Legal Support (RLS)  
Refugees in Libya  
Revibra Europe  
Samos Volunteers  
Save the Children  
SIEMPRE Belgium  
SOLIDAR  
S.P.E.A.K (Muslim Women Collective NL)  
Voices of International Students (VOIS Cyprus)  
Women's Healthcare on the Move  
Yoga and Sport with Refugees