

Press Release

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

A high-level global conference on migration

Istanbul, 14 October 2015

Migration Solutions built on values and evidence

As Chair of the Civil Society Days of the 2015 Global Forum on Migration and Development, Mr. Ignacio Packer, Secretary General of Terre des Hommes International Federation is addressing today about 150 delegations of governments, international organisations and some 265 civil society delegates during the Opening Ceremony of the GFMD.

In his speech, Ignacio Packer is releasing some of the choices and solutions that civil society leaders brought forward during the GFMD Civil Society Days.

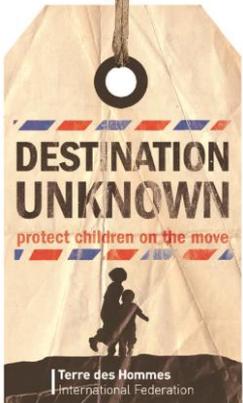
“Global migration policy must be rooted in the values of universal respect for human rights, all human rights, leaving no one behind, including migrants. Migrants’ rights are human rights. Global migration policy must also be rooted on evidence: facts, data and on the reality of the real world in which we live, stated Ignacio Packer. **That’s not a choice. It is a necessity**”, he underlined.

Ignacio Packer addressed the audience on six issues on which he is asking progress and ambitions with “gentle optimism and fierce determination”.

Through Destination Unknown Campaign to protect children on the move, Terre des Hommes is calling again international community gathering at the GFMD to :

- **Save lives of migrants** who decided to leave home to escape violence, war and poverty.
- **Reject xenophobia**, prejudice, walls, barbed wires and prisons for migrants, and acknowledge that hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens volunteer daily to help migrants arriving in their country.
- **Protect children in the context of migration**, by applying international obligations and the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of the child in context of migration, in particular to end child immigration detention, to facilitate family reunification, access to justice, health, education, psycho-social support and others services for children, being them separated, unaccompanied or with their parents.

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Contacts for interviews

Ignacio Packer, Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International Federation
(English, French, Spanish) Mobile: +41.79.278.44.29 –
ignacio.packer@terredeshommes.org (from Istanbul)

Mirela Shuteriqi, Expert on Child Protection, Foundation Terre des hommes Lausanne,
(English, Italian, French, Albanese) Mobile +41.78.635.44.20 –
mirela.shuteriqi@tdh.ch (from Istanbul)

Salvatore Parata, Head European Office, Terre des Hommes International Federation
(English, French, Italian, Spanish) Mobile: +32.474.20.99.21
paratas@terredeshommes.org (from Brussels)

Press Dossier

The Global Forum on Migration and Development

<http://www.gfmd.org/>

In line with the September 2006 report from the UN-GA High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) and the GFMD Operating Modalities endorsed in Brussels in 2007, *the GFMD is a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations, to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes.*

The GFMD process brings together expertise from all regions and countries at all stages of economic, social and political development. Policy-makers from a wide range of government agencies participate, including from Ministries and Departments of Immigration, Development, Labour, Foreign Affairs, Gender Equality, Home Affairs, Justice, Interior, Integration and Nationals Abroad. Since its inception, the GFMD has operated on the basis of a unique participative working method, involving governments and policy makers from a varied background. UN and other international agencies, including those that make up the Global Migration Group, as well as academia and civil society organizations, as appropriate and desired by governments are involved in the process.



The Forum has also engaged civil society representatives by inviting them to hold parallel meetings and share their deliberations with states. The aim is to include the voices and expertise of academia, NGOs, trade unions, the private sector, migrants and diaspora representatives in the Forum.

Destination Unknown Campaign

With ***Destination Unknown***, a global campaign to protect children on the move, Terre des Hommes protects children on the move, including unaccompanied and refugee children, through field projects dedicated to the reception, protection, psychosocial and legal support of children.

Destination Unknown campaign was launched in 2012 to raise awareness about violation of the rights of children on the move – including unaccompanied minors - who are fleeing war, poverty and violence. According to the most recent data, children on the move who cross borders are nearly 35 million worldwide (source: UN).

The Campaign also advocates for adequate policy changes enabling effective protection measures and to provide concrete solutions for these children who left their home, particularly those vulnerable to abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination.

In the Euro-Mediterranean region, Destination Unknown Campaign is active with direct access to migrant children throughout field operations in Sicily (Terre des Hommes), Malta (KOPIN), Greece (ARSIS), Cyprus (Hope for Children Cyprus), Central and South-East Europe, Lebanon (INSAN), Egypt (Terre des Hommes) and the Middle East.

Know more on Destination Unknown Campaign to protect children on the move
www.destination-unknown.org

Know more on Terre des Hommes International Federation
www.terredeshommes.org

