

UNITED 2026 TOOLKIT

FROM 12 JUNE 2026, THE EU PACT ON
MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IS OFFICIALLY ON.

USE THIS TOOLKIT TO TAKE ACTION AND TO ACCESS USEFUL
TOOLS FOR ORGANISED, PRACTICAL, SUSTAINED
SOLIDARITY.



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THE PACT IS HERE. SO ARE WE.

THE MOMENT WE ARE IN

On 12 June 2026, the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is applied across the European Union. The Pact accelerates border procedures, expands detention, and makes the "fiction of non-entry" and the "safe third country" doctrine the law of all twenty-seven Member States — though implementation is unfolding unevenly, with significant variation across borders in the months ahead.

The first practical changes affect people who lodge new asylum applications from 12 June onward; those already in the system continue under the previous rules. Border procedures launched under the new framework will produce their first decisions — and the first documented violations of procedural safeguards — through the summer and autumn of 2026. This window is when the network's response will matter most.

KEY DATES

12 JUN

Pact enters into application — new procedures begin for new applications

1 JUL

Additional Pact measures take effect

JUN-SEP

First wave of border-procedure decisions (12-week limit)

2026

Ongoing operationalisation across Member States

OUR RESPONSE

Since 1993, UNITED has documented the human cost of Fortress Europe through the List of Refugee Deaths.

This year, we are turning that long memory into forward motion. Our 2026 campaign is built for the moment after the law has changed — a moment that calls not for despair, but for organised, practical, sustained solidarity..

- 01** Equip activists and NGOs with practical tools, resources, and contacts to continue supporting people on the move under the new rules.
- 02** Sustain political resistance and alternative-building — keeping alive the demand for fairer border policies and welcoming societies, because a law passed is not a debate closed.
- 03** Affirm the presence and dignity of people on the move, so they know they are seen, surrounded by solidarity, and that a future in Europe remains possible.

UNDERSTANDING

THE EU PACT

On Migration and Asylum

Key elements of the Pact, the rights concerns identified by civil society organisations, and questions for network partners to take into their own contexts.

for intercultural action

Understanding the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

Policy briefing — UNITED Campaign Toolkit

World Refugee Day 2026

About this briefing. *This briefing summarises the key provisions of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the rights concerns identified by civil society organisations. It is intended as a shared reference for activists, NGOs, journalists, and frontline workers across the UNITED network. Sources are listed at the end.*

1. Key elements

Under the new rules, people arriving at the EU's borders will be screened and detained at the border to determine if they pose a security risk or are especially vulnerable, and certain categories of asylum seekers will be directed to accelerated asylum procedures. States are empowered to deviate from EU legal standards in so-called crisis situations, and a new "solidarity mechanism" aims to share asylum responsibilities among states.

Screening Procedure

People who cross the external borders of the European Union "irregularly" or after a search and rescue operation are subject to the Screening Procedure. During this process, their fingerprints are taken and their identity, health condition, and potential security risks are assessed. The procedure is to take place near the borders and should last no longer than seven days. Based on the outcome, applicants may be transferred to the border procedure, regular asylum procedure, or return procedure.

Fiction of non-entry

Under the "fiction of non-entry," incoming migrants undergoing the Screening Procedure are not considered as legally present in the national territory, despite their physical presence.

Admissibility checks and "safe third countries"

Admissibility checks determine whether the person entered from a country where they could have applied for asylum (first country of asylum) or from a "safe third country." In practice, it will be possible to designate countries as "safe third countries," even if they persecute their own citizens, as in the case with Tunisia or Turkey, which are not only considered safe but function as hubs for relocating migrants, also third-country nationals, as a result of the EU deals with the countries.

Responsibility and the "solidarity mechanism"

Responsibility for asylum seekers remains, in principle, with the countries where they first enter. If these countries are under increased "migration pressure," they can request support from other Member States through a "solidarity mechanism," which may involve relocating asylum seekers or financial contributions.

Crisis situations and emergency measures

In crisis situations, individual EU Member States may activate an emergency asylum system. If the Crisis Regulation is activated, accelerated procedures are implemented for both registration of newly

arriving and the "return" of the rejected asylum seekers, who might be kept for months in detention-like conditions.

2. What risks do the new laws pose?

Primary source: HIAS, "EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Explained."

Civil society organisations express concerns that the pact would weaken the right to asylum, normalize immigration detention (also for families and unaccompanied minors), increase racial profiling, and rely on harmful digital surveillance technology.

Rights violations during fast-tracked asylum procedures

Asylum seekers will be subjected to fast-tracked asylum and return (deportation) procedures at the border. People will face short time frames for interviews, limited or no access to legal advice, inadequate assessments of their vulnerability, and obstacles to appealing the decisions made in their cases.

Those who travelled through so-called "safe countries" before reaching Europe can have their claim discarded without any assessment of the individual persecution they face. They risk being returned to those countries, where they may face human rights abuses or be deported to their own countries where they may suffer harm or death.

A massive increase in detention of asylum seekers across Europe

The new laws require large-scale "screening" and processing of asylum seekers in facilities at borders. Various categories of asylum seekers will then be held in closed facilities at borders for up to 12 weeks while their claim is being assessed. During the period, they are deemed legally to not be on EU soil, increasing the risk that they will be denied access to rights and services.

Border states continue to be disproportionately responsible for asylum seekers

Currently, the EU state upon which an asylum seeker first sets foot, is, in most cases, responsible for hosting them and assessing their claim. This has placed a disproportionate burden on states at the borders, incentivizing them to conduct illegal pushbacks and ignore boats in distress.

In the "solidarity mechanism," states that are not facing migratory pressure can choose to either provide funding — to states at the border or to countries outside the EU — or they can relocate and host asylum applicants. While the "solidarity funds" can be used to improve living conditions, they may also be used to build prison-like detention centres at borders or to fund migration control outside the EU.

Rights violations due to emergency measures for crises

At times of high numbers of arrivals, states will be able to delay the registration of asylum seekers, channel them through fast-tracked and substandard procedures, and detain them for longer periods. Emergency measures, which reduce human rights safeguards, can also be used when states claim that "instrumentalization" is taking place. Instrumentalization broadly describes any situation in which people seeking protection are manipulated by "hostile actors": this vague definition leaves the concept open to political interpretations that undermine the right to seek asylum.

