

# HEALTH FOR UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS NETWORK

The HUMA network is a European advocacy network initiated by Médecins du Monde. It is constituted by 16 NGO members and established to promote asylum seekers' and undocumented migrants' access to health care.

## **OUR VISION**

Despite obvious human rights and public health reasons, access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers is insufficient in the EU and substantially limited by legal or practical barriers.

Undocumented migrants and asylum seekers are two of the most excluded populations living in Europe, and this marginalisation has a serious impact on their health status. Their state of health is generally very precarious because of psychological and physical traumas relating to their life in their country of origin, and because

of unstable living conditions due to their weak administrative and social situations.

**The HUMA network demands effective and equitable access to health care, treatment, and prevention for all people living in Europe without any discrimination on the basis of legal status or financial means.**

Some groups of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers, such as their children, pregnant women or seriously ill migrants face particular vulnerability and request an immediate and tailored response to their needs.

## OUR ACTIONS

### 1. Building a network to improve access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers

The HUMA network seeks to increase the commitment, knowledge as well as the analytical and networking capacities of its members to advocate for asylum seekers' and undocumented migrants' access to health care in the EU.

### 2. Raising awareness and mobilising health professionals

The HUMA network is active at national and European levels.

The HUMA network is promoting the *European declaration of health professionals towards non-discriminatory access to health care*, launched in 2010: Health professionals and health organisations within the EU are invited to sign and reassert their commitment to their professional ethics that require them to care for all patients without discrimination. The declaration, already signed by European and national medical organisations such as the CPME will be handed over to the EU Council of Ministers of Health in 2011.



At the national level, HUMA members organise national events with experts and policy makers on immigration and health in an effort to raise awareness on health care access for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants

The *“Exile, Exit ?”* photo exhibition illustrates the living conditions and difficulties faced by undocumented migrants trying to access healthcare in Europe. This Médecins du Monde exhibition is touring in Europe. Its website: <http://exil-exit.org>

### 3. Advocating for better access to health care

The HUMA network members engage dialogue and make specific policy recommendations to national, regional and local institutions that are directly concerned with health and migration issues. At the European level, an advocacy officer based in Brussels monitors EU developments in this field and engages dialogue with the relevant European institutions and networks. The HUMA network also works with the Council of Europe and the World Health Organisation.

## OUR PUBLICATIONS

### The HUMA network contributes to the expertise and knowledge on the condition of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in Europe, by the development of an in-depth interdisciplinary analysis of data collected by members in the field.

The HUMA network published a report in 2009 titled *“Law and practice. Access to health care for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in 10 EU countries”*. It is a comparative survey on ten EU member states' policies and legal frameworks on migrants' access to healthcare (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK). The report highlights the existing legal discriminations.



*Access to healthcare: a right not respected in Europe:* Médecins du Monde teams in 11 European countries conducted a face to face survey with undocumented migrants. The report (European Observatory on access to healthcare published in September 2009) reveals the bad living conditions, the violence experienced, the obstacles faced in accessing care, the resulting poor health and the inadequate medical care for undocumented migrants.



Additionally, in 2010 the HUMA network published a booklet titled *“Are undocumented migrants and asylum seekers entitled to access health care in the EU? A comparative overview in 16 countries”*.

A report describing the legal framework and effective access to healthcare for undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Romania will be issued in 2011.

All publications are available at: [www.huma-network.org/Publications-Resources](http://www.huma-network.org/Publications-Resources)

## THE HUMA NETWORK'S MEMBERS

The HUMA network is present in 16 EU member states and gathers 10 Médecins du Monde organisations and 6 other members. Most of these organisations provide direct medical assistance and/or legal advice. They also lead national and joint advocacy campaigns for the right to health of their beneficiaries.

### BELGIUM



Médecins du Monde  
Dokters van de Wereld  
[www.medicinsdumonde.be](http://www.medicinsdumonde.be)

### CYPRUS



KISA - Action for Equality,  
Support, Antiracism  
[www.kisa.org.cy](http://www.kisa.org.cy)

### CZECH REPUBLIC



Multicultural Center Prague  
<http://www.mkc.cz/en>

### FRANCE



Médecins du Monde  
[www.medicinsdumonde.org](http://www.medicinsdumonde.org)

### GERMANY



Ärzte der Welt  
[www.aerztederwelt.org](http://www.aerztederwelt.org)

### GREECE



Giatri Tou Kosmou  
[www.mdmgreece.gr](http://www.mdmgreece.gr)

### ITALY



Medici del Mondo  
[www.medicidelmondo.it](http://www.medicidelmondo.it)

### MALTA



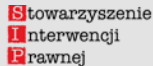
SKOP - Health Access  
to Migrants (H.A.M.)  
[www.skopmalta.org](http://www.skopmalta.org)

### NETHERLANDS



Dokters van de Wereld  
[www.doktersvandewereld.org](http://www.doktersvandewereld.org)

### POLAND



Association for legal intervention  
[www.interwencjaprawna.pl](http://www.interwencjaprawna.pl)

### PORTUGAL



Medicos do Mundo  
[www.medicosdomundo.pt](http://www.medicosdomundo.pt)

### ROMANIA



Romanian Forum  
for Refugees and Migrants  
[www.arca.org.ro](http://www.arca.org.ro)

### SLOVENIA



Slovenska filantropija  
[www.filantropija.org](http://www.filantropija.org)

### SPAIN



Médicos del Mundo  
[www.medicosdelmundo.org](http://www.medicosdelmundo.org)

### SWEDEN



Läkare i Världen  
[www.lakareivarlden.org](http://www.lakareivarlden.org)

### UNITED KINGDOM



Doctors of the World  
[www.medicinsdumonde.org.uk](http://www.medicinsdumonde.org.uk)

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