



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Committee on Migration Issues

Housing of Migrants Persons: A Key Challenge for the Protection of Human Rights.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY: Rebuilding Reception Through the Lens of Rights and Dignity

On this World Refugee Day, the Committee on Migration Issues of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe firmly reaffirms that all migration policies must be grounded in the unconditional respect for the fundamental rights of every human being, as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights and reiterated in its Recommendation for a comprehensive approach to the rights of refugees and migrants and the role of civil society.³

Civil society is sounding the alarm about the risk of a drift in Europe and the Western world as a whole towards a system of border and migration management that is not only based on infrastructure and technologies serving legitimate security purposes⁴, but also on measures that are abusive and intrusive, involving the mass collection of personal data and driven by a logic of suspicion that loses sight of housing, solidarity, and protection. Such a framework threatens to erode the fundamental rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and to institutionalize a systematic attitude of distrust, which is incompatible with Europe's and the Western world's historical commitments and values.

While the adoption of the European Pact on Asylum and Migration in 2024 marks a major milestone for the future of migration policies in Europe, its implementation raises concerns. The expansion of detention procedures, the increasing use of digital surveillance and artificial intelligence — including for children — have sparked fears about the normalization of practices that undermine dignity, protection, and effective access to asylum.

On this symbolic day, the Committee calls for civil society, democratic institutions, and the people directly concerned to be fully involved in developing migration policies that are realistic yet fair and courageous, in order to better uphold the principles of international law, non-discrimination, and solidarity. This should help to rebuild reception systems — including housing and inclusion — in line with human rights.

³ Adopted by the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs on the 26th April 2023.

⁴ Committee on Migration Issues, 2025: Field Visit to Poland Report. Available [here](#).