3. Reflection questions

For network partners, working groups, and trainers using this briefing as a discussion starter.

For your context

1. What does the pact change for your region or your organisation?
2. What specific challenges are you anticipating in your work?
3. What support do you need to overcome those challenges?

Sources

HIAS — [EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Explained](#)

PRO ASYL — [CEAS: Breaches of core legal principles are going to become the new normal](#)

Human Rights Watch — [EU's Migration Pact a Disaster for Migrants and Asylum Seekers](#)
(December 2023)

Human Rights Watch — [Joint Statement: EU Safe Country and Return Proposals Would Seriously Undermine \[Rights\] \(July 2025\)](#)

Amnesty International EU — [EU leaders should uphold right to asylum in Europe](#)

Sea-Eye — [CEAS Amendment Act adopted — a massive attack on the rights of people seeking protection](#)

European Commission — [Pact on Migration and Asylum \(official information page\)](#)

Voyce Community — Does the Pact balance state interests with migrant rights?
voycecommunity.eu/our-work-1

Citizens Information Ireland — [EU Migration and Asylum Pact](#)

ORGANISATIONS & NETWORKS

from the UNITED Address Book

A directory of partners working with people on the move — grouped by country, tagged by area of work, from transnational networks to local initiatives across Europe and beyond.

UNITED
for intercultural action

Organisations and Networks from UNITED Address Book

A directory of organisations and networks working with people on the move across Europe and beyond. Entries are grouped by country (with transnational networks at the top) and tagged by area of work. This list is drawn from the UNITED member portal and contacts shared through the network; it is a starting point, not an exhaustive map.

How to use this directory

By country — scan the country headers to find local organisations.

By service — use Ctrl+F to search service tags (Legal aid, Housing, Healthcare, Education, Psychosocial support, Anti-racism, Advocacy, Network, Research, Documentation, Sea rescue, LGBTQ+, Women, Youth, Community, Material aid, Self-organisation, Culture & arts).

Need more? Get in touch with us by writing an email at info@unitedagainstracism.org

Countries covered: Austria · Belgium · Cyprus · France · Germany · Greece · Hungary · Ireland · Italy · Luxembourg · Portugal · Serbia · Spain · Türkiye · Uganda · United Kingdom

TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS

Watch the Med – Alarm Phone

Self-organised hotline for refugees in distress at sea, established in 2014 by activist networks in Europe and Northern Africa. Documents incidents, alerts coastguards, and mobilises rescue in real time to prevent pushbacks.

Services: Sea rescue · Documentation · Advocacy

contact@alarmphone.org · alarmphone.org

Migreurop

Euro-African network of associations, activists, and researchers from 18 countries. Documents and denounces the consequences of European migration policies — militarisation, detention, expulsion, externalisation — using interdisciplinary research to support civil society.

Services: Research · Network · Documentation · Advocacy

contact@migreurop.org · migreurop.org

Mensch Mensch Mensch e.V. (RWI Network)

Active across Italy, Spain, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Uganda, and Germany. Promotes private accommodation and solidarity for refugees, builds local social networks, and finances small-scale solidarity projects.

Services: Housing · Community · Network

parastou@zusammenleben-willkommen.de · menschmenschmensch.de

AUSTRIA

Flüchtlingsprojekt Ute Bock · Vienna

Founded 2002. Provides stable housing for around 300 refugees, intensive social counselling for up to 1,000 clients a month, and free German literacy classes and child tutoring, supported by approximately 100 volunteers.

Services: Housing · Psychosocial support · Education

BELGIUM

Fedasil Sugny · *Sugny / Vresse-sur-Semois*

Specialised federal reception centre operated by Fedasil, the Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers in Belgium.

Services: Reception centre · State agency

info.sugny@fedasil.be · +32 (0)61 23 01 00 · fedasil.be

INTEGRIM Lab

Non-profit providing applied research on migration, integration, and social justice.

Services: Research · Integration

integrimlab@gmail.com · integrim.eu

Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen

Active since 1987. Pushes policy, raises public awareness, and ensures good reception and integration for asylum seekers and refugees in Flanders, working with dozens of member organisations and volunteers.

Services: Integration · Advocacy · Network

info@vluchtelingenwerk.be · vluchtelingenwerk.be

CYPRUS

Cross Culture International Foundation Cyprus (CCIF Cyprus)

Youth NGO founded 2016. Supports social inclusion of marginalised groups through youth exchanges, transnational initiatives, cultural dialogues, and fast-learning Greek courses for immigrant mothers and their children.

Services: Youth · Integration · Education

ccifcyprus@outlook.com · ccifcyprus.com

FRANCE

L'Atelier des artistes en exil (aa-e)

Identifies and accompanies artists in exile from all origins and disciplines. Offers dedicated work spaces, connections with French and European creative professionals, and platforms — performances, multimedia, concerts, dance, exhibitions — for displaced voices.

Services: Culture & arts · Integration

contact@aa-e.org · aa-e.org

GERMANY

Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg e.V. · *Hamburg*

Independent network of initiatives, organisations, and individuals advocating for refugee rights. Opposes the tightening of asylum laws, social isolation, and forced deportations through public relations, networking, and political lobbying.

Services: Network · Advocacy

info@fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de · fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de

Flüchtlingsrat Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V. · *North Rhine-Westphalia*

Network of groups and individuals campaigning for refugees' rights. Activities include lobbying, public relations, talks and workshops, and networking across North Rhine-Westphalia.

Services: Network · Advocacy



info@fmrw.de · fmrw.de

Hessischer Flüchtlingsrat (Hessian Refugee Council) · *Hesse*

Umbrella organisation in the state of Hesse for associations and individuals working with refugees. Links local grassroots initiatives, trains on asylum law and policy, and opposes racist exclusion and deportations.

Services: Network · Training · Advocacy

hfr@fr-hessen.de · fr-hessen.de

Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) · *Osnabrück*

Interdisciplinary research centre at Osnabrück University, active since the early 1990s. Focuses on spatial mobility and intercultural encounters; bridges science and practice through research, publications, and consulting.

