



**Brot
für die Welt**



**Diakonie
Deutschland**

**17th European Conference on
Asylum**

**17. Conferencia Europea sobre
Asilo**

**The EU Borders: Safeguarding or
shipwrecking Human Rights in the UE?
Situation of Asylum Seekers in Spain and
EU**

**Las fronteras de la UE: ¿Salv guarda o
naufrago de los derechos humanos en la
UE? La situación de los solicitantes de
protección internacional en España y la UE**

20-24 October 2025

20-24 de octubre de 2025

Gran Canaria - Madrid

**Las Palmas (20-22 October) Venue: Exe Hotel Las Palmas, Calle Sagasta 28, 35008 Las Palmas
Madrid (22-24 October) Venue: Talent Garden, Calle de Juan de Mariana 15, Arganzuela, 28045 Madrid**

Sunday, October 19 – Gran Canaria

20:00 – Welcome Dinner at Exe Hotel

Monday, October 20 – Day 1: Gran Canaria

9:00 – Conference Registration and Welcome at Hotel EXE, Las Palmas

9:30 – Opening of the conference and introduction to the program by the organisation team
Rev. Alfredo Abad, Nerea González Méndez de Vigo, Dr. Torsten Moritz, Katharina Voss

10:00 – The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum (Moderation: Katharina Voss, Diakonie)

- **The reform in a nutshell – what is at stake? Ana Puljiz, CCME and Robert Nestler, ERBB**
- **Perspectives from the Canary Islands Gustavo de la Orden Bosch University of Deusto**
- **Perspectives from the Greek Islands Elli Kriona Saranti, HIAS Greece**

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

**12:00 Situation in the Canary Islands / Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the EU Pact on
Migration and Asylum by**

Fernando Clavijo Batlle, President of the Canary Islands

Commented by

- **María Valles Ferrero, senior Protection Associate, UNHCR Spain**
- **Louelia Sid Ahmed Ndiaye, migration lawyer Canarias**
- **Juan Carlos Lorenzo de Armas, CEAR en Canarias**

Moderation: Nicolás Castellano Flores, journalist

13:30 – 16:00 Lunchbreak

16:00 – *Refugee Realities: Arrivals to the Canary Islands and Civil Society Contributions to Migration Policies (Moderation: Anne Pertsch, Equal Rights Beyond Borders)*

- **Inma Moreno Canet**, Infancia en Movimiento en Canarias, Save the children
- **Francisco Navarro Atiénzar**, Responsable Territorial en Canarias, Accem
- **Claudia Pérez Galovart**, coordinator of Innovation for migration management at Islas Responsables Lab (IRLab), Presidency of the Government of the Canary Islands

17:30 – 18:00 – Coffee Break

18:00 – 19:45 *Current Situation of Refugees and EU Pact Implementation - snapshots of churches and NGOs from across Europe (Moderation: Dr. Torsten Moritz, CCME)*

- **"Let's send a ship!" Sandra Holtermann**, Campaigning & Fundraising United4Rescue
- **Support to labour migrants in precarious situations – Nicolo Parigini**, Federation Protestant Churches in Italy
- **Community-based integration - Henriikka Saine**, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- **Work with Minors - Vassiliki Matella & Despoina Georgiadou**, SYNYPARXIS Ecumenical Refugee Programme of the Church of Greece

20:00 – Dinner & Informal Gathering at restaurant La Marinera, "Plaza de La Puntilla"

Tuesday, October 21 – Day 2: Gran Canaria

10:00 – Final Preparations for Group Visits

10:30 – Group Exposure Visits

1. ESPACIO SEGURO, Las Palmas – Save the children
2. CEAR Migration Center Marpequeña, Gran Canaria
3. The Mission of the Seabird 3, Felix Weiss and Omar El Manfalouty (Humanitarian Pilots Initiative) at EXE Hotel

15:00 – Summary of Visits

17:00 – *Ecumenical Prayer with Monsignor José Mazuelos, Bishop of the Canary Islands, and ecumenical team, in memory of those who lost their lives on their way to Europe – Church of the Holy Christ, C. Olof Palme 9, 35010 Las Palmas*

20:00 – Dinner at restaurant O'sole Mío La Casa Roja, C. Luis Morote 56, Las Palmas

Wednesday, October 22 – Day 3: Madrid

16:30 – Welcome at Talent Garden, C. de Juan de Mariana, 15, Arganzuela, 28045 Madrid

17:00 – Opening of the conference in Madrid

Rev. Alfredo Abad, Nerea González Méndez de Vigo, Dr. Torsten Moritz, Katharina Voss

17:15 -*¿Política migratoria o política con la migración? Migration Policy or Politics of Migration? (Moderation: Rev. Alfredo Abad, President of the Spanish Evangelical Church, former Secretary General of the Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance CEAR)*

Opening note by

Gemma Pinyol-Jiménez, Head of Migration Policies, Instrategies - Think & Do

18:00 – Screening “Bracelets”: Documentary about two Senegalese fishermen arriving in Spain by Ignacio Fradejas-García (also [online](#) Meeting Code: 561029)

18:30 – Exploitation, Repression, Self-Empowerment : Contextualising the West-Atlantic route Panel Discussion in cooperation with AMMODI and Migration-Control.info (also [online](#) Meeting Code: 561029) (Moderation: **Dr. Andreas Grünewald**, Bread for the World)

- **Papa Sekh**, Madrid, film participant
- **Leonie Jegen**, University of Amsterdam
- **Serigne Mbayé Diouf**, activist (tbc)
- **Prof. Ignacio Fradejas-García**, University of Oviedo, film maker

20:00 – Dinner & Networking at Talent Garden

Thursday, October 23 – Day 4: Madrid

09:30 – Keynote: Asylum and Migration Policy in Spain and the Impact of EU Law – Quo vadis Spain? Implementation of the EU Pact – Opportunity or Risk?

