



Privatising Migration: A Solution for the European Union?

Nottingham, 17 – 18 June 2019

Human Rights Law Centre and European Policy Centre

With a sharp rise in deaths at sea, the long summer of migration of 2015 marked a crucial point for setting the tone of the political discourse and development of law and policy in this area. Reflected also in the launch of the European Agenda on Migration in May of the same year, the external dimensions of European Union (EU) migration policy have been advanced and have continued to disclose a concerning focus on preventing migration, mainly through an increase in externalisation policies and privatisation of migration control.

This latter trend of outsourcing migration control operations has spread to a number of areas, including those related to deportations and removals, housing, visa processing, transport, detention of asylum seekers and security of reception and processing centres across Europe and overseas as well as the procurement of digital technologies for entry/exit systems at the border. In light of the documented abuses that have occurred at the hands of private companies, it is vital to assess the human impact of such policies as well as identifying the applicable legal frameworks that hold both the private companies and the contracting institutions and states accountable. In this context is also important to answer the following questions: How can these frameworks be utilised to prevent such abuses from occurring? What are the legal and policy implications of this mechanism of outsourcing? Can this be seen as a credible response to current migratory flows into Europe?

In light of this changing landscape, the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) and the European Policy Centre (EPC) will host a timely expert workshop to examine the policy and legal implications of current forms of privatisation in a context of increasing externalisation of migration control.