Services: Research

imis@uni-osnabrueck.de · uni-osnabrueck.de/imis

Medibüro Berlin · *Berlin*

Self-organised network active since 1996. Arranges free, confidential, anonymous medical treatment for migrants without health insurance or valid residency papers; politically advocates for decoupling healthcare from immigration status.

Services: Healthcare · Advocacy

info@medibuero-berlin.de · medibuero-berlin.de

Multikulturelles Zentrum Trier · *Trier*

Non-profit offering free open German courses regardless of residence status, support with official correspondence and applications, and intercultural events. Promotes intercultural dialogue and combats racism and xenophobia.

Services: Education · Anti-racism

polit@multicultural-center.de · multikulti-trier.de

Münchner Flüchtlingsrat e.V. (Munich Refugee Council) · *Munich*

Free legal consultation for refugees in and after asylum procedures, in deportation custody, and on family reunion or humanitarian admission. Coordinates volunteer initiatives and campaigns against deportations and restrictive camp conditions.

Services: Legal aid · Advocacy

info@muenchner-fluechtlingsrat.de · muenchner-fluechtlingsrat.de

Zentrum ÜBERLEBEN gGmbH · *Berlin*

Founded 1992 (formerly the Berlin Center for Torture Victims). Provides comprehensive medical, psychotherapeutic, and social care to survivors of torture, civil war, and political persecution through specialised trauma therapy.

Services: Psychosocial support · Healthcare

pr@ueberleben.org · ueberleben.org

GREECE

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) · *Athens*

Founded 1989. NGO providing free legal and social assistance to thousands of refugees and asylum seekers annually; prioritises unaccompanied minors, victims of torture, and survivors of trafficking. Lobbies nationally and at EU level.

Services: Legal aid · Psychosocial support · Advocacy

gcr1@gcr.gr · gcr.gr

Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR) · *Athens*

Founded 2012. Association of refugee and migrant communities focused on self-organisation and empowerment, providing a collective platform to articulate needs, advocate for rights, and bridge with Greek society.



Services: Self-organisation · Community · Advocacy
info@refugees.gr · refugees.gr

Intereuropean Human Aid Association (IHA) · *Northern Greece*

Humanitarian organisation formed in response to the European refugee crisis. Distributes essential material goods and food and runs community centres offering language classes, educational activities, and safe social spaces in and outside official camps.

Services: Material aid · Community · Education
info@iha.help · iha.help

Mobile Info Team (MIT)

Provides individual, up-to-date legal information to refugees and asylum seekers across camps and urban areas. Documents systemic asylum-process issues to advocate at international legal forums.

Services: Legal aid · Documentation · Advocacy
info@mobileinfoteam.org · mobileinfoteam.org

HUNGARY

Hungarian Migrant Women's Association (Migráns Nők Magyarország Egyesület)

Supports migrant women's well-being and integration through language lessons, workshops (art therapy, self-care, yoga online), and information on available resources, NGOs, and health specialists.

Services: Women · Integration · Education
nagynavarro@yahoo.com · she4she.hu

Menedék – Hungarian Association for Migrants

Supporting integration of foreigners in Hungary for 30 years. Provides social, educational, and legal counselling; helps with accommodation and employment; offers tailored Hungarian language courses; runs sensitisation programmes in schools and workplaces.

Services: Integration · Legal aid · Education · Training
menedek@menedek.hu · menedek.hu

IRELAND

International Community Dynamics CLG

Non-profit fostering social integration and supporting refugees and migrants in resettlement through community-based projects, research, and intercultural workshops.

Services: Integration · Community · Research
info@icdynamics.ie · icdynamics.ie

Nasc, Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre · *Cork*

"Nasc" means "link" in Irish. Founded 2000. Free legal information and advocacy for thousands navigating immigration, asylum, and citizenship systems. Campaigns for institutional change including reform of the direct provision system.

Services: Legal aid · Advocacy
info@nascireland.org · nascireland.org

ITALY

Scuola Penny Wirton – Limana

Volunteer-led network providing free one-on-one Italian language instruction to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. No marks, exams, or traditional classes — lessons are tailored to each student's background.

Services: Education · Community
pennywirtonlimana@gmail.com · scuolapennywirton.it

LUXEMBOURG

ASTI – Association de soutien aux travailleurs immigrés

Active for over 40 years on integration of foreigners, political participation, and anti-discrimination. Functions as field organisation, think tank, and political lobby on immigration, asylum, and integration. Independently funded in part to preserve political voice.

Services: Integration · Anti-racism · Advocacy
ensemble@asti.lu · asti.lu

PORTUGAL

Casa do Brasil de Lisboa (CBL) · Lisbon

Active in Portugal since 1992. Runs Local Support Centres for the Integration of Migrants (CLAIM) in Lisbon's Bairro Alto and in Cascais. Works on integration, employability, anti-discrimination, and rights access — especially with women, racialised groups, and undocumented migrants.

Services: Integration · Legal aid · Anti-racism
goe.lisboa@casadobrasildelisboa.pt · facebook.com/casadobrasildelisboa

CulturFACE – Cultural Association for Development · Odivelas

Founded 2009. Develops plural and inclusive culture through intercultural activities, citizenship education, awareness campaigns against hate speech in digital media, and a community radio programme on coexistence ("ECOS DO BAIRRO").

Services: Culture & arts · Anti-racism
culturfais.acpd@gmail.com · facebook.com/2CulturFACE2

Obra Gay Associação

LGBTQ+ organisation with a growing branch focused on LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers in Portugal. Provides safe space, psychological support, legal counselling, and integration assistance for those fleeing persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Services: LGBTQ+ · Psychosocial support · Legal aid
info@obragay.pt · obragay.pt

SERBIA

Group 484 · Belgrade

Founded 1995 to support 484 refugee families fleeing Croatia's Operation Storm; named after them. Continues to work in Serbia and South-East Europe on refugee support, youth work, peace activities, and equal opportunities.

