



Consell  
de l'Audiovisual  
de Catalunya

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GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES ON THE NEWS  
COVERAGE OF

**MIGRANTS  
AND REFUGEES  
IN THE MEDIA**

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February 2021

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# INTRODUCTION

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Everyone has the right to migrate.<sup>1</sup> The rising number of migrants and refugees arriving in the European Union via the Mediterranean and Atlantic has placed the phenomenon of migration at the heart of media debate. However, this is not the only form it takes. Migration is a structural, habitual and permanent fact and it should therefore be treated as such by the media.

The Catalan Audiovisual Council (CAC) has deemed it necessary to update its *Guidelines on the News Treatment of Immigration* published in April 2002 and enlarge the scope to cover not only migrants but also refugees. This new document aims to adapt its guidelines to the current social context in Catalonia and media situation, as well as to provide tools for professionals in the media and the press offices of authorities, security forces and public institutions to deal carefully with this issue. The main idea of these guidelines is to recognise and value ethno-cultural diversity, prevent stigmatising and the reproduction of stereotypes and prejudices, and help ensure that such problems are reported properly.

Of particular note in drawing up these guidelines are the contributions made by the Mesa per a la Diversitat en l'Audiovisual (Committee for Media Diversity), the Catalan Secretariat for Equality, Migration and Citizens, the Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya (Journalists' Association of Catalonia) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean. As well as the Col·legi de Pedagogs de Catalunya (College of Pedagogues of Catalonia), the Comissió Catalana d'Ajuda al Refugiats (Catalan Refugee Aid Commission), the Consell Nacional de les Dones de Catalunya (National Women's Council of Catalonia), the Entitats Catalanes d'Acció Social (Federation of Catalan Social Assistance Organisations), the Fundació del Secretariado Gitano (Gypsy Secretariat Foundation), the Observatori de Cobertura de Conflictes (Observatory of Conflict Coverage) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Xenomedia of the University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia.

Information referring to migrants or refugees must uphold people's fundamental rights of freedom of expression, privacy, own image, free will and data protection, which shall apply regardless of the country of origin or the status of the persons involved. It can also help to encourage social inclusion and cohesion and to raise awareness and sensitise about the problems and realities of migrants and refugees.

In general, the media should give voice to a range of sources, from all social and cultural areas, which offer a broader, more plural perspective for information on migration and refugees, and not resort solely to authorities, administrations and professional bodies (such as security forces, prevention, assistance and health services). For their part, such sources should be fully aware of their condition and facilitate the work of the media. It

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<sup>1</sup> Migration is a right covered by Article 13 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (1948). Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

is vital to disseminate information and messages responsibly regarding migration and refugees, as well as to convey the diverse nature of our society. The information and communication services of government authorities should also follow these guidelines.

As creators of public opinion, public and private media should be aware of the role they can play in the social inclusion of migrants and refugees. Both media companies and professionals should be active agents in disseminating knowledge about migration and its contexts, including a pedagogical function, which contributes to normalising the perception of migration as a structural social reality. The media should also explain the reasons for and situations involved in migration and, if applicable, the legislation governing the administrative situation of migrants.

This document aims to collaborate with media professionals and create tools for self-regulation that enable in-house style guides to be adopted when reporting on issues related to migrants and refugees. These guidelines can be applied to any journalistic report, irrespective of the format or medium used to disseminate it: television, radio, press, digital media, social platforms or media. They are also applicable to spaces in the media for opinion, debates and interviews, in which the chairperson or interviewer is fundamental in controlling non-respectful positions.

These guidelines are also addressed to video-sharing platforms and social media sites, given the extensive consumption of audiovisual media via such channels and their collaborative nature. These services' ease of creation, dissemination and replication can encourage the presence of harmful content or content that incites violence, hate, xenophobia or discrimination. In this respect, users and content generators share responsibility with the social platforms and media, which must establish mechanisms and measures provided for by the audiovisual regulations that govern such content.

