



Members of the Mixed Migration Consortium¹ call on the governments along the Central Mediterranean Route to protect the lives of all, regardless of status

The journey along the Central Mediterranean Route is a highly dangerous one that many migrants and refugees undertake to seek safety, security and a better future. In 2019, thousands of lives were lost along this route at sea and in the desert.² As governments are shutting borders and limiting cross-border movements to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants and refugees have found themselves de facto left behind. Some find themselves abandoned at borders by smugglers, others in need of international protection are denied

able to reach their homes and agencies together with governments must look into viable options to make this happen.

In this respect, the Mixed Migration Consortium members are calling on:

1. **UNSC and other states with influence to work with the parties to the conflict in Libya to secure a cessation of hostilities and press parties to agree to a ceasefire, in line with the UN Secretary-**
2. **Governments of Libya, Niger and Mali to preserve unimpeded humanitarian access and facilitate movements of essential staff.** This enables humanitarian and other relevant organisations to provide emergency health assistance and support to local health systems in order to respond to the needs of all refugees and migrants, as well as vulnerable host communities, during the COVID 19 emergency.
3. **All governments along the Central Mediterranean Route to uphold respect for fundamental principles of international human rights and refugee law, including the principle of non-refoulement. To this end:**
 - a. The immediate orderly release of migrants and refugees from detention must be guaranteed while long-term alternatives to detention are sought; meanwhile, alternative accommodation should be provided to ensure their safety and protection.
 - b. In cases where the quarantine of migrants and refugees is enforced, such as in Niger, this must be carried out in a dignified and safe manner; this includes guaranteeing that the spaces used are not crowded, provide decent sanitary conditions and access to basic services.
 - c. Interceptions at sea must stop and those already disembarked in Libya must not be brought to detention facilities. Migrants should be released