

Annual Report 2017

Prepared for: Board of Governors, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations
Prepared by: Neil Falzon, Director



JUNE 18

PROJECTS/INITIATIVES	3
ASYLUM INFORMATION DATABASE (AIDA)	3
ACCESS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE (ATLAS)	3
BURNING BIKINIS	3
COMPENDIUM OF ASYLUM JURISPRUDENCE, LAW AND POLICY	3
FITNESS CHECK ON EU LEGAL MIGRATION – NATIONAL RESEARCH	4
FOSTERING ACCESS TO IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (FAIR)	4
FRANET	4
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN PRACTICE: EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION	4
THE IMPORTANCE OF APPEARANCES: HOW SUSPECTS AND ACCUSED PERSONS ARE PRESENTED IN THE COURTROOM, IN PUBLIC AND IN THE MEDIA	4
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS	4
OUR ISLAND: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF PROTECTING REFUGEES IN MALTA	4
PROJECT INTEGRATED	5
STATELESSNESS INDEX	5
TIME FOR NEEDS	5
VALLETTA FILM FESTIVAL	5
WORLD REFUGEE DAY	5
YOUTH, NOT STATUS	5
OTHER INITIATIVES	6
KEY MILESTONES	6
SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/MEETINGS	7
PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS RELEASES	8

PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

Projects are listed in alphabetical order. To facilitate reading, each project is described in three bullets, covering:

- tags that describe the project's main activities, and also its theme;
- any organization with which the project was implemented. In the case of multiple partners, as with many of our EU-funded projects, the Project Leader is listed and not the entire consortium;
- the project's funding authority, if any. This include total and partial funders.

Where available, weblinks are provided since more detailed information – including publications – is readily available online.

Asylum Information Database (AIDA)

- research, annual report, thematic studies, asylum procedures, detention, reception conditions
- European Council for Refugees and Exiles
- <http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/malta>

Access to Legal Assistance (ATLAS)

- Legal aid, research and capacity-building, legal training 'Understanding the Right to Legal Assistance in Malta: Access to a Lawyer, Legal Aid and Pro Bono (13 January), publication 'Access to Legal Assistance in Malta – Mapping the availability of legal assistance for the protection of fundamental rights in Malta', final event 'Do I have a right to justice? Discussion on improving access to legal assistance in Malta' (28 April)
- The Critical Institute
- Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme (Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties)
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/access-legal-assistance-atlas/>

Burning Bikinis

- film/documentary, women's rights, Valletta Film Festival, 'Love Does Hurt' Campaign – 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (Commission on Domestic Violence), 'Equality Beyond University' Campaign (National Commission for the Promotion of Equality), History Department (Junior College, International Day of the Girl (US Embassy)
- Creative Communities (Arts Council Malta)
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/burning-bikinis/>

Compendium of asylum jurisprudence, law and policy

- Research and analysis, publication
- Small Initiatives Support Scheme (Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector)
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/compendium-asylum-jurisprudence-law-policy/>

Fitness Check on EU Legal Migration – National Research

- National research, legal and practical implementation of EU legal migration acquis
- DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

Fostering Access to Immigrant Children's Rights (FAIR)

- capacity-building of lawyers, rights of the child, immigration, national training (16, 17 February)
- International Commission of Jurists
- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the EU, Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/fair/>

FRANET

- research, rights of EU nationals in another EU Member State, standing and operational space of NGOs in promoting fundamental rights, incitement to hatred against the media, rights of the child, border management and return, surveillance, victims of crime, migration detention of children
- EU Fundamental Rights Agency
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/franet/>

Fundamental Rights in Practice: European Judicial Training on the Rights of Persons in Need of International Protection

- judicial training, hate crimes, administrative detention, asylum procedures, judicial training (9 November)
- Greek Council for Refugees
- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the EU
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/judicial-training/>

The Importance of Appearances: How Suspects and Accused Persons are presented in the Courtroom, in Public and in the Media

