

Lunaria, Legambiente and YAP launched an international petition among the Voluntary Service Organizations of their networks at global level. More than 50 organizations worldwide supported the petition, addressed to the International Institutions, specifically the European ones, to urgently change direction of the actual policy on migrants and asylum seekers, that are causing thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. The last meeting of the European Council, on April 23rd, is only a make-up solution, that will keep to put in danger the lives of human beings.

We, organizations and networks of the International Voluntary Service movement promoting peace, common understanding and human rights, want to address to International and National Institutions an urgent appeal to change direction of the actual policies on migrations, that are causing suffer and death for thousand and thousand of people.

Stop the massacres!

On the 19th April, more than 800 migrants died on the Sicilian channel whilst attempting to reach the shores of Europe. This is only the most grave of the numerous massacres that go through the Mediterranean sea which testifies to the failure of both national and international policies governing migration: years of closed borders, of monitoring the sea, of illegitimate refoulement, of arbitrary arrests and of human rights violations have not done anything to stop the arrival of migrants into Europe, despite having been at the heart of the public debate on a political, legislative and even financial level. In fact, the most effective tool to combat “irregular” immigration is the facilitation of legal entry on the grounds of economic migrants who are individuals in need of international protection. There is no law that can stop those who risk their lives in their own country and have fled from war zones and persecution.

The six priorities to make a change in direction: the right to arrive and to seek asylum

The European “Fortress” endangers the lives of thousands of people every year.

It is essential to:

Facilitate the “legal” entry into the European Union for work and job seeking;

Immediately open the humanitarian corridors which allow refugees to enter into Europe without having to risk their lives;

Launch a European operation that has as its sole objective the safety of human lives through the activities of search and rescue operations at sea;

Suspend the Dublin III Regulation and abolish the requirement to apply for asylum in the first country of arrival;

Suspend the existing agreements with countries who do not offer adequate and effective guarantee in respect to human rights

Prepare a welcome programme for asylum-seekers coordinated at European level, providing adequate resources

The drafting of new agreements with third countries should be subject to the guarantee of the right to seek asylum, to the prohibition of collective expulsions and to the commitment to the principle of

non-refoulement.

Our associations, which are active in the field of international volunteering, recognize human rights for all and reject all forms of intolerance and discrimination.; we do not accept that national and international policies cause the death of thousands of people in search of a better future. For this reason we launch this appeal to the international community and the European institutions so that action is taken as soon as possible in order to make a change in direction.