Services: Community · Youth · Advocacy
office@grupa484.org.rs · grupa484.org.rs

SPAIN

Asociación Jaén Acoge · Jaén

Founded 1992. Non-profit, non-partisan provincial NGO, part of the Andalucía Acoge Federation. Works on residential support, refugee support, anti-racism, hate speech and crimes, legal advice, and prevention of gender-based violence.

Services: Legal aid · Anti-racism · Women
a_lietor@jaenacoge.org · jaenacoge.org

Asociación de Trabajadores e Inmigrantes Marroquíes (ATIM)

National non-profit founded 1993, declared Public Utility by Logroño City Council in 2005. A focal point for foreign citizens (and Moroccan citizens in particular) to participate in integration projects with the host society.



Services: Integration · Community
atim.org94@gmail.com · asociacionatim.org

València Acull · *Valencia*

A supportive space for intercultural learning and the fight against racism and unsupportive individualism. Creates opportunities for native and immigrant people to contribute to a better society through participation and action.

Services: Integration · Anti-racism
valencia.acull@redacoge.org · valencia-acoge.org

TÜRKIYE

Mülteciler ve Sığınmacılar Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği · *Istanbul*

(Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association.) Established to respond to large-scale displacement. Runs community centres providing legal counselling, psychosocial support, health navigation, language training, and educational programmes for children.

Services: Legal aid · Psychosocial support · Healthcare · Education
info@multeciler.org.tr · multeciler.org.tr

UGANDA

Happy Living for All International Ltd

Provides holistic refugee support focused on community development, mental health, livelihood training, and social inclusion, working in regions hosting large refugee populations fleeing neighbouring conflicts.

Services: Community · Psychosocial support
info@happylivingforall.org · happylivingforall.org

UNITED KINGDOM

ASSIST Sheffield · *Sheffield*

Charity supporting people seeking sanctuary and those refused asylum. Provides emergency and temporary housing with host families or in dedicated properties, plus small weekly welfare payments or free bus passes. Weekly Help Desk for referrals.

Services: Housing · Material aid
admin@assistsheffield.org.uk · assistsheffield.org.uk

NETWORK CONTACTS

Individual contacts added through UNITED's network — not standalone organisations but useful institutional points of contact.

Dijar Mehmeti · *IOM Kosovo — Communication Associate*
dmehmeti@iom.int

François Lhoumeau · *IOM Western Balkans — Communications Officer*
frlhoumeau@iom.int

EU PACT

MEDIA KIT

Ready-to-use explainer language, a glossary that translates official terminology into plain meaning for reporting on the Pact and its consequences without leaning on negative narratives against migrants & refugees.

for intercultural action

EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

Media Kit for Journalists

A UNITED for Intercultural Action campaign resource — World Refugee Day 2026

About this kit. This media kit gives journalists ready-to-use language, glossary, story angles, and statistics for reporting on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which entered into application on 12 June 2026. Material can be lifted directly; where attribution is needed, please credit UNITED for Intercultural Action.

1. Ready-to-use explainer paragraph

For use as background or context in news pieces. Free to lift verbatim or adapt.

On 12 June 2026, the European Union's Pact on Migration and Asylum entered into application. The Pact introduces mandatory screening at the EU's external borders, expands the use of fast-tracked asylum procedures in border facilities — where applicants are legally treated as not having entered the EU — and broadens the grounds on which asylum claims can be rejected without an individual examination of their merits. Human rights organisations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, ECRE, and PRO ASYL have warned that the new framework normalises immigration detention, including of children, and increases the risk of people being returned to countries where they may face persecution or harm. Implementation is unfolding across all twenty-seven Member States, with significant variation in how national authorities are applying the new rules.

Short version (for tight word counts)

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, in application since 12 June 2026, introduces mandatory border screening, expanded fast-tracked procedures in detention-like conditions, and a legal device — the "fiction of non-entry" — that treats people physically present on EU soil as if they have not entered. Human rights organisations have warned of normalised detention, including of children, and elevated risk of unsafe returns.

2. Glossary — what the terms mean, plainly

Government communications about the Pact rely heavily on technical language that masks its practical effect. This glossary offers plain-language meanings and suggested alternatives that preserve accuracy without adopting official framing uncritically.

Official / government term	What it actually means	Suggested alternative
Fiction of non-entry	A legal device treating people physically on EU soil as if they have not entered, in order to deny them rights that would otherwise apply	Legal fiction of non-entry; or "treated as not having entered, despite being physically present"
Screening procedure	A border process of up to seven days during which people are identified, assessed, and sorted into procedures, often in closed facilities	Border screening; mandatory border processing

Official / government term	What it actually means	Suggested alternative
Border procedure	A fast-tracked asylum procedure of up to twelve weeks in closed facilities, with reduced procedural safeguards	Fast-tracked border asylum procedure; border detention procedure
Safe third country	A country designated as safe to which an asylum seeker can be returned without examination of their claim, regardless of whether they have any connection to it	Designated "safe" third country (always in quotation marks)
Solidarity mechanism	A system allowing Member States to pay, fund border externalisation, or relocate asylum seekers instead of taking shared responsibility	Responsibility-sharing mechanism
Instrumentalisation	A vaguely defined situation in which a foreign actor is said to be using migration as a tool, triggering reduced rights protections	"Instrumentalisation" (always in quotation marks; explain the contested definition)
Migration pressure	Political shorthand for higher-than-baseline arrivals, triggering emergency measures	Increased arrivals
Crisis Regulation	Emergency provisions allowing Member States to suspend standard safeguards	Crisis Regulation — note specific safeguards it suspends
Return	Often used to mean deportation	Deportation, where that is what is meant

3. Key figures and where to find current data

Numbers move quickly during implementation. Rather than embedding figures that may date, this section signposts primary sources journalists should consult at the moment of publication.

Recommended primary sources

- Eurostat — for arrival, application, and decision data across the EU. Disaggregated by Member State, nationality, and procedure type.
- AIDA (Asylum Information Database) — maintained by ECRE; country-by-country procedural data, reception conditions, and detention statistics.
- EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) — periodic reports on fundamental rights at borders, including findings from field visits and monitoring missions.
- UNHCR Operational Data Portal — for Mediterranean and Western Balkans arrival data, with country-level breakdowns.
- Frontex public statistics — for detections and joint operation figures, useful for cross-referencing official narratives.
- National asylum agency reports — quality varies; cross-check against AIDA and FRA findings.

