

Access to Protection:
A Human Right



Expert Round Table

Access to Asylum: A Human Right!

23rd May 2013

David Bruce Hall, Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta

The People for Change Foundation

The People for Change Foundation is a human rights non-governmental organization based in Malta. PFC compels data driven and evidence based actions and policies supporting human rights through research, lobbying and capacity building. A primary focus of PFC's work is in the fields of migration, asylum and trafficking. Our vision is of a just, fair an inclusive society all members of which may reach their full potential. PFC is registered as a legal person in Malta.

Access to Asylum: A Human Right!

This round table is being organized within the context of the Access to Asylum: A Human Right! Project. The overall objective of the project is to bring national and EU policies and practices in line with the obligations set out by the European instruments on Human Rights and in particular by the Strasbourg Court Judgment in the Hirsi case, as far as the access to the territory and to protection is concerned.

The Core Activities of the project include:

1. Collection and analysis of legislation and practices in partner countries regarding border controls and access to asylum procedures at the border, publication of national reports including results and recommendations;
2. An analysis of on the compatibility of EU instruments, policies, practices and monitoring mechanisms with human rights and refugee law obligations, publication of a European Report including results, policy proposals and recommendations;
3. Dissemination of results and findings and lobbying with recommendations.

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The desired outcome is the improvement of Member States' respect of fundamental human rights relating to access to protection at EU's external borders.

The Roundtable

This roundtable aims to bring together individuals and organizations with experience and expertise in the area of maritime migration with a view of:

1. Identifying and highlighting the legal, policy, institutional and practical framework in the context of maritime migration
2. Identifying promising practices and specific concerns in the current state of play
3. Making suggestions and recommendations on how human rights concerns including concerns relating to the right to seek asylum can be better incorporated in the existing practice.

The roundtable forms part of the data collection process of the project. Other components include desk research, in depth legal and policy analysis and individual interviews with different stakeholders. A further meeting will be held towards the end of 2013 to present the key findings of the project.

Provisional Agenda

9.00 – 9.20	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Remarks• Introduction to PFC and the Project• Introduction of Participants
9.20-9.50	Presentation of the Hirsi Judgment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Context of the case• Main legal principles
9.50 – 10.30	Review of Current legal, policy and practical framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the current principles and practices?• What are the strengths and weaknesses with this approach?
10.30 – 11.30	Round Table on the Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations and discussion by participants

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