



WAPR European Statement on the Asylum Seeking Emergency in Europe.

Witnessing the acute humanitarian catastrophe of emigration (from Syria and other areas where human produced conditions are making usual life unbearable for families and communities, more that 500.000 families have already been displaced, according to OIM)

Considering that in a global world emigration is a natural option for families when local conditions (including risk of violence or abuse) are a menace for the development of life, specially when children, elderly and helpless population are involved,

Recalling that more that 350.000 individual are expected to be seeking for asylum in EU only in 2015 (according to International Organisation for Migration), and that more that 2600 have drown in the Mediterranean only this year,

Recalling that it is a well-known and common issue that whole migrant families pay significant amounts of money, and are often despoiled and exposed to violence and abuse from people traffickers,

Being aware that normal social resources from EU countries are overwhelmed by the increased number of asylum seekers,

Considering that this kind of human phenomenon requires not only empathy and humanitarian consideration, but also and specially social technology and resources,

Considering that UE has huge resources, powerful organisations, and all the necessary skills to tackle this kind of humanitarian event,

Being aware that this humanitarian situation will have lasting consequences in terms of the long term health and mental health consequences, i.e. lasting effects of trauma & poor education for big number of children, creation of huge spaces of social marginalization, etc.

Being aware that this situation is inhuman, unbearable and unacceptable,

We, the european members of the Board of the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation,

1. Urge European Commission and Member States to close cooperation and create a crisis cabinet in order to create a more immediate, coordinate and proportional answer to this humanitarian crisis,
2. Urge European Commission and Member States to scale up resources, and take all necessary extraordinary measures to tackle this humanitarian catastrophe,
3. Encourage all regional countries involved in these processes to an international conference with presence of United Nations and competent UN Agencies, International Migrant Organisation, and NGOs with presence in the area, where this situation can be addressed under political and rationale basis.

Madrid, September 3rd. 2015.

Agreed by European Board Members of WAPR.