

WORKING GROUP

# MIGRATION AND TORTURE

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



CACIT

Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo  
AFIN QUE LE CRIME NE SE NOURISSE PLUS DE L'IMPUNITÉ

OMCT

SOS-Torture Network



# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

## For the Migration and Torture Working Group

*The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) jointly with its Network member the Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT) is launching a thematic working group on "Migration & Torture".*

### A | WHY A WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION AND TORTURE?

*"Today, 258 million people (around 3 per cent of the world population) live outside their State of origin or habitual residence and can therefore be described as "migrants" or "international migrants", regardless of their personal status or motivation. Of these, 10 per cent (around 25 million people) have fled their country as refugees, while an additional 40 million people have been forcibly displaced within their countries and may well become migrants in the future"<sup>1</sup>.*

In recent years, this issue has been attracting attention in Africa beyond the humanitarian dimension. An important number of migrants use unsafe and irregular pathways, due to increasingly restrictive and obstructive migration laws, policies and practices of States. People on the move are confronted with protection gaps on migratory routes. Moreover, there are growing signs that States are failing or no longer want to welcome and protect those who move.

As a consequence of this, throughout their journey and even upon arrival in their country of destination, irregular migrants experience increasing uncertainty, danger, violence and abuse, including an escalating prevalence of torture and other ill-treatment at the hands of both State officials and non-State actors. Up to 76% of irregular migrants have become victims of torture and ill treatment<sup>2</sup>.

Many important aspects of torture of people on the move in and from Africa have remained under-explored and under-researched including the human cost. The widespread phenomenon questions the effectiveness of laws and policies to protect migrants against torture.

Although Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Africa including members of the OMCT SOS -Torture Network have unique access to vulnerable communities such as people on the move, including first-hand information, at the same time, there are difficulties in accessing best practices or being able to engage in broader global or regional discourses that affects their work. By establishing a working group, they can be part of a broader discussion and a collective research that will analyse national and international responses on torture and migration and provide authoritative legal and policy recommendations for the much-needed effective protection of people on the move. Moreover, the research and recommendations from the working group will feed into to discussions that have begun on this issue in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and in the various UN treaty bodies and procedures. OMCT organized a meeting in 2017 with members of its Network on the issue of migration and torture. Since then, the issue has become increasingly critical and has occupied a strategic position within the SOS-Torture Network.



*The overall objective of this working group is to work with a network methodology to establish reliable and comparative data to engage in an effective protection agenda from torture and other ill-treatments for people on the move at national, regional and global levels.*

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, A/HRC/37/50, 26 February 2018

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. §9

## B | THE GROUP'S MANDATE AND METHODOLOGY

The group is mandated by the CACIT and the OMCT to:

1. Map and describe the current torture and other ill-treatment which people on the move (including women, children, LGBT) face in different contexts in Africa, including forced migration related to armed conflict, migration to Europe and intra-African migratory movements.
2. Analyze the contexts of the countries concerned in relation to torture and migration and explore the obstacles and difficulties of migrants and asylum seekers (including in camps/ detention centers, hotspots and at borders) to access protection and judicial remedies against torture at the national, regional and universal level.
3. Engage on an effective protection agenda for advocacy toward decision makers at domestic, regional and international level.
4. Foster alliances for the protection of people on the move against torture on migration routes.

This new initiative on migration and torture will function with a participatory methodology that will rely on:

- A working group approach;
- A research strategy.

This participatory approach will allow members in the SOS-Torture Network to work on the issue to exchange, while at the same time motivate others to start addressing it. The research will improve strategies for further advocacy by the members of the working group, the broader SOS-Torture Network as well as the OMCT and CACIT.

The OMCT International Secretariat and CACIT will convene two group meetings in person to discuss the research, results and advocacy actions to be undertaken. Both meetings will take place on the African continent. The first, in October/November 2019 in a country yet to be decided and the second, in Dakar in February 2020.

The first meeting to be held in October/November 2019 will aim to:

- Identify transnational research areas and needs as well as the main lines of research on migration and torture in Africa;
- Agree on a research methodology to identify areas of risk of torture in countries of origin, transit, host States and States of destination as well as a joint research plan for a baseline study on torture and migration;
- Define advocacy priorities and targets and key advocacy and influencing missions.

