

# RENAE Europe Statement

## On the EU Return Regulation and the Pact on Migration and Asylum

*In response to the vote held in the European Parliament on Wednesday 17 June 2026 on the new Return Regulation, which complements the recently implemented Pact on Migration and Asylum.*

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The EU Migration and Asylum Pact, which includes fast-track border procedures, detention centres, and controversial “return hubs,” undermines fundamental human rights. In solidarity with affected migrants and asylum seekers, we reject this prioritization of deterrence over protection and advocate for humane, dignity-driven support for those seeking safety.

**We stand in solidarity with all migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers navigating the unacceptable realities of the newly enacted EU Migration and Asylum Pact and the associated “Return” policy.**

The recent implementation of these policies marks a troubling shift in European governance, pushing the burden of humanitarian responsibility onto external third-party states and accelerating deportations.

These policies place already vulnerable people at greater risk of seeking help from smugglers and traffickers for their migration journey.

Seeking asylum is a fundamental human right, not a crime. The implementation of stringent border screening and expanded detention measures disregards the complex, life-threatening circumstances that force individuals to flee their homes.

### We strongly condemn:

- **Externalization of Asylum:**

The establishment of “return hubs” outside the EU, which externalizes responsibility and puts displaced individuals at severe risk of human trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation, coercion, abuse, and further harm due to inadequate protection safeguards and limited access to justice.

- **Prolonged Detention:**

Fast-track deportations and extended detention rules that threaten basic civil liberties.

- **The “Fortress Europe” Mentality:**

Legislation that prioritizes aggressive border control over compassion, integration, and the sanctity of human life.

We call upon European leaders across Member States to uphold their international legal obligations and protect the right to seek asylum.

We stand with migrant-led organizations, charities, and human rights defenders who continue to advocate for safe pathways, dignity, and justice for all people on the move.

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**RENAE Europe**

Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation

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