



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

**PICUM's Long Range Plan
2007 – 2011**

PICUM Long Range Plan 2007-2011

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a non-governmental organization that aims to promote respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe. PICUM also seeks dialogue with organizations and networks with similar concerns in other parts of the world.

PICUM promotes respect for the basic social rights of undocumented migrants, such as the right to health care, the right to shelter, the right to education and training, the right to a minimum subsistence, the right to family life, the right to moral and physical integrity, the

right to legal aid, and the right to fair labor conditions.

PICUM is based in Brussels, Belgium, and has nearly 90 affiliated members and 90 ordinary members in around 20 countries primarily in Europe as well as in other regions of the world.

PICUM's monthly newsletter on issues concerning the human rights of undocumented migrants is produced in seven languages and circulates to PICUM's network of more than 2,500 civil society organizations and individuals and beyond.

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During PICUM's 2006 Annual General Assembly, which took place in Brussels from 24–25 March 2006, PICUM members defined priorities for the organization over a five-year period. These priorities concerned methods of gathering information, strengthening and enlarging PICUM's network, and priorities concerning policy work. In particular, PICUM's members recognised the necessity to develop strong legal expertise and to strengthen international advocacy on the human rights of undocumented migrants.

At PICUM's 2007 Annual General Assembly, which was held in Brussels from 30–31 March 2007, PICUM members adopted the present Long Range Plan. The following priority areas will guide PICUM's work over the five-year period from 2007–2011:

Priority 1: Monitoring and Reporting

- To improve the understanding of issues related to the protection of the human rights of undocumented migrants through improved knowledge of problems, policies and practice.

Priority 2: Capacity-Building

- To develop the capacities of NGOs and all other actors involved in effectively preventing and addressing discrimination against undocumented migrants.

Priority 3: Advocacy

- To influence policy makers to include undocumented migrants in social and integration policies on the national and European levels.

Priority 4: Awareness-Raising

- To promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying the protection of the human rights of undocumented migrants among relevant partners and the wider public.

Priority 5: Global Actors on International Migration

- To develop and contribute to the international dialogue on international migration within the different UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations.

Priority 1: Monitoring and Reporting

Objective:

- **To improve the understanding of issues related to the protection of the human rights of undocumented migrants through improved knowledge of problems, policies and practice.**

The first priority of this long range plan refers to the need to improve the understanding of the context in which irregular migration takes place and in which undocumented migrants live. PICUM will analyse problems and practices in order to better address the reality faced by undocumented migrants in Europe. PICUM will conduct research and monitor news, events, activities, policies and legal developments.

PICUM will also use calls for information and thematic studies to gather information and to understand the external environment concerning undocumented migrants in different European countries. It will participate in or initiate thematic research projects to highlight the main challenges and opportunities present on the national, European and international levels regarding the human rights of undocumented migrants.

PICUM is also concerned about the societal consequences of current policies to combat irregular migration. Therefore

PICUM will analyse the external environment concerning undocumented migrants through the prism of different relevant policies such as immigration and regularisation, integration, human rights, labour and economic development, poverty reduction and social policies. It will monitor the legal and social environment, with a particular focus on national and European legislation and international agreements impacting undocumented migrants. Moreover, with the enlargement of the European Union, there might be profound changes in migration and border management, but also integration and social policies at the European level and in new neighbouring EU countries. PICUM will focus on the situation of undocumented migrants in EU member states but also on the international level in general and on the external borders of the European Union in particular.

PICUM will use this information to produce contextual analyses and reports on trends in terms of policies and practices concerning undocumented migrants. PICUM will also identify fields of activities and target groups for which advocacy and lobbying would be needed. PICUM will disseminate information on the human rights of undocumented migrants to its members, its network and to other relevant organisations through a monthly newsletter and a website updated with news, events and publications.

Monitoring and Reporting: Highlights of PICUM Activities

PICUM Newsletter – PICUM makes a monthly newsletter on news items and policy developments concerning the human rights of undocumented migrants in Europe and beyond. The newsletter is sent to approximately 2,500 subscribers and is available in English and translated into six other languages by a network of volunteers: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German and Dutch.

(2004) *Report on the Housing Situation of Undocumented Migrants in Six European Countries (Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Belgium)* – This report evaluates the strategies undertaken by undocumented migrants to gain access to housing in the following ways: through community networks, in the private sector, social housing, homeless shelters, NGOs, and ‘other possibilities’.

