

NEWSLETTER, Volume 14 no. 9
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STORYTELLERS ARE TAKING THE STAGE, 2 MAY, 19:00–22:30 HRS A'DAM

New Women Connectors (NL), Pro Lapinlahti (FIN) and our group of storytellers invite you to [an evening full of stories](#) capturing histories, smells, colours and memories from Yemen, Nigeria, Palestine, Singapore, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Iraq, Morocco, Syria and Pakistan.

A significant challenge we face in migrant and refugee self-representation is that narratives about us are mainly shaped, framed and shared by media, voices and individuals who do not represent us or our experiences. To take ownership over our own stories, we — a group of 10 storytellers from across Europe with lived migration and asylum experience — will take the stage to reclaim the leadership, ownership and authorship of our narratives. Given the far-right rhetoric on migration in recent national elections across the European Union, it is more crucial than ever to challenge this narrative ahead of the EU elections in June.

BASIC RIGHTS

The EU Facilitation Directive

The Facilitation Directive aims to penalize assistance to undocumented migrants who unlawfully enter, transit or stay in EU Member States. It helps combat organised smuggling and exploitation. However, the Directive also allows Member States to punish those who provide humanitarian assistance to these people. This may include shelter, food or medical assistance.

The Dutch Senate [requested](#) to be kept up to date of which steps are taken by the Netherlands in the negotiations about this Directive.

PICUM has published a [report](#) about the prosecution of humanitarian aid workers.

The Border Violence Network has published a critical [report](#) about this directive.

ADMISSION POLICY

Dutch Council of State: no passport requirement for naturalisation of Angolan with residence status who cannot go to Angola

This Angolan has lived in the Netherlands for 30 years and wishes to naturalise. But he does not have an Angolan passport, and the Netherlands is in doubt about his true nationality and identity. He has already tried to obtain mediation from the embassy, but they have not responded so far. His alien passport will not allow him to travel to Angola to apply for a passport there.

The Council of State agrees that identity and nationality must be established, but finds that the man has already made sufficient efforts in the meantime and that the IND is making too many demands, in this case. See [here](#).

District Court: Morocco does not protect against domestic violence

This case is about a Moroccan asylum seeker who claims she was abused and almost killed by her husband. She also suffered a miscarriage because of the beatings. She sought help from the police but they did not intervene.

The assessment of Morocco as a Safe Country of Origin states, 'Domestic violence against women is prohibited by law, although social pressure and reluctant police action may deter women from coming forward.' The judge notes that it is not clear how women are protected in practice in Morocco if they are victims of domestic violence. The IND must make a new decision. See [here](#).

District Court: civic integration requirement abroad for Ghanaian elderly woman discriminatory

The Netherlands distinguishes between 'Western' and 'non-Western' countries for family migration. Family members from 'Western' countries may enter without an mvv (temporary entry permit) requirement and without a citizenship course exam, whereas family members from 'non-Western' countries are subject to stringent requirements. In this case, the court rules that there is no objective motivation for this distinction and that it should not be made. See [here](#).

NB: the Secretary of State is expected to appeal this ruling.

District Court: false asylum story is not a threat to public safety and therefore not a Chavez contraindication

This father of a Dutch child is requesting status as a custodial parent of his son. The IND rejected his

request because he lied in his asylum application. The judge does not consider this a 'threat to public safety', so this aspect should not be applied as a contraindication. See [here](#).

Dutch Council of State: family reunification Nigerian children with mother in the Netherlands, mother is caring for other children in the Netherlands

This case is about Nigerian children who want to travel to their mother in the Netherlands. The mother also has children with a man in the Netherlands. The father in the Netherlands does not want his children to go to Nigeria. Therefore, the mother cannot go to Nigeria. The Nigerian children are allowed to come to the Netherlands. (RvS 202202737/1/V1, 18.4.24)

ACTIVITIES

Vacancy writer(s) Shadow report of the Istanbul Convention, apply no later than 22 April

The UN Women Convention Network has been invited by GREVIO, the expert committee monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, to submit NGO information and findings for the first thematic evaluation of Dutch policy and government responses to GREVIO's questionnaire.

If you would like to be considered for participation in the writing team, please send a motivational letter with your CV to schaduwrapportage@gmail.com. Interviews will be held in the second half of Week 17 and in Week 18 (2024).

Fairwork: E-learning DIRECT 'recognising human trafficking'

In 35 minutes, participants will learn two aspects: 'What is Human Trafficking?' and 'How you can help'. For both aspects, we will cover the different forms of exploitation, signs of human trafficking, and how to act when human trafficking is suspected, amongst other things.

The E-learning course '[recognising human trafficking](#)' is currently also available in English.

Migration in EU elections

For positions of the various EU factions, see [here](#).

Nigerian community & Police Dialogue Amsterdam, 24 April from 18:00 hrs

Topics of discussion:

- (1) housing matters (with representative from Rochdale),
- (2) jobs & job hunters,
- (3) incubate your small business, no stress, no tax.

Make sure to be a part of this day, so you can share your thoughts and clarify things you wish to understand about improving the situation of Nigerians in the Netherlands. Experts on each topic will be available to answer your questions. Also, you can count on a tasty African meal, which will be served from 18.00 hrs CET.

This activity is intended for all Nigerians and/or relatives, and is a collaboration between the Amsterdam Police, Municipality of Amsterdam and Pan-African Media foundation.

Location: Kazerne Reigersbos, Remmerdenplein 100, 1106 AK Amsterdam

Contact: Pan-African Media: 06 84606550

Founded in 2003, the LOS national foundation for undocumented migrants (Landelijk Ongedocumenteerden Steunpunt) is the knowledge centre for people and organisations providing assistance to undocumented migrants. The LOS foundation is devoted to the basic rights of these migrants and their children.