



newsletter

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HGRA activities

International Workshop in Tripoli and Online: Migration Management in Libya and Higher Education: Bridging Security, Human Rights, and Border Control

On 14 October 2025, the University of Tripoli, in collaboration with UNIMED and the University of Barcelona, will host the international workshop *Migration Management in Libya and Higher Education: Bridging Security, Human Rights, and Border Control*. The event will take place both in person in Tripoli and online, bringing together academics, researchers, and experts to explore the role of higher education institutions in addressing migration-related challenges.

Libyan universities play a pivotal role in integrating migration issues into educational frameworks and research agendas, while also fostering inclusive environments for migrant students. This workshop will examine how academia can contribute to shaping policies and practices that balance security, human rights, and border management. The full programme of the conference will soon be available on the HGRA project website.

Barcelona Conference: Universities as Agents of Change in Migration – The HGRA Erasmus+ Project and the Path Forward

On 20 January 2026, the University of Barcelona will host an international conference exploring the role of higher education in addressing global migration issues. Under the title **“Universities as Agents of Change in Migration: The HGRA Erasmus+ Project and the Path Forward”**, the event will bring together academics, policymakers, and representatives of civil society and international organizations to explore how universities can actively contribute to shaping migration governance.

The meeting will open with institutional addresses from the University of Barcelona, UNIMED, and international partners, setting the stage for a day of dialogue and exchange. The first session will focus on the role of universities in knowledge production, examining how academic research can inform policymaking and drawing on insights from the HGRA project. A second session will turn attention to Libyan universities, highlighting their efforts to act as agents of change by combining research with social transformation in a complex national context. In the afternoon, a third session will showcase collaboration between universities and civil society at the local level, sharing best practices and initiatives that support migrants and refugees through education, mentoring, and advocacy.

The conference will conclude with reflections from the organizers and partners, outlining future steps for cooperation. By bridging research, policy, and practice, the event underscores the potential of higher education not only to generate knowledge, but also to drive social innovation and foster inclusive responses to migration.

The full programme of the conference will soon be available on the HGRA project website.





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Recent reports and academic publications

UNHCR Submission Highlights Key Gaps for Libya in Refugee, Asylum-Seeker, and IDP Protection

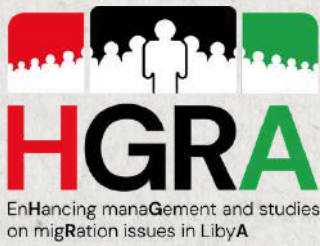
<https://www.ecoi.net/>

In its submission for the 50th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has drawn attention to serious shortcomings in how Libya treats refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people (IDPs). Published in April 2025, the report (now available via [ECOI.net](https://www.ecoi.net/)) outlines a range of concerns that require urgent action.

Major issues identified include:

- Non-refoulement and access to protection: There are ongoing reports of forced returns, obstacles to accessing territory for those in need of protection, and lack of safe pathways.
- Civil documentation: Many refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced people face difficulties in obtaining or renewing identity and legal status documents, which limits access to essential services.
- Arbitrary detention: Detention without due process or safe, legal basis remains a widespread challenge, affecting those on the move as well as those already inside Libya.
- Conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs): The submission raises concerns over conditions in displacement settings, including access to basic services and protection from harm.





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Recent reports and academic publications

Article

Circular and return migration of Egyptian migrant workers in Libya

Mohamed Elsayeh, Sciences Po Law School, Paris, France.

The full article is available on Wiley Online Library: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/imig.13334>

This article, published in *International Migration Review*, Volume 63, Issue 2, examines the circular and return migration patterns of Egyptian migrant workers to and from Libya, highlighting how these movements served as a livelihood strategy during and after the 2011 crisis.

The research reveals that many Egyptian migrants engaged in circular migration—moving back and forth between Egypt and Libya—as a means to sustain their livelihoods amidst economic challenges and limited reintegration opportunities in Egypt. The study underscores the importance of understanding these migration patterns to inform policies that support the livelihoods and well-being of migrant workers in the region.

Article

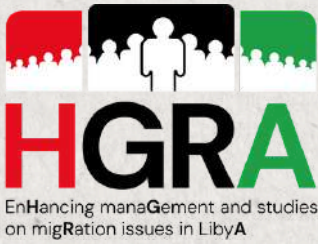
Does aid to migrants in “transit countries” affect their movement intentions? Evidence from Libya

Gabriele Restelli, Global Development Institute, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom

The full article is available here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X25000658>

A new study examines the role of humanitarian aid in Libya, a major transit hub for migrants to Europe. Survey data show that aid does not encourage onward migration to Europe but significantly reduces intentions to return home—especially when food aid is provided. The findings highlight that assistance offers essential relief, deterring return migration without fueling further movement. Policymakers are urged to view humanitarian aid primarily as a tool for relief, not as a lever to manage migration flows.





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Libyan Developments

Libya's PM Rejects Allegations of Migrant Resettlement Deal

March 15, 2025 – The Libya Observer

<https://libyaobserver.ly/news/dbeibah-rejects-claims-migrant-resettlement-deal?>

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has publicly denied claims that his government is planning any migrant resettlement scheme. Speaking at a recent high-level meeting on migration policy, Dbeibah emphasized that Libya “will not serve as a destination for irregular migration,” describing the country's security as a “red line.” The meeting brought together several senior officials, including the Ministers of Interior, Labour, Government Communication, and chiefs of security and border control. Topics discussed included tighter border security, smuggling networks, and enforcing stricter control over irregular migration. According to Interior Minister Imad Trabelsi, Libya has deported approximately 20,000 irregular migrants in 2023 and another 32,000 since the beginning of 2024 as part of its efforts to manage migration flows. Dbeibah also called on the international community, particularly the European Union, to increase support and share responsibility in addressing migration, arguing that Libya cannot handle its borders and migrant flows alone.