(2007–2009) *Clandestino: Irregular Migration: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends Across Europe (DG Research)* – This interdisciplinary project is a response to the need for supporting policy makers in designing and implementing appropriate policies regarding irregular migration. The project aims: (a) to provide an inventory of data and estimates on irregular migration (stocks and flows) in the EU; (b) to analyse these data comparatively among EU countries and between the EU and the US; (c) to discuss the ethical and methodological issues involved in the collection of data, the elaboration of estimates and their use; (d) to propose a new method for collecting and evaluating data/estimates on irregular migration across the EU. Five partners are research institutes; PICUM is the NGO partner.

(2006–2007) *Promoting the human rights and mainstreaming undocumented migrants in social and integration policies at the national and European levels (NEF–EPIM)* – The overall objective is to promote the rights of undocumented migrants and to raise awareness, particularly drawing attention to the instruments adopted on the UN and European level that guarantee human rights for all. Project outputs include:

- ***PICUM's Main Concerns About the Fundamental Rights of Undocumented Migrants in Europe in 2006*** – This report is based upon issues that were highlighted in PICUM's newsletters in 2006, including the increasing numbers of deaths at EU borders, the various barriers undocumented migrants face in accessing health care services, the erosion of the right to fair working conditions, and the lack of protection for undocumented children.
- ***Undocumented Migrants Have Rights! An Overview of the International Human Rights Framework*** – This publication outlines the various articles in the international human rights framework (as well as in European instruments on human rights) which grant protection to undocumented migrants.

- **Policy briefs** - Three policy briefs on different aspects of migration issues. PICUM address some of the crucial areas of the current migration policies, including managed migration schemes, anti trafficking measures and decent work for migrants. The aim of these policy briefs is to bring a human rights perspective within a debate that seems to be characterized at the governmental level mostly by economic and security reasons. The three policy briefs are:

Undocumented Migrants - Symptom, Not The Problem

By Don Flynn, PICUM Chair and Frank Düvell, PICUM Board Member.

The authors review some of the thinking behind current policy responses to managed migration and consider what they are attempting to achieve. Specifically they ask whether the 'enforcement agenda' in particular is an adequate way to tackle the issues arising from this aspect of global migration trends.

Human Trafficking and Forced Labour. What Perspectives to Challenge Exploitation?

By Don Flynn, PICUM Chair.

This policy brief draws attention to positions being developed by politicians and policy makers across Europe for whom trafficking in human beings is regarded as more-or-less synonymous with irregular migration and the position of undocumented migrants.

Decent Work for Undocumented Migrants

By Luca Bicocchi, PICUM Program Officer.

This policy brief aims at identifying the pressures involved in achieving decent work for undocumented migrants, building on the ILO Decent Work Agenda.

Priority 2: Capacity-Building

Objective:

- **To develop the capacities of NGOs and all other actors involved in effectively preventing and addressing discrimination against undocumented migrants**

This strand focuses on the exchange of information and good practices amongst actors, the development of advisory activities, strengthening active partnerships through transnational projects, and extending PICUM's geographical and thematic network in Europe.

PICUM intends to highlight good practices and strategies used by organisations defending undocumented migrants' human rights. It will promote the positive role of civil society in delivering assistance to undocumented migrants and will fight against strategies to criminalize those who provide assistance to undocumented migrants. PICUM will facilitate the exchange of information and good practices through its newsletter, website, publications, thematic meetings and workshops.

PICUM will continue to work directly with relevant partners such as legal experts, professionals in fields such as health care,

employment, and education, NGOs, trade unions, local and national authorities, and international organisations. PICUM will continue to identify new relevant partners and intends to extend its network to new EU member states and to neighbouring EU countries in order to develop a shared commitment to the human rights of undocumented migrants in Europe.

PICUM plans to strengthen networking amongst its members through joint European and international projects. PICUM will coordinate activities gathering different actors in order to improve the participation of civil society in policy making and to make policy makers aware of the realities faced by undocumented migrants. PICUM will also support other organisations' projects by providing expertise and advice to projects concerning the protection of the human rights of undocumented migrants. PICUM will strengthen other organisations' means of action through thematic training and capacity-building sessions on ways to protect and to lobby for the human rights of undocumented migrants.

PICUM will also develop advisory activities to deliver its expertise to relevant organisations. It will organise thematic workshops, seminars and training sessions to diffuse information.

Capacity-Building: Highlights of PICUM Activities

(2007–2009) Fighting discrimination-based violence against undocumented children (DG Justice Freedom and Security) – This project aims at fighting discrimination-based violence against undocumented children in Europe, by developing the capacities of concerned partners to protect undocumented children from discrimination in gaining access to housing, education and health care.

