



International Conference

“Challenges for Ombudsman Institutions with respect to mixed migratory flows”

7–8 September, 2016

Tirana, Albania

AOM, AOMF, FIO and IOI partner in organizing this international conference on the challenges posed by the recent refugee and migrant flows in an effort to generate a common response to the situation of people in need of international protection.

As the governments struggle to overcome the negative effects of the unprecedented mixed migration flows, many of the human rights enshrined in the International Conventions, to which they have subscribed, are being swept aside. The current economic crisis, the growing unemployment rates and the local concerns over worsening living conditions, are serving as justification for governments to abdicate their responsibilities and obligations to human rights.

However, these obligations cannot be avoided, modified, suspended or postponed for better times. On the contrary, they become even more necessary in times of crisis and austerity measures. The present day phenomena may not be labelled as being beyond human control and, therefore, beyond the control of governments. Quite the opposite is true, in difficult times the governments must prioritize resources to the benefit of those most in need, including refugees and persons in need of international protection.

The above mentioned organizations ensure the fullest representation in the Conference of countries of origin, transit and destination, in an effort to come up with a joint approach to the refugee and migrant situation. For this situation, which spreads over continents, cannot be addressed individually, but only collectively. Commitment to human rights can only be tested in times of adversity and difficulty, when they are really exposed to threats. They can't have been meant to be upheld only in times of harmony and prosperity. This is the message that Ombudsman Institutions should drive to national, supranational and international institutions.

The International Conference convened in Tirana shall bring together high level representatives from international organizations and specialized agencies, Ombudsman and Mediator institutions, as well representatives from governmental authorities, the diplomatic community and the civil society.