

Statement by Academics calling on Member States to open ports and assume shared responsibility for refugees and migrants saved at sea.

Refugees and migrants continue to cross the Mediterranean Sea in their desperate effort to reach security and refuge. The practice of leaving boats in distress and relinquishing all responsibility has become the norm.

Whilst we appreciate the particular challenges individual Member States are facing during these challenging times, the situation neither justifies nor excuses the violation of human rights. The decision to close ports is unlawful. The absence of solidarity between the Member States in meeting their collective moral and legal obligations is reprehensible.

We call upon the European Union and its Member States to immediately open the ports for safe disembarkation, and to assume shared responsibility for refugees and migrants saved at sea. Urgent action is required in order to avoid unnecessary loss of life.

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