(2005–2007) Access to health care for undocumented migrants (DG Employment and Social Affairs) – This project aims to improve access to health care for undocumented migrants, a specific group of socially excluded migrants. This goal will be reached by developing and promoting a system of reporting on the situation regarding access to health care for undocumented migrants in eleven EU member states within the framework of the Social Inclusion and Social Protection Process.

(2006–2007) Stay permits for medical reasons – The purpose of this project is to describe the regulations (competent authorities, conditions, procedures, criteria, etc.) as well as the methods and resources used to deal with applications for stay permits for medical reasons in eleven EU member states.

(2005) *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers* – In October 2005 PICUM published a report entitled *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers* which presents detailed information obtained from NGOs, trade unions and other actors working with and advocating for undocumented workers, both in Europe and the United States.

(2002–2003) Book of Solidarity Project (DG Employment and Social Affairs) – PICUM continuously fights against the criminalisation and penalisation of assistance to undocumented migrants in Europe. A series of *Books of Solidarity, Volumes I–III*, was published in 2002–2003, highlighting the assistance that is provided to undocumented migrants in ten EU member states and legislation concerning criminalization of assistance.

(2006) Presentations at various events on anti-trafficking, using the methodology in the publication *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers*:

- **25–28 June 2006**, Prague (Czech Republic) – Meeting organized by the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) on “Trafficking in human beings: new challenges, new partnerships” CAT project.
- **29–30 June 2006**, Lisbon (Portugal) – “Action against trafficking and forced labour exploitation of migrant workers in Europe” organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

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- **26-27 September 2006**, Kiev (Ukraine) - Co-facilitation of a workshop at the NGO Platform meeting organized by La Strada on "Anti-Trafficking Activity Towards Safe Migration Practices: Role of NGOs as Watchdogs and Service Providers". PICUM's workshop was on "Safe Migration Perspectives - Ways to Protect Migrant Workers".
- **18 December 2006**, Madrid (Spain) - PICUM presentation entitled "¿Ayudar a los inmigrantes que sufren de la trata de personas - un papel para la sociedad civil?" (Aiding trafficked migrants - a role for civil society?) at a conference organized by ACCEM on "Trata con fines de explotación en España," (Trafficking for Labor Exploitation in Spain).

Priority 3: Advocacy

Objective:

- **To influence policy makers to include undocumented migrants in social and integration policies on the national and European levels**

EU member states have recently agreed to develop a common immigration policy on the EU level, acknowledging that immigration will increasingly be necessary in the coming years to meet the needs of the EU labor market. Consequently, the highly restrictive approach to border policies is being replaced by the concept of "managed migration."

In this framework, PICUM encourages policy makers on both the national, European, and international levels to recognize the presence and to further investigate the reality of a population living in an irregular administrative situation in their territories. PICUM encourages national governments to implement international treaties and conventions protecting the human rights of undocumented migrants, and to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW). PICUM also urges governments to work with civil society organizations to promote the human rights of undocumented migrants and to develop projects to fight against all abuses of which undocumented migrants are the victims.

On the European level, PICUM will closely follow policy papers and action plans of the European Commission on migration, integration and border management in order to promote the human rights of undocumented migrants. PICUM will focus its advocacy work on the European level and will actively participate in policy consultations organized by European institutions. PICUM will develop strategies for mainstreaming undocumented migrants into social inclusion policies, integration policies, fundamental rights policies and migration policies on the European level.

Building on the experience developed so far, PICUM intends to strengthen its advocacy through new contacts within the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe, as well as with key working groups of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. PICUM also plans to strengthen its advocacy strategy by actively participating in European advocacy networks on human rights and social issues. Following the enlargement of the European Union, PICUM will identify and closely involve representatives of civil societies and national governments in new member states in advocacy strategies and joint projects.

PICUM will also produce comments on policy papers and organise events to promote the respect of human rights of undocumented migrants towards policy makers.

Advocacy: Highlights of PICUM Activities

June 2007 – European Parliament (PICUM/ENAR Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup Seminar) – “On Policy Coherence on Managing Integration: The Case of Irregular Migration and Employment”

March 2007 – Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population) – PICUM presentation on the “Situation of Irregular Migrants in the EU” focusing on: human rights abuses on the EU’s borders, examples of the lack of clarity of social and economic rights concerning undocumented migrants in the area of housing, education, health care, and fair working conditions; and general policy recommendations, also in the area of regularization.

December 2006 – European Parliament (Joint meeting of the Fourth World European Committee – Intergroup Fighting Against Poverty and Exclusion – Intergroup on Family and Protection of Childhood) – PICUM presentation on how civil society organizations in Europe defend undocumented migrants’ rights to housing, education, fair working conditions, and health care.

