

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This first call for submissions is aimed at receiving contributions from all stakeholders, including States, United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations entities and specialised agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society and grassroots organisations, research institutions, academia and other relevant stakeholders. The submissions received will be taken into account as key inputs for the elaboration of the first Draft of this Joint General Comment/Recommendation.

It is important to note that a 2nd round of consultations will take place once the first draft is released and discussed by the two Committees. In such opportunity, stakeholders will have the opportunity for making concrete, technical comments on the draft, either written or through the participation on the consultations that both Committees will carry out in September-October 2024 in different regions (exact dates/paces to be confirmed according to Committees and their partners' agendas, as well as budgetary and other factors).

Timeline for receiving submissions: 15 December 2023 – 31 March 2024

Word limit: 2,500 words (+ annexes, if needed)

Content & Questions

Submissions are expected to provide inputs on the goals, scope, and topics described by the CERD and the CMW in the outline of the Joint General Comment. The following non-exhaustive questions could guide the elaboration of the Submissions:

1. HOW XENOPHOBIA SHOULD BE DEFINED NOWADAYS, IN A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MEANING THAT COULD LEAD TO DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICIES DIRECTED TO ADDRESS ITS IMPACT ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS -WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS GENERAL COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION-¹, THEIR FAMILIES, AND OTHER NON-CITIZENS AFFECTED BY RACIAL DISCRIMINATION?
2. WHAT ELEMENTS SHOULD A COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC PUBLIC POLICY HAVE AIMED AT PREVENTING AND ERADICATING XENOPHOBIA IN MIGRANT-RECEIVING SOCIETIES? WHICH MINISTRIES, SECRETARIES, AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND PERIODIC EVALUATION OF SUCH POLICY? The Central Direction of Civil services for the Immigration and Asylum (within the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration – Ministry of the Interior), is the public institution which is in charge to design and implement all the measures related to the asylum seekers and international protection beneficiaries permanence in the Italian

¹ For the purpose of this General Comment/Recommendation, the term “migrants” include every person which is not national of the country where he/she temporarily/permanently is, regardless the reason for leaving his/her country. It includes asylum seekers, refugees, statelessnes, victims of trafficking, and other people in the context international migration.

territory. The so-called “reception and integration system”, which represents the second line of reception in Italy, aims to facilitate the inclusion process of the international (or national) protection beneficiaries and to make as smooth as possible their integration in the hosting society as soon as the reception measures end. In fact, there is a strong cooperation between the hosting projects and the local institutions which closely cooperate to structure an integration path for the migrants finalized to provide them with all the instruments (access to language courses, educational and labour opportunities, social support) to support his/her integration and discourage situations of marginalisation which could expose him/her to episodes of xenophobia from the receiving society.

3. HOW TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THIS POLICIES? SHOULD INDICATORS BE NEEDED? WHICH PRACTICES COULD BETTER ASSESS THE PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, SETBACKS, AND OTHER OUTCOMES?

4. WHICH FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS SHOULD BE PUT IN PLACE? WHICH STAKEHOLDERS SHOULD HAVE A ROLE ON THESE MECHANISMS?

5. HOW XENOPHOBIA SHOULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONALITY LENS? HOW THIS POLICY SHOULD BE RECIPROCALLY COMPLEMENTED WITH POLICIES DIRECTED TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE RACISM? WHICH MEASURES SHOULD BE PUT IN PLACE FOR ENSURING A GENDER APPROACH WITHIN A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AGAINST XENOPHOBIA AND GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION? WHICH MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR INTERSECTING XENOPHOBIA WITH OTHER FACTORS FORBIDDEN BY THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING AGE, GENDER, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACIAL AND ETHNIC ORIGIN, AMONG OTHERS?

6. WHICH SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF MEDIA, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS, INCLUDING DIGITAL, FOR PREVENTING XENOPHOBIA AND BUILDING COHESIVE SOCIETIES? WHICH POLICIES COULD BE PUT IN PLACE, PROMOTING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDIA, WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION? PLEASE PROVIDE GOOD PRACTICES ON MEDIA INITIATIVES FOR A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO MIGRATION, AS WELL AS ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES TOWARD SUCH GOAL.

7. HOW XENOPHOBIA COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, IN ORDER TO: A) ERADICATE XENOPHOBIA AT SCHOOLS, AND B) PREVENT XENOPHOBIA IN THE MID AND LONG TERM, THROUGH EDUCATION PRACTICES AND SUBJECTS DIRECTED TO BUILD INCLUSIVE AND COHESIVE SOCIETIES?

8. HOW POLICIES AGAINST XENOPHOBIA COULD BE FRAMED WITHIN CHILD WELFARE AND YOUTH POLICIES? AND WITHIN POLICIES FOR OLDER PERSONS?

9. HOW POLICIES FOR PREVENTING XENOPHOBIA COULD BE MAINSTREAMED WITHIN POLICIES DIRECTED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT?

10. WHICH STANDARDS SHOULD BE ADDED TO THOSE ALREADY EXISTING FOR PREVENTING, ERADICATING AND PROSECUTING HATE SPEECH, INCLUDING THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES?

11. WHICH PRACTICES COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AGAINST XENOPHOBIA IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE USE OF XENOPHOBIC NARRATIVES AND STRATEGIES WITH ELECTION PROCESSES?

12. WHICH COULD BE THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY DIRECTED TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE XENOPHOBIA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY?

In relation to the role of local governments within the reception system addressed to the beneficiaries of international protection (or other kind of national protection), it is essential to underline that the primary objective of “reception and integration system” (SAI) is to provide support for each individual, through an individual program designed to enable that person to regain a sense of independence, and thus enjoy effective involvement in life in Italy, in terms of employment, housing and access to local services and social interaction as well as integrating minors into the Italian school system. Therefore, the ability of the Sai network is to calibrate the needs of reception taking into account the peculiarities of the different territories, with particular attention to the dimension of the local community and its capacity to host a certain number of people. The ability to enhance the cooperation between different actors, members of the local communities and institutions and the multidisciplinary team which operates within the centres, that contemplates and guarantees different professional figures within it, has the aim to foster the individual autonomy of the beneficiaries, understood as an effective emancipation from the need to receive assistance. Therefore, in light of above, local authorities have the obligation to guarantee linguistic-cultural mediation in order to facilitate the relationship and communication between the beneficiaries, the reception project and the territorial context (institutions, local services, citizenship); promote the realization of awareness and information activities in order to facilitate dialogue between the beneficiaries and the citizen community; promote and support the implementation of socio-cultural animation activities through the active participation of the beneficiaries; build and consolidate the territorial support network for the project by involving local actors; promote the participation of beneficiaries in the associative and public life of the territory. This way to operate at a local level, promoting a welcoming culture in the communities, collaborating with associations in order to simultaneously promote knowledge of the SAI System and encourage the participation of beneficiaries, aims to gradually reduce the distances between migrants and natives and, ultimately reduce the cases of xenophobia.

13. WHICH CONCRETE ROLE SHOULD PLAY THE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM FOR ADDRESSING EXPRESSIONS -NARRATIVE, MEASURES, POLICIES- OF XENOPHOBIA? HOW XENOPHOBIA COULD BE ERADICATED FROM WITHIN THE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM?

14. WHICH PRACTICES STATES SHOULD PROMOTE AT BILATERAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL FOR PREVENTING AND ERADICATING XENOPHOBIA?