Libya Breaks Up International Human Trafficking Network

July 4, 2025 – Libya Review

<https://libyareview.com/54177/libya-dismantles-international-human-trafficking-network/?>

Libya's Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) has dismantled an international smuggling ring that was operating across borders from Bangladesh to Libya and onward to Europe. The network recruited migrants in Bangladesh, flew them into Benghazi's Benina International Airport, then moved them to Tripoli before attempting to transport them by sea from Zuwara. Key arrests have been made: three suspects, including the ring's Libyan head, who coordinated the journey to Zuwara and planned the Mediterranean crossing. Legal proceedings are underway; the arrested are under detention while investigations continue. The SSA emphasised its continued commitment to combating human trafficking and preventing Libya from being used as a hub for illegal migration.



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Libyan Developments

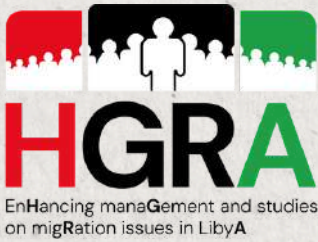
Libya Unveils New Security Plan Against Border Smuggling

July 4, 2025 – [Libya Review](#)

<https://libyareview.com/57069/libya-unveils-new-security-plan-against-border-smuggling/>

Libyan authorities have unveiled a wide-ranging security strategy designed to tackle human smuggling and illicit trade across the country's borders. Central to the plan is the creation of a joint operations room that will bring together the Coast Guard and the Immigration Agency, allowing for real-time coordination and quicker responses to smuggling and trafficking activities. The initiative places particular emphasis on the vast desert regions and remote areas in the south and east of Libya, which remain key corridors for irregular migration and smuggling networks. Officials say the new strategy is intended to reinforce state authority, tighten border control, and reduce Libya's role as a hub for human trafficking towards Europe. While the plan signals a stronger government commitment to addressing border challenges, questions remain about the availability of resources, the capacity of agencies to sustain such measures, and the degree of cooperation with local communities, who play a crucial role in monitoring and managing border areas. Observers note that long-term success will likely depend on adequate funding, training, and international support.





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Regional Developments

Libya, Algeria agree to exchange expertise in combating corruption

July 23, 2025 – The Libya Observer

<https://libyaobserver.ly/news/libya-algeria-agree-exchange-expertise-combating-corruption>

Libya and Algeria have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in combating corruption by exchanging expertise and aligning joint objectives in regulatory and anti-corruption efforts. This agreement was reached during a meeting between Abdullah Qaderbouh, Chairman of Libya's Administrative Control Authority, and Salima Mesrati, President of Algeria's High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and the Fight Against Corruption, held on the sidelines of the 7th General Assembly of the African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities. The discussions focused on strengthening institutional ties in transparency, oversight, and anti-corruption, with both sides emphasizing the importance of sharing experiences to prevent administrative and financial crimes. Additionally, they explored the development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalize their collaboration.

Libya, Tunisia agree to activate joint high commission

August 23, 2025 – The Libya Observer

<https://libyaobserver.ly/news/libya-tunisia-agree-activate-joint-high-commission>

Libya and Tunisia have agreed to activate the Libyan-Tunisian Joint High Commission to boost bilateral cooperation, especially in economic and investment sectors. The decision was made during a meeting between Libyan Deputy Head of the Presidential Council Abdullah Al-Lafi and Tunisian Prime Minister Sarah Al-Zaafarani at the TICAD Summit in Japan. Both sides emphasized strengthening coordination, supporting regional stability, and enhancing partnerships between businesses in both countries. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the Palestinian cause and to maintaining positive relations between the two nations.



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Regional Developments

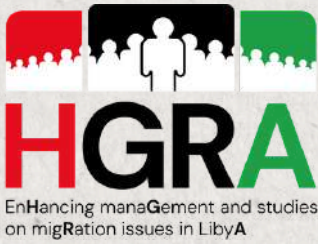
Libya and Malta to Discuss Maritime Borders

September, 2025 - The Libya Observer

<https://libyaobserver.ly/news/libya-malta-agree-discuss-maritime-borders-and-expand-talks-include-other-parties>

Libya and Malta have agreed to hold talks on their maritime borders, with the possibility of including other countries if needed. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Libyan Foreign Minister Al-TaHER Al-Baour and Maltese Foreign Minister Ian Borg, covering issues such as illegal migration, coast guard coordination, and bilateral cooperation. Both sides emphasized the importance of continued dialogue to strengthen stability, address migration challenges, and enhance regional cooperation. The discussions take place amid the broader Mediterranean.





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European Developments

EU Commissioner for migration expelled from Libya as 'persona non grata'

July, 2025 - Euronews

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/07/08/migration-commissioner-expelled-from-libya-as-persona-non-grata>

EU Migration Commissioner Magnus Brunner was declared persona non grata and expelled from Benghazi by Libya's Government of National Stability (GNS). Libyan authorities accused the EU delegation of "violating sovereignty" and diplomatic protocols, while Brussels described it as a "protocol misunderstanding." The visit aimed to address rising migrant departures from Libya to Europe, but the incident highlights growing tensions between the EU and Libya's rival political factions.