In general terms, the media pay particular attention to how they report news regarding young children and adolescents. In the case of young children and adolescents who have migrated alone, without adult or family support, it is even more vital to ensure proper reporting. In this respect, we refer to the specific recommendations contained in the [Guidelines on media coverage of children and adolescents under government guardianship](#), drawn up by the Catalan Audiovisual Council, the Catalan Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Families and the Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya (Journalists' Association of Catalonia).

Lastly, we should also note the importance of the gender perspective, even when reporting on migrants and refugees. The aim is not to highlight female migration but rather to report on their situations, contributions and experiences with an inclusive, non-sexist approach, without gender stereotypes and providing a voice for female migrants and refugees.

# GUIDELINES

**01**

## Use language that is precise, respectful and inclusive.

Concepts are not neutral. The kind of language used is crucial to avoid discriminatory clichés and prevent racism. For this reason, the following is recommended:

- **Avoid using imprecise words or expressions.** Terms such as *flood*, *wave* or *proliferation of immigrants* can reinforce the idea of a mass invasion of migrants or refugees and compare the situation with a catastrophe and a lack of control. Moreover, they should avoid metaphors as they simplify and often create erroneous parallels that can lead to discriminatory clichés and stereotypes.
- **Do not use terms or expressions such as *illegal*, *unlawful*, *irregular*, *undocumented* or *unofficial* to define or classify people.** No person is illegal.<sup>2</sup> If necessary, reference can be made to the circumstance; namely that a person is in a non-regularised situation.
- **Avoid using opposite terms such as *them/us*, *locals/immigrants*, *100% Catalan* or *their country*,** as these emphasise differences and encourage segregation.
- **Do not refer to someone as *migrated*.** It is more accurate to say *they have migrated* and to talk about precise dates and places. By definition, the status of a migrant is temporary.
- **Do not talk about refugees as people who necessarily live outside Spain.** A large number of refugees and asylum seekers live in Spain.
- **Do not use terms such as *Arab*, *Asian*, *Sub-Saharan*, *from the East* or *South American*, as these are macro-ethnic categories that homogenise various groups.** When such terms are used repeatedly in the media, they can be adopted by society as natural categories when they are, in fact, no such thing.
- **Do not confuse adjectives that refer to religion (*Muslim*, *Islamic* or *Jewish*, for example) with others related to someone's geographic or cultural background (*Israeli*, *North African*, *Chinese*).**

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2 Article 2 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#): “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.”



- Remember that terrorist acts are committed by individuals or specific organisations. Consequently, terrorism should not be described in terms of the background, ethnic group or religion of the people committing the act but rather by identifying the specific terrorist group involved (e.g. ISIS, Boko Haram, Sendero Luminoso, etc.). The expression of *Islamic terrorism* should be replaced with *Jihadist terrorism*.<sup>3 and 4</sup>

## 02 Adopt a critical, active approach to discriminatory, xenophobic discourse.

- **Data and context should be provided, as well as elements that can deactivate and refute discourses of hate, racism and xenophobia.** Avoid spreading discriminatory arguments without offering their counterpart. This recommendation is particularly important regarding platforms used for opinions, interviews, conversations and debates in which the chairperson or interviewer should adopt an active, critical approach to discriminatory, non-respectful positions.
- **Duly highlight and attribute quotes from racist or discriminatory references,** even when these are historical or academic, and provide, whenever possible, information on the author and context of the quotation.
- **Provide a range of views to enrich the journalistic discourse** and offer a broader, more plural vision of migration beyond a Eurocentric or Western perspective.
- **Avoid protectionist attitudes, such as ethnocentric positions that address an ethnic, cultural or social community using the standards of another.** Each community's diversity and heterogeneous nature must be borne in mind to avoid oversimplification.
- **Use extreme caution and adopt a critical approach when a specific individual behaviour is attributed or linked to a person's background, religion, culture, ethnic group or skin colour.** Just as the behaviour of an individual should not be associated with the community the individual comes from or may be identified with, neither should something carried out by one person be generalised and attributed to a whole community.
- **Particular care should be taken when reporting on migrating populations with specific ethnic features** to ensure they are not discriminated against for this reason (e.g. Roma community from other countries).

3 Some terrorist organisations claim to be *Jihadist*, but it should be remembered that a *Jihad* is a precept of the Qur'an, related to a personal struggle.

