

## OUR CALL

### To national governments

- To be bold
- To be part of the coalition
- To offer visas for up to 5,000 participants over two years

### To civil society:

- To lobby
- To provide expertise
- To accompany participants

### To European institutions

- To support the initiative
- To co-ordinate interests
- To allocate the necessary funding

### To find out more, please contact:

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EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS  
**SAFE. LEGAL. DIGNIFIED.**

## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS: THE PIONEER ITALIAN MODEL

Since 2015, the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, together with the Waldensian Board and the Community of Sant' Egidio, has worked in partnership with the Italian Government to bring vulnerable migrants safely from Lebanon to Italy.

Identified according to agreed criteria, and screened in advance of arrival, participants receive visas with limited territorial validity on the basis of art. 25 of Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 and travel by air to Rome. Like all other vulnerable migrants, participants must apply for international protection on arrival.

Civil society provides pre-departure orientation and post-arrival support over a period of several months. Participants are matched with host communities and housed in appropriate accommodation across Italy. In line with individual needs, they access language classes, schooling, vocational training, psycho-social and legal counselling.

Humanitarian Corridors are not simply about safe passage. Comprehensive support, integration and, ultimately, autonomy are key elements of the model.

## EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS: A WAY FORWARD

The model is replicable and **easily adapted to suit diverse legal and cultural frameworks**. It is one of a number of vital tools for managing migration.

Building on the success of the pioneer Italian model, a handful of legacy corridors have already opened to other countries: France, Belgium and Andorra. Participants now come from Ethiopia, Jordan and Niger as well as Lebanon. It is time to scale up.

**As a Europe-wide mechanism, this has the potential to relieve pressure on all fifteen priority countries along the Central Mediterranean Route.<sup>1</sup> Our vision is for 50,000 to access new and existing corridors over a two-year period.**

As a Europe-wide mechanism, this also has the potential to enable participants to be matched with countries with which they have an existing connection, be it linguistic, familial or professional. Such a scheme would **minimise secondary movement and optimise integration**.

We applaud existing resettlement, evacuation and other schemes to bring vulnerable migrants safely to Europe. However, whilst there may be some common features between them, the European Humanitarian Corridors scheme is not intended to replace these nor substitute existing commitments. It is another tool in the box.

<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia per <https://www.unhcr.org/5aa78775c.pdf>