When citing figures, name the source, the reporting period, and the date of retrieval. Disaggregate where possible: aggregate "arrival" or "return" numbers can obscure dramatically different realities by nationality, age, and procedure.

4. Sources and methodology

This media kit draws on the following sources and analytical choices.

Substantive analysis of the Pact

The description of the Pact's provisions — the screening procedure, border procedure, fiction of non-entry, safe third country designation, solidarity mechanism, Crisis Regulation, and the risks they pose — is drawn from UNITED's internal campaign worksheet, which itself synthesises analysis from the following civil society and institutional sources:

- HIAS — "EU Pact on Migration and Asylum Explained" ([hias.org](https://www.hias.org))
- Human Rights Watch — analyses including "EU's Migration Pact a Disaster for Migrants and Asylum Seekers" ([hrw.org](https://www.hrw.org))
- Amnesty International EU — statements on the right to asylum in Europe ([amnesty.eu](https://www.amnesty.eu))
- PRO ASYL — "CEAS: Breaches of Core Legal Principles Are Going to Become the New Normal" ([proasyl.de](https://www.proasyl.de))
- Sea-Eye — analysis of the CEAS Amendment Act adoption ([sea-eye.org](https://www.sea-eye.org))
- European Commission — official Pact information page (home-affairs.ec.europa.eu)
- Voyce Community — comparative analysis of state interests and migrant rights
- Citizens Information Ireland — explanatory materials on the Pact

Editorial framing

The distinction between official terminology and suggested neutral alternatives, the structure of the glossary, the suggested story angles, and the soundbites are editorial contributions developed for this kit. They reflect a critical-civil-society perspective consistent with UNITED's longstanding position on the "Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe."

Statistics and primary sources

No statistics have been embedded directly in this kit; instead, journalists are signposted to primary sources (Eurostat, AIDA, FRA, UNHCR, Frontex public statistics, national asylum agency reports). This is a deliberate choice: figures during the Pact's implementation period are moving too quickly to embed responsibly.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

& further readings

Useful resources for capacity building and for improving the understanding of the pact and how to build resilience waiting for its direct consequences.

for intercultural action

Educational Resources & Further Reading

UNITED Campaign Toolkit — World Refugee Day 2026

About this resource. *These resources are starting points, not endorsements. Quality varies, and approaches differ — civil society analyses, institutional reports, court rulings, and academic writing each carry their own framings. The aim is to give partners a navigable map of where to deepen their understanding of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the broader human-rights frameworks around it.*

1. Analysis and critical summaries of the Pact

Civil society and policy analyses tracking what the Pact does, how it is being implemented, and why each component matters.

[ECRE — European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#) · *State of Play of Pact Implementation*

Tracks national-level implementation across all EU Member States with regular updates. The most comprehensive picture of where each country actually is in transposing and applying the Pact.

[Migreurop](#) · *Detailed critical summary*

Frontline civil society analysis explaining why each regulation of the Pact is dangerous, from a transnational network covering Europe and North Africa.

[Danish Refugee Council](#) · *Policy recommendations on European asylum and migration*

Detailed positions and concrete recommendations on the Pact, including for national authorities and EU institutions.

[Collective Aid](#) · *The EU's Migration Reform in Action: Exclusion, Detention, and Deportation*

On-the-ground analysis of how the Pact is unfolding in practice, drawing on direct experience with people on the move.

[HIAS](#) · *EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Explained*

Short, accessible explainer (February 2024) — useful introduction for those new to the topic.

2. Council of Europe — Education, case law, and standards

The Council of Europe framework — the European Convention on Human Rights, the Strasbourg Court, and the wider system of monitoring bodies — remains the strongest legal protection for many of the rights the Pact compresses. Its educational resources are freely available, multilingual, and designed for civil society as well as legal professionals.

[HELP Programme](#) · *Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals*

Free, self-paced online courses with certificates. Open to lawyers, judges, and the wider public. Courses particularly relevant to the Pact:

- **Asylum and the European Convention on Human Rights** — Article 3 (non-refoulement), Article 5 (detention), Article 8 (family life) in asylum cases.
- **Refugee and Migrant Children** — child-specific protections, particularly relevant under fast-tracked border procedures.

- **Trafficking in Human Beings** — identifying vulnerabilities that should pause or modify standard procedures.
- **Hate Speech**

European Court of Human Rights · *Case law, factsheets, and knowledge sharing*

Judgments of the Strasbourg Court remain binding on all Council of Europe member states, including all EU Member States. Useful entry points:

- **Factsheets on migration** — short topical summaries: collective expulsion, detention of foreigners, unaccompanied minors, accompanied minors.
- **Knowledge Sharing platform (ECHR-KS)** — case-law guides organised by Convention article.
- **Key cases to know:** Hirsi Jamaa v. Italy (push-backs at sea); M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece (reception conditions); N.D. and N.T. v. Spain (collective expulsion at land border); Khlaifia v. Italy (detention conditions at Lampedusa).

echr.coe.int

Commissioner for Human Rights · *Council of Europe*

Country visits, statements, and "Human Rights Comments" on migration. The Commissioner has issued multiple positions on push-backs, the right to seek asylum, and the use of detention.

commissioner.coe.int

Council of Europe educational manuals · *Free, multilingual, downloadable*

Long-established human rights education resources designed for trainers, educators, and youth workers:

- **Compass** — Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People. Includes activities on asylum, discrimination, and migration.
- **Bookmarks** — Manual on Combating Hate Speech Online.
- **We CAN!** — Taking action against narratives that fuel discrimination. Useful for the campaign's communication and counter-narrative work.

3. EU-level educational and research resources

AIDA — Asylum Information Database · *Maintained by ECRE*

Country-by-country procedural information and comparative reports, regularly updated. The most-used reference work for asylum law and practice across Europe.

EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Annual Fundamental Rights Report, periodic "Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns" updates, and the Beyond the Peaks statistical handbook on asylum. Strong on systemic patterns rather than individual cases.

