

Briefing Note accompanying the Position paper on
Legal Avenues to Access International Protection in the EU

The aim of this internal document is to present the key messages included in the Position Paper on legal avenues to access international protection and to highlight possible action points for National Societies and the RC/EU office to enhance the impact and influence of the position paper on relevant policies and practices.

BACKGROUND

The accompanying document is an adapted version of PERCO, [Position on the Need to Create Legal Avenues to Access International Protection within the European Union](#) adopted at the PERCO Annual General Meeting in Cyprus, November 2012. It was drafted with a view to facilitate the taking up at EU level of the policy recommendations presented by shortening the document and detailing the recommendations where progress could be achieved.

It follows from the RC/EU document, [Access to International Protection - Position Paper](#) published on 17 November 2011.

[Resolution 3 of the 31st International Conference](#) sets out that *States are also called on, in line with such relevant international law and national legislation, to grant to migrants appropriate international protection.* **Access to international protection thus sits at the core of the message conveyed by the Resolution and National Societies have the responsibility to take action towards the implementation of the Resolution.**

KEY MESSAGES

Many European National Societies work on and around international protection (reception of asylum seekers, providing psycho social assistance, integration support to refugees...). As such, National Societies are prime observers of the current vulnerabilities of asylum seekers and refugees. The topic of this Position Paper is fully in line with the RCRC mandate and experience.

The RCRC Movement carries out advocacy whenever necessary to ensure states' responsibility and to reaffirm the entitlement of every individual to enjoy basic human rights, in accordance with national, European and international law.

The Right to access internal protection is set out in different international fundamental rights instruments such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Yet, as a consequence of the reinforced and externalised border controls, EU Member States are not fulfilling their obligations under these instruments. **The aim of the Position Paper on Legal Avenues to Access International Protection in the EU is to put forward recommendations to ensure that policy makers put in place safe and effective legal avenues for persons in need of international protection.**

Action points for contributing to the influence and impact of the Position Paper

Linking assistance, protection and humanitarian advocacy for migrants is one of the 10 principles of the Federation Policy on Migration. **National societies are encouraged to enable migrants overcome abuses and pressures by undertaking discreet or public forms of advocacy.**

Who should be targeted?

1. Policy and decision-makers at EU and national levels (European Parliament, national parliament, governments...)
2. EU and national opinion shapers and leaders (journalists, academics, analysts, social media...)
3. EU and national partners (NGOs, IO, agencies...)
4. The wider public

Relevant policy settings:

- Asylum: the Common European Asylum System and national asylum procedures, refugee protection and resettlement
- Border procedures, border controls
- Immigration and visa regulations
- External relations, European neighbourhood policies, aid and development

Suggested Humanitarian Diplomacy and Advocacy activities

For the RC/EU Office

- Dissemination within our list of over 370 names including Members of the European Parliament, European Commission, Permanent representations, NGOs,...
- Publication on RC/EU web site.
- Voicing recommendations in conferences (inputs in panels and public interventions).
- Organising bilateral meetings with decision makers (Staff of the EC Unit on asylum...).
- Distributing the position paper in relevant settings including during the European Day for Border Guards and at the next Frontex and EASO consultative forums.
- Organisation of a Public Conference.
- Facilitating a closed door seminar on the criminalisation of migration flows.

For National Societies

- Translate the position paper.
- Disseminate it internally within your national society, including to the communication department.
- Publicize it: post it onto your website and disseminate it to your contacts and networks.
- Organisation of bilateral meetings with national authorities raising one or more of the nine policy recommendations included depending on your local policy processes.
- Using recommendations for press releases and for responding to the media.
- Contact your Member of European Parliaments and organise bilateral meetings to discuss the Position Paper in collaboration with the migration unit of the RC/EU.
- Organise a public event raising awareness on access to protection (with a screening of the [World Disaster Report video](#)).