



Creating Change for People

Preparing People for Change

April 22nd 2015

Dear Prime Minister Muscat,

At the People for Change Foundation, we are distraught by the news of further loss of life in the Mediterranean. We must not consider those drowned at sea to be simply numbers, or mere collateral from a set of criminal activities. They were fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts. The death of over a thousand people at sea should be met with outrage towards the factors that led to their demise and resolve to ensure that such tragedies are not repeated. Bold new measures are needed to actualize that resolve.

Ahead of the extraordinary summit scheduled for tomorrow, we therefore call on you and all European leaders to:

1. Expand lifesaving missions throughout the Mediterranean in order to preserve life and prevent unnecessary deaths at sea. Any expanded missions must be given the legal, financial and operational capacity to undertake effective search and rescue operations and to bring rescued persons to safety, whilst respecting international human rights standards.
2. Develop concrete legal and safe channels for persons fleeing persecution and conflict to seek protection in Europe without needing to resort to perilous sea journeys. Such channels need to be available soon, accessible and effective.
3. Work together in order to rescue and provide essential and ongoing services to those who have risked their lives in search for a safer future, including basic reception conditions and an effective opportunity to seek international protection. All Member States have a responsibility in this regard.
4. Continue to combat migrant smuggling and to prosecute those who place people's lives in peril. The principle of non-criminalization – both legal and discursive – of smuggled migrants should be safeguarded.
5. Ensure that all actions taken uphold the human rights enshrined in international treaties and European Union law, including the right to seek

asylum and the principle of *non-refoulement*.

We commend the men and women in the relevant forces that have and continue to place their own lives at risk to save others, and who have in the past days dealt with the carnage in the Mediterranean.

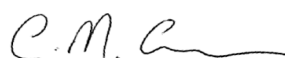
Finally, we re-iterate that saving lives at sea must be top priority and can be only be achieved if the political will is there to prioritize life. We call on you to show moral and political leadership at both the national and European level, and in so doing working with and convincing other European leaders to do the same.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Kind Regards,



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The People for Change Foundation is a human rights think tank based in Malta. PFC compels evidence based and data driven policy and action to promote human rights through research and analysis, lobbying, advocacy and capacity building.