

To all IFSW Europe member organisations:

Dear colleagues – I'm writing to draw your attention to a public consultation the European Social Platform is carrying out which aims to secure evidence to persuade the European Union to take steps to prevent member states criminalising the provision of humanitarian assistance to undocumented migrants. In Europe today humanitarian services - including the provision of food, shelter, medical care, or legal advice - may be met with sanctions. This can include restrictions on funding, financial penalties, imprisonment and other forms of punishment. There are also instances where the organisation or individual providing humanitarian assistance has a duty to report undocumented migrants to the authorities, which of course may deter people from seeking vital assistance, including those who are being exploited by traffickers.

The EU law allowing criminalisation, the Facilitation Directive (2002/90/EC), is currently being evaluated by the European Commission.

IFSW Europe is a full member of the Social Platform and we would be grateful if member organisations would use their networks to encourage social workers with relevant experience to complete the survey.

The survey and further information about this issue can be accessed at the following link:
<https://socialplatformbxl.wufoo.com/forms/public-consultation-criminalising-solidarity/>

With best wishes,

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