- Research, awareness-raising, rights of accused persons, presumption of innocence
- Hungarian Helsinki Committee
- Justice Programme (EU)
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/appearances-suspects-accused/>

Know Your Rights

- Research, publication, fact sheets on asylum in Malta
- <http://aditus.org.mt/know-your-rights/>

Our Island: Personal Accounts of Protecting Refugees in Malta

- Personal accounts, publication
- Creative Communities (Arts Council Malta)

Project Integrated

- service-provision, beneficiaries of international protection
- JRS Malta, Integra Foundation
- UNHCR Malta, Malta Community Chest Fund (MCCF)
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/project-integrated/>

Statelessness Index

- Research, publication, statelessness
- European Network on Statelessness
- <https://index.statelessness.eu/>

Time for Needs

- research, best practices, report, refugees victims of torture of extreme violence
- Italian Refugee Council
- European Union
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/time-for-needs/>

Valletta Film Festival

- film screening, World Refugee Day
- Film Grain Foundation
- <https://www.vallettafilmfestival.com/>

World Refugee Day

- film screening, Land of Light
- UNHCR
- Film Grain Foundation
- <https://www.vallettafilmfestival.com/film/land-of-light/>

Youth, Not Status

- Migrant and refugee integration, youth, capacity-building
- ERASMUS+
- <http://aditus.org.mt/our-work/projects/youth-not-status/>

Other Initiatives

- Advocacy meeting with FOIPIN to discuss LGBTIQ+ rights;
- On-going litigation for Racquela Spiteri et vs. Director of Corradino Correctional Facility and the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security, on the rights of transgender women in prison (with our Litigation Partner Mifsud and Mifsud Advocates);
- On-gong litigation for Yury Sergeevich Danilov vs. Identity Malta and the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, on the rights of persons applying for Maltese citizenship (with our Litigation Partner Mifsud and Mifsud Advocates);
- On-going submission of pleas for Aboya Boa Jean v. Malta (ECtHR), on the rights of detained migrants;
- On-going interventions for clients before:
 - Social Security Umpire;
 - Immigration Appeals Board
 - Refugee Appeals Board;
 - Office of the Ombudsman;
 - Civil Courts (various).
- Information and advocacy meeting with OSCE to discuss election concerns;
- Information and advocacy meeting with the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner;
- On-going close cooperation in research, information queries and advocacy discussions with ECRE and PICUM;
- Information and advocacy meeting with the Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office
- aditus foundation Director continued his role as ECRE Board Member representing the Mediterranean Region;
- On-going participation in the Integration Roundtable organised by UNHCR Malta;
- Information and advocacy workshop with a delegation hosted by the Embassy of Germany in Malta;
- aditus foundation continued in its role as Secretariat for the Platform of Human Rights Organisations in Malta (PHROM);
- We remained active members of the LGBTIQ Consultative Council, established by and within the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC), in order for us to provide Government with input on LGBTIQ+ policies and legislation;
- On-going information and advocacy meetings with key counterparts and NGO colleagues

Key Milestones

- Our Pro Bono Unit serviced around 153 new clients, covering the following issues:
 - Asylum application, asylum appeals, subsequent applications, Dublin III challenges;
 - Administrative detention challenges;
 - Change in gender on documentation;
 - Applications for Temporary Humanitarian Protection and Temporary Humanitarian Protection N;
 - Appeals against denied resident permits;
 - Family Reunification applications;
 - Complaints with the Office of the Ombudsman;
 - Appeals against negative social security decisions;

-
- Information requests (in person or via e-mail).
 - Establishment of 'This is Home' campaign on the regularisation of undocumented migrants, together with a series of activities (advocacy paper, silent walk);
 - Contributed to the release of 9 Malian men from illegal administrative detention;
 - Successful citizenship application for a young refugee;
 - A birth certificate for an unregistered four-year old child;
 - Establishment of a Working Group on Migrants and Refugees, together with Jobsplus, JRS Malta, Integra Foundation;
 - Joined the 'Campaign for a Decent Minimum Wage';
 - Successful registration of a complaint with DG Migration and Home Affairs in relation to a Return Decision/Removal Order and Re-Entry Ban issued at the border;
 - Extension of our legal aid contract with Government to also cover review of the legality of administrative detention.