European Migration Network (EMN)

Country and EU-level comparative studies, particularly on integration, return, and irregular migration policy. Useful for placing national policies in European context.

4. UN-level resources

UNHCR Refworld

Refugee law and country-of-origin information database. The largest single legal resource for asylum work, drawing together case law, country reports, and policy documents.

UNHCR Global Trends

Annual displacement statistics with breakdowns by country, situation, and protection status. Reliable foundation for journalism, advocacy, and education.

OHCHR — Migration and Human Rights · *UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, thematic recommendations, and overview of the international human rights framework as it applies to migration.

5. Civil society research and educational platforms

[Statewatch](#)

Long-form investigative documentation of EU Justice and Home Affairs decisions. Particularly strong on the Pact's drafting history and on the externalisation of European migration policy.

[PICUM — Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#)

Briefings, training material, and policy resources focused on the rights of undocumented people — a group whose situation the Pact significantly affects.

[Border Violence Monitoring Network \(BVMN\)](#)

Black Book of Pushbacks, monthly reports, and joint testimony database documenting violence at EU borders. Primary-source material for advocacy and journalism.

[Forensic Architecture / Forensis](#)

Investigative reconstructions of border incidents — Pylos, Mediterranean shipwrecks, push-back operations. Usable in trainings, exhibitions, and public education work.

[EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy blog](#)

Accessible academic and practitioner analysis of EU migration law developments. Good for keeping current with the legal debate.

6. Specialised training networks

[ELENA — European Legal Network on Asylum](#) · *Coordinated by ECRE*

Legal training resources, weekly case-law updates, and a network of refugee lawyers across Europe. A practical entry point for legal practitioners and for organisations that need to connect with one.

[UNHCR Learn](#)

Free online learning modules on refugee law, available to anyone with an account.

A note on using these resources

Three things to keep in mind:

- **URLs change.** If a link breaks, search the source organisation directly — most of these are stable, well-maintained sites whose content moves but rarely disappears.
- **Date what you cite.** Several of these resources publish regular updates. When citing in your own materials, note the date of retrieval — the situation under the Pact is moving quickly.
- **Read across sources.** Institutional and civil society analyses differ in framing — both are necessary. Court judgments and Special Rapporteur reports often go further than political statements; civil society documentation often reaches what institutional sources cannot.

ART & THE LIST

UNITED List of refugee deaths as a tool for empathy building

Artists and communities have turned the documentation of border deaths into work that mourns, remembers, and refuses to let the numbers stay abstract.

Art and the List

Initiatives that make migration visible

UNITED Campaign Toolkit — World Refugee Day 2026

About this resource. *Data does not move people; meaning does. For three decades, artists and communities have turned the documentation of border deaths — above all the UNITED List of Refugee Deaths — into work that mourns, remembers, and refuses to let the numbers stay abstract. This is a starting map of those initiatives: some built directly on the List, others working in the same spirit. It is offered alongside the campaign's collaboration with the International Mural Challenge as an invitation to add your own.*

1. The List as living material

Since 1993, UNITED has compiled the List of Refugee Deaths — the documented record of people who have died trying to reach or stay in Europe. As of 6 February 2026, the List records 70,298 deaths. It was built as evidence. Over time it has also become something artists, families, and movements return to again and again: a text that, simply by being made visible in public, indicts the policies that produced it.

The List · *Banu Cennetoğlu, with UNITED for Intercultural Action, since 2006–07*

The most widely known artistic use of the List. Working with curators and institutions, Cennetoğlu has reproduced the full List in public space — billboards in Amsterdam, advertising columns in Berlin, a bus stop in Basel, a wall in Los Angeles, a screen atop a hotel in Istanbul, and as a newspaper supplement printed and distributed by The Guardian on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2018. The 2018 Liverpool Biennial installation was repeatedly torn down; the artist and the Biennial chose to leave it damaged "as a manifestation and reminder of this systematic violence." Frieze magazine named it number 18 in its list of the 25 best works of the 21st century.

ENDLESS · *UNITED, with HORIZONT, FIKTIVE KOLLEKTIV and ANACHOMA, 2025*

UNITED's own installation concept for bringing the List into physical space, designed so that any organisation, town, or city can host it. Developed in cooperation with three artistic collectives — among them ANACHOMA, whose documentary project is described below. A downloadable concept document shows how the installation can look, and a form invites groups to bring it to their own context — making ENDLESS the most direct bridge between this tradition and a local action a campaign partner could take on now.

A natural pairing

The List and ENDLESS turn documentation into public memory. The International Mural Challenge by Aidez Nous à Aider turns walls into the same kind of public statement. A partner could use the List as the source text for a mural — names, dates, causes of death rendered at the scale of a building — joining a thirty-year lineage of work that makes border violence impossible to walk past.

2. Memorials and monuments

Works that give the dead a place — names, objects, or forms that function as public mourning where states have offered none.

Palimpsest · Doris Salcedo, 2017 (Fondation Beyeler and elsewhere)

A walk-through installation of stone floor slabs inscribed with the names of people who died crossing the Mediterranean and Atlantic. Earlier names are set in fine sand; more recent names well up as drops of water that form letters and then seep away — a constant cycle of inscription and erasure that stages the act of remembering and forgetting itself.

Barca Nostra · Christoph Büchel, 2019 Venice Biennale

The salvaged wreck of the fishing boat in which hundreds of people died in the April 2015 Mediterranean shipwreck, transported to Venice and placed on a quay. Presented without curatorial framing, it provoked intense debate about the ethics of displaying the object of mass death — a debate that is itself part of how the work functions.

Monument for Strangers and Refugees · Olu Oguibe, documenta 14, 2017, Kassel

A concrete obelisk on Kassel's Königsplatz inscribed in four languages with the Biblical line "I was a stranger and you took me in." Conceived during the 2014–15 period, it became a flashpoint: removed after political pressure, then defended and reinstated, it showed how a public monument to welcome can itself become contested ground.

3. Naming the journey

Works that resist reducing people to statistics by centring individual voices, routes, and testimony.

