Press Release
19.04.2015

Migrants Tragedies in the Mediterranean
Europe must open humanitarian corridors from departure countries
European leaders: political responsibility and concrete actions now!

19.04.2015 - Urgency is to open humanitarian corridors for those fleeing from conflicts and to put in place an adequate and serious rescue at sea operation to prevent tragedies like today. Terre des Hommes calls for European governments and international community for collective responsibility.

Terre des Hommes calls for a radical change in European Migration Policy. Europe must be a space of human rights and opportunities in line with the European values promoted by the EU in the world.

Europe must open humanitarian corridors
Hundreds of people are feared to have drowned today after a boat carrying up to 700 migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea 210 km off the coast of Lampedusa. "Amongst the dead in the Mediterranean there are children, women, men fleeing war, persecution, hunger. They will not stop crossing despite this additional tragedy" said Raffaele Salinari, Chair of Terre des Hommes International Federation.

As immediate action, Terre des Hommes reiterates the urgency to open humanitarian corridors for those fleeing from conflict, with the possibility of having access to regular channels of immigration to Europe from departure countries.

We need a radical change in the upcoming European Agenda on Migration

“EU institutions and Member States must understand that we need and we want a radical change in European’s migration policies”, continued Raffaele Salinari.

“The European institutions and Member States need to understand that we must get out from the logic of emergency management of migration flows. It 'is time to show if our continent wants to be the birthplace of human rights or deny the founding principles of its constitution. The EU must focus its cooperation in Mediterranean countries by supporting local civil society and democracy with more resources. And we must invest in Europe to protect and integrate migrants, in particular children and youth. Those are the two pillars expressing a new paradigm in EU migration policy that we want to see in the upcoming new EU Agenda on Migration to be adopted by the European Commission in May, Salinari concluded.

EU Heads of States must take political responsibility and engage concrete actions now.
“We expect European Heads of States take their immediate responsibility. An urgent European Summit must bring all EU leaders. As International humanitarian actors supported by thousands of European citizens, we ask now for a serious political and programmatic response from all European countries through the lead of the EU”, stated Salvatore Parata, Head of European office in Terre des Hommes International Federation.

**Putting human smugglers out of business and saving lives**

"By not having the courage of serious European response to ensure protection and dignity to migrants escaping war and poverty, our institutions are turning a blind eye giving into traffickers monopoly of migration on our sea” says Ignacio Packer, Secretary General of the Terre des Hommes International Federation. “It is not that we don’t know. Our generation will be judged for not putting human smugglers out of business and saving lives”.

**The Mediterranean Sea has become a graveyard**

The Mediterranean Sea has become a graveyard of desperate migrants on the run from poverty and conflict, looking for a better life. Last week, more than 10,000 were rescued making the crossing from Africa to Europe. 900 are accounted as dead in this crossing between 01st January and 15th April 2015 reports various media and specialized institutions. Terre des Hommes reported that just for Italy since the beginning of the year 12,000 unaccompanied children arrived to the South of Italy alone.

**Assisting over 200’000 children: the Destination Unknown Campaign**

The member organisations of the Destination Unknown campaign [www.destination-unknown.org](http://www.destination-unknown.org) assist over 200’000 migrant children worldwide. They are offering legal assistance, psychological and psychosocial assistance to foreign minors in several of the Mediterranean countries.

The Destination Unknown Campaign is present with access to migrant children throughout the Mediterranean with interventions in Sicily (Terre des Hommes), Malta (KOPIN), Greece (ARSIS), Cyprus (Hope for Children Cyprus), Lebanon (INSAN), Egypt (Terre des Hommes), Morocco (Terre des Hommes) in addition to operational work and advocacy work in Europe and at global level.

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**Contacts for interviews**

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Press Dossier

Press Release following migrants tragedy on 12th April 2015—“Disappearing children”
http://destination-unknown.org/migrant-children-shipwrecked-rescued-or-disappearing/

Know more on FARO Project in Sicily, a project to provide support for unaccompanied minors arriving in South Italy http://destination-unknown.org/italy-faro-i-and-ii-projects-in-lampedusa

Know more on Destination Unknown Campaign to protect children on the move www.destination-unknown.org

Know more on Terre des Hommes www.terredeshommes.org (International Federation)
www.terredeshommes.it (Terre des Hommes Italy)

Destination Unknown Campaign

With Destination Unknown, a campaign to protect children on the move, the members of the campaign protect children on the move, including unaccompanied minors, through field projects on the reception, protection, psychosocial and legal support of children in Italy (Sicily, FARO project), Malta (KOPIN), Greece (in association with ARSIS), Cyprus (in association with Hope for Children Cyprus) as well as in Central and South-East Europe.

Destination Unknown campaign was launched in 2012 to raise awareness about violation of the rights of unaccompanied minors - children on the move - who are fleeing war, poverty and violence. According to the most recent data, children on the move who cross border are nearly 35 million worldwide (source: UN).

The Campaign aims at enhancing adequate policy for effective protection and to provide concrete actions for these children, particularly those vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination.