



## CAMPAIGN

# ECONOMIC MIGRATION

### The African Perspectives on Trans-Mediterranean Migration



## Economic Migration

- Engaging the local communities
- Untold miseries of illegitimate routes
- Role of Africans in diaspora
- The solution. In Europe or in Africa?

Despite governmental and non-governmental efforts to control the influx of migrants into Europe, the crises continue to impose serious challenges to the nations involved both in Africa and destination countries like Italy, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Greece, Germany.

Efforts to stop or control migration seem to be an enormous task for policy makers and academics. Each new day presents new challenges. Migrants exploit new methods to by-pass border control while loopholes in cooperations between countries and organizations involved along the Mediterranean persist.

Consequently, the challenges is far from being over . Migrants are left to survive or to fend for themselves. They have little or no rights and receive little or no protection from injury both en route and upon arrival. This problem is even made worse for migrants from Africa who have to make thousands of kilometers through the

desert and eventually the Mediterranean sea. Since 2016, close to 5000 migrants mainly from Africa have lost their lives or simply disappeared crossing the Mediterranean. Thousands more die or disappeared on the Sahara desert on the journey through Morocco, Libya, Algeria or Tunisia. Over 70% of these are economic migrants on adventure to Europe to seek better living conditions for themselves and their families. They end up as victims to life-threatening insecurity, instability, difficult economic conditions plus widespread exploitation and abuse.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ascertains that 7 in 10 people found crossing the Sahara desert or the Mediterranean sea are not in fact legitimate refugees but are economic migrants, while the rest may be in genuine “need for protection”.

It is believed that more than one million migrants from west, central and east Africa are currently in one of the the north African countries, seeking opportunities to cross into Europe or simply in detention camps. These claims are backed by UNHCR special envoy for the central Mediterranean, Vincent Cochetel, who said there was “no slowing down” in the human convoys attempting the dangerous crossing.

The campaign on economic migration is broadly focused on the movement from Africa through the sahara desert, the Mediterranean sea and eventually into Europe.

**The YPA Campaign on Economic Migration is the African platform to debate these issues and find working solutions to this tragedy. The campaign comprises of a series of conferences, workshops and events designed to engage all Africans both at home and abroad. The campaign also seeks to mobilize and engage local or community teams in departure countries in Africa to inform and educate local communities on the realities of economic migration and the perils of illegitimate routes. You are welcome to join us in any of our events to make your voice heard...**

**Florine Van Meer**



A YPA survey conducted in 2017 concludes that economic migration is largely driven by little or no information on the part of the migrants prior to departing from the countries. Before leaving their countries, migrants have no understanding on the risks involved, the challenges ahead and the nature of the journey. Most of them are lured, deceived and betrayed into the adventure by human smugglers and traffickers who collect huge sum of money and promise to safely take them to Europe.