Seminars/Conferences/Meetings

Information is presented in the format: date, venue, organiser/host, project/initiative.

- January, Athens, Trainers Training, Greek Council for Refugees, Fundamental Rights in practice: European Judicial Training on the rights of persons in need of international protection
- March, Brussels, Visit to the European Union Institutions, European Parliament Office in Malta;
- March, Rome, Partners Meeting, Italian Council for Refugees, Time for Needs;
- April, Sanremo, Course on Statelessness, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, with thanks to UNHCR;
- April, Brussels, Partner Meeting, International Commission of Jurists, Fostering Access for Immigrant children's Rights;
- May, Malta, Integration of Refugees in Malta, talk delivered to students of residential and day care;
- May, Budapest, Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention, European Network on Statelessness;
- May, Malta, European Migration Network Conference
- May, Brussels, Thematic Discussion on Asylum Advocacy, EPIM;
- September, Malta, Round Table for Tunisian NGOs, Italian Council for Refugees
- October, Brussels, AIDA Coordinators Meeting, ECRE
- October, Geneva, Strategic Litigation Retreat, ICJ, Fostering Access to Immigrant Children's Rights
- November, Malta, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response, UNHCR Malta
- December, Malta, ELSA conference
- December, Malta, International Human Rights Day Conference, University of Malta Human Rights Programme.

Publications and Press Releases

All our publications and press releases are available on our website, sorted either by theme or by the nature of the document.

Month	Publication	Press Release
January		<u>Malta's EU Presidency legacy: a (legal) death-sentence for refugees!</u>
	<u>Struggling to Survive: An investigation into the Risk of Poverty among Asylum-Seekers in Malta</u>	<u>Launch press release</u>
February		<u>An absolute no to exploring legal ways of returning refugees!</u>
	<u>Joint letter to the Prime Minister regarding the on-going detention of 9 men</u>	<u>The on-going detention of the 9 Malian is illegal!</u>
		<u>The release of 9 detained Malians is a human rights victory!</u>
		<u>NGOs urge government to work together to avoid migrant hopelessness: Joint NGO Press Release on the death of Frederick Ofusu</u>
March		<u>New national report on asylum in Malta</u>
		<u>Women's absence from highest democratic institutions is extremely worrying</u>
		<u>An NGO Coalition campaigning for a decent minimum wage</u>
April	<u>Fact Sheets on Access to Justice in Malta</u>	
	<u>Access to Legal Assistance in Malta: Mapping the Availability of Legal Assistance for the Protection of Fundamental Rights in Malta</u>	
May		<u>The nation deserves better, and more, from Government and Parliament – Joint NGO Press Release (EN) and (MT)</u>

June		<u>Living together: refugee integration is so much more than refugee survival</u>
	<u>Comments on the Marriage Bill and other Laws (Amendments) Bill</u>	
		<u>A Fundamentally Different Approach is Needed: Joint Statement to the European Committee on Legal Co-Operation of the Council of Europe on the codification of European Rules for the Conditions of Administrative Detention of Migrants</u>
July		<u>Marriage inequality: the Bill is great news for same-sex couples, but no news for other minority groups</u>
August		<u>Malta could have done the right thing and shown solidarity</u>
		<u>We would like to commend the Government of Malta's stand against the far-right group Defend Europe</u>
		<u>Joint NGO letter to the Prime Minister on the recent appointment of Dr. Herrera as Justice Commissioner</u>
October		<u>#maltaunderthreat as activist blogger is brutally assassinated: joint NGO statement</u>
		<u>"You cannot call for the national unity you all demolished!" NGO Statement on the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia</u>
December		<u>Our human rights mission calls upon us to always stand up for our beliefs: we will not falter.</u>

Dr. Neil Falzon, aditus foundation Director