PICUM’s Comments on Communications from the European Commission:

- **July 2002:** Comments on the Green Paper on a Community Return Policy on Illegal Residents
- **April 2005:** Comments on the Green Paper on an EU Approach to Managing Economic Migration
- **February 2007:** Comments on the Communication from the Commission on “Policy priorities in the fight against illegal migration”

Joint comments and statements:

- **August 2005:** Common principles on removal of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers (joint statement of several European NGOs)
- **May 2007:** Joint comments of PICUM, Solidar and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) on Expected Commission Proposals to Fight “Illegal” Employment and Exploitative Working Conditions

Membership in European NGO networks:

- **Social Platform:** PICUM is a member of the Social Platform, which promotes social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of its member organizations.
- **NGO Platform:** PICUM participates in regular meetings of the NGO Platform and its migration sub-group. This platform is a network of Brussels-based NGOs working in the field of migration and asylum.

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- **European Platform for Migrant Workers' Rights (EPMWR):** PICUM is a member of the EPMWR, a platform which advocates for a better promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. The EPMWR seeks to share information on and harmonize whenever possible national-level campaigns and activities across Europe in favour of the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families.
- **European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN):** PICUM is member of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), a representative network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in EU Member States.
- **Platform for Children's Rights:** PICUM is a member of this Brussels-based informal grouping of NGOs, UN agencies (represented by UNICEF), and EU institutions with the primary interest of exchanging information on children's rights initiatives at the EU level.

Priority 4: Awareness–Raising

Objective:

- **To promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying the protection of the human rights of undocumented migrants among relevant partners and the wider public.**

PICUM intends to continue its awareness-raising activities with the aim of influencing public perception about undocumented migrants and their rights. One of the objectives is to dispel myths about undocumented migrants and promote various ways to protect them. This priority is very much linked to the priorities on exchange of information and advocacy: better information on undocumented migrants could contribute to a change of attitudes concerning undocumented migrants and could promote social change.

PICUM will facilitate the exchange of information and good practices on the European level by bringing together organisations and policy makers from different European countries in thematic workshops or seminars. The discussion and exchange at such events would promote a common understanding of problems and would often result in better involvement of those concerned in joint actions and projects.

PICUM will diffuse its message to civil society actors and to the wider public through thematic conferences and events. PICUM will also draft policy recommendations for relevant European and international organisations and promote them through high-level events. The objective is to make policy makers and the general public aware of the existence and situation of undocumented migrants in Europe, their role in the European economy and their needs in terms of human rights protection. This should lead to more comprehensive policies and mainstreaming undocumented migrants in human rights.

PICUM will develop a communication strategy based on visibility and information campaigns, relations with the media, its website and newsletter. PICUM's communication strategy will underline the legal framework for the protection of undocumented migrants and will highlight good practices of civil society organizations. It will promote the role of civil society in providing assistance to undocumented migrants and will denounce strategies to criminalize those providing assistance to undocumented migrants.

PICUM will examine the possibilities of using creative tools such as cultural events or field visits related to news and events as part of its awareness-raising strategy.

Awareness–Raising: Highlights of PICUM Activities

PICUM Workshops:

31 August 2001, Cologne, Germany – “Ethical arguments for work with undocumented migrants”

8 March 2002, Oirschot, NL – “Ethical code for social workers and volunteers that are confronted with undocumented migrants” and “European developments in the field of undocumented migration”

11 October 2002, Antwerp (Belgium) – “Undocumented migrants and employment”

11 April 2003, Cologne (Germany) – “Undocumented women”

16 April 2004, Antwerp (Belgium) – “The right to housing for undocumented migrants”

8 April 2005, Antwerp (Belgium) – “Criminalisation of assistance to undocumented migrants: new European legislation and strategies to defend ourselves”

30 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium– “Undocumented migrants have rights! – Joint workshop by PICUM and Migrants Rights International (MRI) on protection and gaps under the international human rights framework”

Seminars and Conferences:

22–23 March 2001, Brussels (Belgium) – Seminar on health care for undocumented migrants. The results of the seminar were published in the report entitled *Health Care for Undocumented Migrants*, May 2001.

26 May 2003, Brussels (Belgium) – PICUM international conference at the European Parliament on “Undocumented Migrant Workers in Europe”. The results of the conference together with policy recommendations were published in the report entitled *Undocumented Migrant Workers in Europe*, January 2004.

