

Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law



NEWSLETTER No. 1 (Oct. 2013)

CONTENT:

- New Coordinating Committee
- Event organised by the IG on boat migration
- New member: Sergo Mananashvili
- Call for papers: 'Access to asylum: current challenges and future directions'
- Publications on Israel and Shared Responsibility
- News from around the world: new Australian policy on asylum seekers

FIRST NEWSLETTER

This is the first newsletter of the ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law. The purpose of the newsletter is to update the members on the activities of the IG and will be sent four times a year. The most important news, events, calls for papers, publications and blogs that were posted on the website will be outlined in this newsletter. New members of the IG will be introduced as well. Feel free to forward the newsletter to whomever you think is interested. In addition, if you have any interesting events, call for papers etc, please let us know!

NEWS FROM THE INTEREST GROUP

As per 1 October 2013, the Coordinating Committee of the IG consists of Isabelle Swerissen, Lisa-Marie Komp and Evelien van Roemburg. They were the only candidates for the position of Coordinating Committee members. Isabelle will be the spokes- and contact person for the IG, Lisa-Marie will be the event coordinator for the IG, and Evelien will be responsible for the website and the newsletter. Click [here](#) for their contact information.

INTEREST GROUP EVENT

There are plans to organise a small-scale event in close cooperation with the ESIL Law of the Sea Interest Group. During the event, which is scheduled to take place in the beginning of 2014, legal issues pertaining to boat migration will be discussed. Members are invited to share their thoughts on this topic and to actively participate in the organisation of the event. The next news letter will feature more detailed information on the event. Click [here](#) for more information.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Monash University, in collaboration with the University of London and Warwick University, is organising a Conference on the topic 'Access to asylum: current challenges and future directions' from 29-30 May 2014. The aim of this international conference is to determine how best to safeguard the rights of asylum seekers in balance with the responsibilities of states. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 8 November 2013. For more information, click [here](#).

For more events and call for papers, click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS & BLOGS

Reuven Ziegler, member of the IG, published an article in the International Journal of Refugee Law on the protection of refugees outside their states of asylum. A link to article can be found [here](#).

He also wrote a blog on the decision of the Israeli High Court to quash the legislation mandating lengthy detention of asylum seekers. This blog can be viewed [here](#).

Isabelle Swerissen, also a member of the IG, wrote a blog on the shared responsibility of states to protect Syrian refugees. This blog can be viewed [here](#).

Any member who wants to publish a blog or bring a publication to the attention (especially on migration issues), please let us know!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

It probably did not go unnoticed that with a change in government, Australia has also changed its policy regarding asylum seekers, sending them collectively to Indonesia instead of granting them access to asylum procedures in Australia itself. More on this development can be found [here](#).

Also a topic for one of the blogs this month, the High Court in Israel has decided that African migrants and refugees can no longer be detained for up to three years without a trial. Read more [here](#) on this landmark judgment.

Morocco is one of the most important 'hubs' for migrants to enter Europe. However, the EU is paying Morocco tens of millions of euros to keep migrants of its territory. Read more on this topic [here](#).

For more news, click [here](#).



NEW MEMBER

Sergo Mananashvili is a post-doctoral researcher at the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute (EUI). More information on Sergo can be found [here](#).

REMINDER

For the members who haven't done so already, please write a short profile (max. 100 words) for the website of the IG.

WEBSITE

The website of the IG is migreflaw.wordpress.com. If you have interesting content (a call for papers, a blog or publication, an event) please send an email to E.T.W.vanroemburg [at] uva.nl.

The [Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law](#) (MigRefLaw) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#). The IG focuses on the law and policy of states and international organisations with regard to people who seek entry to their communities. The movement of people across borders is a defining reality of our time. This IG aims to provide a forum for discussion on the legal principles and processes governing the movement of people as well as their reception in host communities. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in migration and refugee law.