ANACHOMA · 2023– (UNU-MERIT)

A long-form documentary project on pushbacks at the Greek–Turkish border, centred on the Evros River — one of the EU's most lethal land borders. Over three years the project recorded interviews with more than a dozen pushback survivors and around thirty further interviews with NGOs, UNHCR staff, human rights lawyers, MEPs, the forensics professor at Alexandroupolis who has examined the bodies returned by the river, and locals on both sides. Visual material was gathered from twenty locations, from Istanbul to Brussels.

Background: unu.edu/merit/news/new-documentary-sheds-light-illegal-practice-pushbacks-greek-turkish-border

4. Collective remembrance, ongoing

Most of the works above are made by individual artists. CommemorAction is something different: an organising practice and a calendar. It is the closest model to what a campaign partner might do directly on the ground — and it already has dates the network can plug into.

CommemorAction · A network of families and activists, ongoing

A blended word — commemoration plus action — and the name of a movement born from collaboration between families of those who died or disappeared at sea on the journey to Europe and the activists who have collected their testimonies. CommemorActions are organised across Europe and Africa, mixing political demand with artistic performance, and most of all linking grieving loved ones with as many people as possible. The movement anchors to two annual dates: 6 February (anniversary of the 2014 Tarajal killings at the Ceuta–Morocco border) and 14 June (anniversary of the 2023 Pylos shipwreck). The June date sits directly inside the World Refugee Day window. In Italy the work has been carried by Mem.Med (Memoria Mediterranea), ASGI, Mediterranea, and Alarm Phone, particularly around the demand that the dead be identified and named.

5. Murals and participatory public art

Closest in form to the Mural Challenge: work made on walls, often with the participation of displaced people and host communities. These are the clearest models for a partner planning a mural action.

[Interwoven: Refugee Murals Across Borders](#) · UNHCR × Artolution, since 2022

A global partnership bringing mural-making to forcibly displaced people so they tell their own stories and shape their own images. A strong model for participatory, refugee-led muralism — the displaced person as artist, not subject.

[Echoes of Resilience / "Hope is the Fire"](#) · UNHCR × European Union, December 2025

Street-art murals unveiled in Paris, Rome, and Copenhagen, each by a local artist, honouring refugee resilience and European solidarity. Recent, EU-linked, and city-based — a useful precedent to point to when approaching a municipality about wall permissions.

[Refugee and migrant children's mural, Greece](#) · Achilleas Souras and Alice Pasquini with UNICEF, 2024–25

Established muralists working alongside refugee and migrant children to co-create public murals on unity and friendship — a model for involving young people directly in the making, not just the viewing.

6. Bringing it into the campaign

Some practical ways a partner could turn this lineage into a local action this campaign cycle:

- **Use the List as source text.** Reproduce a section of the List — or the whole of it — as a mural, projection, or street installation, crediting UNITED. The longer and plainer, the stronger.
- **Host ENDLESS.** Request the installation concept from UNITED and adapt it to a local square, building, or campus.
- **Mark the dates.** Connect a local action — vigil, reading of names, mural unveiling — to the CommemorAction calendar. 14 June sits inside World Refugee Day week and is the natural anchor for the 2026 campaign.
- **Enter the Mural Challenge.** Use the Aidez Nous à Aider International Mural Challenge as the frame for a participatory mural — ideally co-created with people on the move, following the Artolution and Daily Migration models.
- **Share it back.** Document the action and send it to UNITED so the network can amplify it — connecting local work to the campaign's wider reach.

The collaboration partner for the public-art layer is the International Mural Challenge by Aidez Nous à Aider: aideznousaaider.com/2026-second-annual-international-mural-challenge

A note on care

Art about death and displacement carries real risk of doing harm — turning grief into spectacle, or speaking over the people it claims to represent. The strongest works in this lineage share a discipline worth carrying into any campaign action: they centre the people most affected as authors rather than subjects, they avoid aestheticising suffering for its own sake, and they treat names and testimony as something held in trust. Where work involves people on the move directly, their consent, safety, and authorship come first.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES

Preventing burnout

Taking care of others starts from taking care of ourselves.

Umbreit
for intercultural action

Take Care of Yourself

Burnout and peer-support resources

for frontline workers

UNITED Campaign Toolkit — World Refugee Day 2026

About this resource. *This document is for the people doing the work — caseworkers, lawyers, social workers, volunteers, interpreters, medics, monitors, organisers, and anyone supporting people on the move. It addresses the psychological cost of frontline work under the EU Pact, names what is happening, and points to practical things that help. It treats burnout as a structural occupational hazard, not a personal failing.*

1. This work and its costs

Working with people on the move, especially under the new Pact, exposes workers to repeated contact with others' trauma, structural injustice they cannot personally fix, and political environments hostile to their values. The clinical names for what this produces are:

- **Secondary traumatic stress** — symptoms resembling PTSD acquired through close contact with traumatised others.
- **Vicarious trauma** — gradual changes in worldview, identity, and capacity for empathy from chronic exposure to others' suffering.
- **Compassion fatigue** — exhaustion of the emotional resources used in caring work.
- **Moral injury** — the wound of acting (or being unable to act) against one's own moral standards because of structural constraints.

Moral injury is likely the most relevant of these to frontline migration work under the Pact, because the law now requires acts — detention of children, refusal of asylum without examination of credible fear, returns to unsafe countries — that violate the values that brought most workers into this field in the first place.

This is not weakness.

These are predictable occupational consequences of the work, and they deserve the same seriousness as physical occupational hazards. The strongest, most committed, most experienced workers are not immune. They are often among the most affected.

2. Recognising the signs

In yourself or a colleague, watch for:

- Persistent exhaustion that rest does not relieve
- Intrusive thoughts or imagery from cases
- Growing cynicism or numbness toward the people you serve
- Difficulty sleeping; nightmares
- Reliance on alcohol or other substances to switch off
- Irritability with colleagues or family

- Loss of meaning in the work; a creeping sense that nothing you do matters
- Withdrawal from peers; isolation
- Difficulty concentrating; memory lapses
- Physical symptoms — headaches, gut issues, recurring infections

None of these alone is a crisis. A cluster sustained over weeks is a signal to act — for yourself, or to gently raise with a colleague you are worried about.