23 March 2006, Brussels (Belgium) – “Protecting Undocumented Migrant Workers in Europe: Successes and Strategies,” event organized by PICUM with the support of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

24 March 2006, Brussels (Belgium) – “Regularization is not the only policy: *Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers*,” PICUM/European Policy Centre/King Baudouin Foundation dialogue.

28–29 June 2007, “Access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe,” PICUM conference organized with the support of Eurocities.

Press Release:

15 September 2006 – “Will undocumented migrants continue to be invisible in the new national action plans on social inclusion, health and pensions for 2006–2008?”. Within the framework of the project on “Access to health care for undocumented migrants,” PICUM made a press release on targeting undocumented migrants into the Social Inclusion–Social Protection Process on the European and national levels. To this aim, a coordinated action will be taken by PICUM and its project partners in eleven EU member states to make undocumented migrants’ social exclusion more visible in the next set of national action plans (NAPs) on social inclusion (2008–2010).

Priority 5: Global Actors on International Migration

Objective:

- **To develop and contribute to the international dialogue on international migration within the different UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society organizations.**

The articulate dialogue that is developing within the different UN agencies on the role that migration can have in the development process reached a fundamental step in September 2006 with the promotion of the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

In this context migration is increasingly seen within the context of development, and recognised as resulting in economic benefits to both countries of destination and countries of origin. It is also recognised that this economic gain is contingent on the protection of migrants' rights and that migrants who do decent work contribute more to development than those who are economically exploited and socially excluded.

In his report for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan stated that: "The benefits of international migration, not only for migrants themselves, but equally for receiving societies, are contingent on the protection of migrant rights. Labour rights are the mainstay in the prevention

of exploitation and ought to be fiercely safeguarded. Migrants in an irregular situation are even more vulnerable, particularly with respect to employment. When migrants are afraid of being detected, they are unlikely to come forward to demand fair treatment by employers."

The theme of migration has been discussed from different perspectives in many other international fora, such as the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM). The GCIM was set up in December 2003 by the UN Secretary General with the aim of providing a framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to migration.

In recent years NGOs have played an increased role in transnational and transcontinental networking. In order to play a role in this international context, civil society has to develop these transnational activities of networking so that the voices of NGOs and civil society can be heard in global fora on migration.

While primarily based in Europe, PICUM's network has started to include partners in the United States, the Caribbean, and some countries in Latin America and Asia. As a member of the Steering Committee of Migrants Rights International, PICUM plays an important role in contributing to networking of civil society organizations on the global level that defend migrants' rights.

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Also through Migrants Rights International, PICUM played an important role in the civil society parallel events that were organized in September 2006 in New York during the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. The Civil

Society Forum on Migration and Development will be held in July 2007 in Brussels, prior to the Global Forum on Migration and Development. PICUM will also seek to actively take part in the civil society forum.

Global Actors on International Migration: Highlights of PICUM Activities

7 April 2005, Geneva (Switzerland) – “The Human Rights of Undocumented Migrants”, Panel event organized by PICUM and Migrants Rights International (MRI) during the 61st Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

12 July 2006, New York (USA) – Submission of comments on the Report of the UN Secretary General on International Migration and Development at the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York. PICUM was the lead civil society organization concerning undocumented migrants at the hearings.

30 August 2006, New York (USA) – Presentations at a conference on “Irregular Migration,” organized by UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), in New York. PICUM’s presentations focused on “Undocumented migrants’ access to housing, health and education” and “Organizing civil society cooperation on irregular migration.”

13–15 September 2006, New York (USA) – Participation in an international working group within Migrants Rights International (MRI) to promote a human rights approach to migration within the framework of the UN’s High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York. MRI’s international working group undertook the following initiatives:

- Organized a parallel forum to the UNHLD on “Community Dialogue on Migration, Development and Human Rights,” held on 11–15 September in New York. During the parallel forum, PICUM co-organized a workshop on “The Global Economy and Strategies for Advancing the Rights of Undocumented Migrant Workers
- Held a side event on 14 September in the UN that was sponsored by the Argentinean government, entitled “Migration from a human rights perspective
- Nominated two MRI international working group members to participate in round table discussions during the UNHLD. These representatives were two out of only twelve civil society representatives invited by the UN to engage in the round table discussions with UN Member States and UN institutions

6–7 November 2006, Singapore – Presentation at a conference on “Current Perspectives and Strategies in Addressing ‘Irregular Migration,’” organized by Migrant Forum in Asia and the Singapore Trade Union Congress in Singapore. PICUM’s presentation was on “Regularization Strategies of Civil Society Organizations.” One of the focuses of the conference was the international human rights framework and undocumented migrants, and participation and networking contributed to PICUM’s publication on this issue.