Each member of the working group will oversee and coordinate the drafting of a national chapter on all forms of torture and ill-treatment affecting migrants, including possible specific sub-themes related to the country they represent. Specific issues to be addressed will be decided at the expert meeting.

## C | THE EXPECTED RESULTS

The information collected will support those processes by providing first-hand information and recommendations on how to increase protection for those on the move from torture. The concrete products and tools of the group will initially be:

- A study published with authoritative recommendations (in French and English);
- An advocacy strategy to influence decision makers at a domestic, regional and global level;
- An alliance of actors working to protect migrants against torture and other ill-treatment.

It is expected that the establishment of this working group will:

- Build the capacity of local anti-torture organizations working on migration and/or torture;
- Enhance their understanding of protection gaps; and
- Inform their advocacy work toward protection mechanisms.

## D | COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING GROUP :



- The working group will be composed of **12 CSO representatives**, primarily coming from Africa or working at NGOs who deal with people on the move from Africa.
- **This Working Group** will be developed under the patronage of **Aminata DIEYE**, OMCT executive council member.

## E | FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The OMCT and CACIT will cover the costs of visa, travel, lodging and food expenses of the participants. When needed, the organisers will also provide assistance with visa applications, for instance through issuing letters of invitation.

The working group members will receive a financial compensation of 1000 Euro for their country research.

## F | HOW TO APPLY?

- Templates of motivation letters;
- Template of letter of engagement.

A template of a motivation letter and of a letter of engagement can be found attached to this document and/ or can be downloaded from our website. The application materials can be completed either in English or French. Completed applications should be addressed to [applications@omct.org](mailto:applications@omct.org).

## G | WHEN TO APPLY

The deadline for submitting applications is **September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

## H | WHO CAN APPLY?

- Members of the SOS torture Network as well as prospective members and strategic partners. The working group will focus on people on the move in and from Africa and the applicants **should have particular expertise in migration and torture**.



### • **Selection criteria :**

Successful candidates must:

- Have legal and/or practical expertise on migration, torture and other ill-treatment in their country including topics such as sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings including children or minorities;
- Have access to migrants from Africa who are victims of violence which is tantamount to torture and other ill-treatment;
- Be active in CSOs and / or CSO coalitions. Members of an NGO which is part of the SOS-Torture Network will have priority;
- Have national or international advocacy experience;
- Possess a good command of French or English (for practical and financial reasons, this working group will carry out its activities in only two languages (English/ French)).

## I | HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

- Consideration of the submissions and establishment of a shortlist list of candidate members;
- Evaluation and pre-selection according to pre-established criteria: the selection process will seek to ensure geographical and gender balance as well as complementarity among professional profiles and field experiences;
- Pre-selection presented to a Selection Committee for final approval;
- Final decision sent to the successful candidates;
- Publication on the OMCT website.

## J | DOCUMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED IN ORDER TO APPLY:

An application will be considered eligible only if all the documents are completed and sent to [applications@omct.org](mailto:applications@omct.org):

- Motivation letter completed on behalf of the NGO; (use the templates of motivation letters)
- CV of the NGO representative;
- Letter of engagement signed by the person you designated as your representative in this working group. (use the template of letter of engagement).

## K | SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The selection committee will be made up of experts from **OMCT** and **CACIT** who will evaluate all the applications according to the above criteria.

- *Created in 1985, the **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)** is today the main coalition of international non-governmental organisations (NGO) fighting against torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances and all other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. With over 200 affiliated organisations in its SOS-Torture Network and many tens of thousands of correspondents in every country, OMCT is the most important network of non-governmental organisations working for the protection and the promotion of human rights in the world. Thanks to our members in the General Assembly and Executive Council, the OMCT International Secretariat (with offices in Geneva and Brussels), as well as our Tunisia office, now stands to benefit from a wide range of expertise and field experiences from all continents on this key issue.*
- ***The Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT)** was created following the violence that Togo experienced before, during and after the presidential elections of 2005. It is a network of fourteen (14) non-political and non-profit associations and NGOs. Committed initially to issues concerning civil and political rights, CACIT has also evolved towards State support for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights. CACIT's mission is to contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation by offering, with professionalism, legal, psycho-medical, social and training assistance services in order to meet the needs of the rights holders. CACIT is a member of the SOS-TORTURE network of OMCT.*

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