3. What helps

Listed in rough order of how quickly each can be put in place. Doing the cheapest ones consistently beats doing the expensive ones occasionally.

- **Routine debriefing after difficult cases.** A structured fifteen-minute conversation with a colleague at the end of a hard day is more protective than a single annual training. The point is regularity, not depth.
- **Peer support pairs or triads.** Two or three colleagues who check in with each other weekly, outside of formal supervision. The single most-studied protective practice in humanitarian work, and the cheapest to set up.
- **Clear, enforced limits on working hours and on-call availability.** Most organisations have these on paper; few enforce them. The Pact's implementation creates surge demand that makes enforcement harder and more important.
- **Reflective supervision.** Distinct from line-management supervision: a space (often monthly) to discuss the emotional impact of cases with a trained external supervisor. Where budget allows, one of the best investments an organisation can make.
- **Access to confidential professional support.** Trauma-informed psychotherapy specifically — not all therapists understand humanitarian work or political distress. National psychology associations' registers usually allow searches by specialisation.
- **Rotation away from the most exposed roles.** Where team size allows, rotating staff out of frontline reception or detention monitoring for periods of less acute work is protective.
- **Collective political action.** Counterintuitive but well-evidenced: workers in roles that produce moral injury fare better when they can also engage in advocacy or organising that addresses the structural causes of the harm they witness. Powerlessness is itself a risk factor.

4. Self-assessment tools

Knowing where you are is the first step. The following are free and validated:

- **ProQOL — Professional Quality of Life Scale.** The most widely used measure in the humanitarian sector. Measures three things: compassion satisfaction (the positive feelings from helping), burnout, and secondary traumatic stress. Free, available in many languages, completes in around five minutes. → proqol.org
- **WHO Self-Help Plus.** A guided self-help programme for stress management. Five sessions, designed for use without a therapist; widely used in humanitarian contexts.
- **Antares Foundation Staff Wellbeing resources.** Includes assessment frameworks for organisations on staff care; some self-assessment material accessible to individuals.

A note on using these: self-assessments are diagnostic, not therapeutic. They tell you where you are. They do not change where you are. Use them as a check-in, then act on what they tell you.

5. Resources and organisations

The organisations below produce free or low-cost materials specifically for humanitarian and frontline workers. Most have downloadable resources accessible without registration.

Headington Institute · *United States*

Accessible self-care and team-care resources specifically for humanitarian workers, including self-assessment tools, podcasts, and webinars.

headington-institute.org

Antares Foundation · *Netherlands*

Established psychosocial support standards for humanitarian organisations; training and consultation. Their guide "Managing Stress in Humanitarian Workers" is a sector reference document.

antaresfoundation.org

CHS Alliance · *International*

(Formerly People In Aid.) Sectoral standards on staff care and stress management for the aid sector.

chsalliance.org

Mandala Foundation · *Australia*

Well-regarded resilience materials for aid workers, freely available online.

mandalafoundation.org.au

Konterra Group · *International*

Staff care for humanitarian and development workers — primarily consultancy, but publishes case studies and articles in the public domain.

konterragroup.net

IASC MHPSS Reference Group · *Inter-Agency Standing Committee*

Sectoral standards for mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings. The IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings are widely used.

mhps.net

ICRC · *International Committee of the Red Cross*

Staff care materials and a "people management" handbook drawn from decades of work in conflict zones.

icrc.org

WHO Psychological First Aid · *World Health Organization*

Free, multilingual guide for non-specialists working with people in distress. Useful for training volunteers and non-clinical staff.

who.int

National routes

- **Professional psychology associations** in most EU countries maintain searchable directories of psychotherapists with specific experience in trauma, migration, and work-related stress.

6. For supervisors and teams

If you manage frontline workers, your influence on burnout is structural — far greater than any wellness programme. What matters most, in rough order:

- **A culture in which finding the work hard is normal, not shameful.** Modelled at the top. If senior staff do not admit to being affected, junior staff will not either.
- **Workloads that allow the work to be done well.** Burnout is most predicted not by exposure to suffering, but by exposure to suffering without the time or resources to respond to it adequately. Caseload caps matter.

- **Time for recovery built into the working week.** Not as a perk, but as a structural component of the job.
- **Honest conversations about the political situation.** Workers carrying the impact of unjust law need to be able to say so out loud, in their workplace, without it being treated as unprofessional.
- **Procedures for what happens when something hard occurs.** Debriefing, peer cover, time off, referral routes — documented, not ad-hoc.
- **Active monitoring for cumulative load.** Not asking "are you OK?" once a year, but knowing what your team is carrying.

The single most effective staff care intervention is the simplest: *a manager/colleague who says, regularly and credibly,*

"This work is hard. You are not weak for finding it hard. We take care of each other here."

Organisational culture beats wellness perks every time. If burnout is treated as a personal failing rather than a structural condition, no programme will help.

Further reading

For trainers, supervisors, and anyone building staff care frameworks.

Foundational texts

Pearlman, L. A. & Saakvitne, K. W. (1995). *Trauma and the Therapist: Countertransference and Vicarious Traumatization in Psychotherapy with Incest Survivors*. W. W. Norton.
The foundational text on vicarious trauma.

Litz, B. T., Stein, N., Delaney, E., Lebowitz, L., Nash, W. P., Silva, C., & Maguen, S. (2009). *Moral injury and moral repair in war veterans: A preliminary model and intervention strategy*. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 29(8).
The paper that introduced the modern clinical concept of moral injury.

Figley, C. R. (1995). *Compassion Fatigue: Coping with Secondary Traumatic Stress Disorder in Those Who Treat the Traumatized*. Brunner-Mazel.
The text that named compassion fatigue.

van der Kolk, B. (2014). *The Body Keeps the Score*. Viking.
Widely accessible book on trauma and recovery, useful for non-specialists.

Organisational-level frameworks

IASC. *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*. The sector standard.

Antares Foundation. *Managing Stress in Humanitarian Workers: Guidelines for Good Practice*. Practical, regularly updated.

THANK YOU

#NOMOREREFUGEEDEATHS

Toolkit By UNITED CPG Team 2026

Remember to stay in touch and
#stayunited