Cristina Sosa, head of cabinet of the Director General of International Relations of the Ministry of Interior

Panel discussion with:

- **Patricia Bárcena García**, Second Deputy Ombudsman Spain
- **Grainne O’Hara**, Representative UNCHR Spain
- **Rubén Masegosa**, Head of Policy Advocacy and Alliances at Fundación Cepaim

Moderator: Nerea González Méndez de Vigo, expert in asylum and migration

11:00 – Coffee Break

11:30 – Parallel Working Group Sessions I (Each offered twice so participants can attend two)

1. **Border Procedures** (Fast-Track, Screening) – **Rubén Masegosa**, CEPAIM and **Misa Ogawa** (Policy Advisor to MEP Birgit SIPPEL) (Moderation: **Anne Pertsch**, Equal Rights Beyond Borders)
2. **Return Regulation** (Detention, Externalization) – **Nuria Diaz**, CEAR and **Wiebke Judith**, PRO ASYL (Moderation: **Ana Puljiz**, CCME)
3. **Children’s rights in the CEAS - opportunities and dangers**, **Sara Collantes**, Unicef Spain and **Nerea González Méndez de Vigo**, Legal Expert on Migration and Children’s rights (Moderation: **Desirée Weber**, Unicef Germany)
4. **Asylum denied, what next?** (regularisation, track changes and other rights to stay) – **Prof. Aurelia Álvarez Rodríguez**, University of Leon (Moderation: **Dr. Katherine Braun**, Church of Northern Germany)
5. **Good Practice: Ukrainian Refugee Reception** – **Valeria Méndez de Vigo**, CEPAIM and **Katalin Zoltani**, Vice Moderator CCME and Executive Secretary AIDRom, Romania (EU) (Moderation: **Prof. Dr. Goos Minderman**, Council of Churches of the Netherlands and CCME Excom Member)
6. **Strategic Litigation in the EU** – **Robert Nestler**, ELENA-Coordinator Germany, Equal Rights Beyond Borders and **Stavros Papageorgopoulos**, European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) (Moderation: **Adriana Romer**, Swiss Refugee Council and Board Member ECRE)

13:00 – 14:30 – Lunch

14:30 – Parallel Sessions II

16:00 – Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 – *Role of Theology and Churches in Migration Policy (Moderation: Dr. Torsten Moritz, CCME)*

Bishop Fernando García Cadiñanos, Director of the Migration Department of the Spanish Episcopal Conference (CEE),

Comments by

- **Senior Church Counsel Katrin Hatzinger**, Director of the EKD Office Brussels (Protestant Church of Germany)
- **Rev. Alfredo Abad**, Pastor President of the IEE (Spanish Evangelical Church)
- **Rev. Archimandrite Panteleimon Papasynefakis**, General Director SYNAPARXIS, Ecumenical Refugee Programme (Church of Greece)

18:00 Dinner at Talent Garden

Friday, October 24 – Day 5: Madrid

09:30 – *Speakers' Corner: Open space for participant reflections and discussions*

10:00 – *Beyond the sea: Externalization of Migration Control and it's effects (Moderation: Dr. Andreas Grünewald, Bread for the World)*

- **Úrsula Ruiz Cabello**, Iridia (Políticas migratorias y frontera)
- **Hassan Ould Moctar**, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- **Sofian Naceur**, journalist

11:15 – Coffee Break

11:45 – *Frontera Sur - Human rights at the Mediterranean border (Moderation: Nerea González Méndez de Vigo, asylum expert)*

- **Ana María Rosado Caro**, Andalusian Human Rights Association
- **Hanaa Hakiki**, Directress of the Border Justice Program ECCHR
- **Sara Collantes**, Head of Child Policy and Development at UNICEF Spain
- **Arsenio G. Cores**, Human Rights Lawyer

13:00 – *Criminalization of Refugees, Solidarity and Humanitarian Aid (EN) (Moderation: Robert Nestler, Director Equal Rights Beyond Borders)*

- **Misa Ogawa**, Policy Advisor to MEP Birgit SIPPEL
- **Valentina Brinis**, Advocacy Officer at Open Arms (online)
- **Elli Kriona Saranti**, HIAS Greece

14:00 – Lunch

15:30 – *Final Roundtable: Where is EU Migration Policy Headed?*

- **Juan López Aguilar**, MEP LIBE Committee, S&D (online)
- **Dr. Torsten Moritz**, General Secretary, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, CCME
- **Adriana Romer**, Swiss Refugee Council, ELENA-coordinator Switzerland and Board European Council of refugees and Exiles, ECRE

Moderator: Fiona Kendall, European and Legal Affairs Advisor at the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI) and moderator of CCME

17:00 – Final Blessing and Closing of the Conference

20:30 – Farewell Evening at restaurant