4 For more information, see [Guidelines on news coverage of terrorism](#).

03

### Help to overcome prejudices and the negative stereotypes for immigration and refugees.

News discourse should not encourage or perpetuate xenophobic or discriminatory prejudices or stereotypes. Negative stereotypes for immigration tend to affect vulnerable communities. The media can provide discursive elements that help to overcome such stereotypes. With this goal in mind, the following is recommended:

- **Address immigration and refugees as news items and not problems.** Immigration should be approached as a phenomenon of the structural displacement of a population rather than an exception or threat.
- **Balance the coverage of conflict or tension with news on inclusion,** examples of shared spaces being established and experiences of mutual enrichment in the host societies.
- **Do not associate migratory flows with violence, marginalisation, disorder or delinquency,** nor link migrants or refugees with criminal or terrorist activity.
- **Do not associate migration with misfortune.** There are many reasons why people migrate and some of these are very serious but people also migrate to improve some aspect of their lives (family, work, education, etc.). Migrants have not always been forced to move due to an extreme situation.
- **Provide information about the country of origin of migrants and refugees in all their complexity and diversity,** without systematically focusing on armed conflict, misery or extreme poverty. When reference is only made to negative aspects, such bias can result in discriminatory stereotypes.
- **Talk about the structural causes of migratory movements,** these being a global phenomenon that will continue in the future.
- **Do not attribute discriminatory expressions to ethnocultural diversity or phenotypes as distinctive features of certain communities of migrants or refugees.** Do not attribute particular expressions to ethnocultural diversity or phenotypes as distinctive features of several communities of migrants or refugees. People born in Catalonia also can have these characteristics.

## 04

## Report without being overly sensational or dramatic.

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Sensationalism and drama encourage stereotypical, oversimplified views. To ensure media coverage of migratory issues is not overly sensational, the following is recommended:

- **Reinforce expert opinions that help audiences to understand the in-depth reasons behind what is happening.** The reporting of merely anecdotal, routine or superfluous elements does not provide any meaningful information.
- **Avoid the disproportionate deployment of resources and over-reporting strategies, which merely magnify the significance of certain events or conflicts directly or indirectly related to migrants or refugees.** Such over-reporting can result in the phenomenon becoming distorted, such as the widespread but mistaken idea that most migrants arrive by boat and not by plane.
- **Avoid using clickbait techniques to make the news story go viral and boost advertising revenue.** Such procedures tend to dumb down and sensationalise news items. It is essential to be extra careful with headlines and banners for news stories as limited time or space can lead to a lack of precision and the appearance of negative stereotypes.
- **When reporting on personal tragedies, avoid using close-ups of dead or injured people, even for events that are relatively far removed from the media's usual scope of reference.** Such shots would not be used for more local news and should therefore not be used to report on other countries either.

## 05

## Provide context for reports on migrants and refugees.

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To give citizens an accurate picture of migration and its diversity, the media should avoid using partial or incomplete descriptions, providing context and analysis as well as a wide range of points of view and opinions. Consequently, to ensure migration is reported properly in all its diversity, the following is recommended:

- **Provide data on the situation in migrants' countries of origin and on international migratory flows.** Such data improves the quality of the reporting, helps the audience to think about the issue and contributes towards eradicating the negative stereotypes of immigration.
- **Widen the range of themes, perspectives and situations to prevent the audience from getting tired of the issue.**
- **Take into account the social context, legal framework and the socio-economic reasons and conditions** under which migration occurs.
- **Avoid using archive images for news items that do not correspond with the content as they can be misleading.** In any case, if they are broadcast, they should always be duly referenced and appropriate.

06

## Give a voice to migrants and refugees and ensure a wide range of sources of information.

The sources of information must be broad and representative of social diversity to favour a plurality of voices and perspectives. Reporting the world view and experiences of people who migrate enriches the news coverage of any issue.

The following is necessary to reflect the plural and diverse nature of society:

- **Give a voice to people from different backgrounds to hear their opinions on all kinds of issues and not only immigration**, as this upholds their right to free speech and to be part of society. Such reporting normalise their presence and participation in the media as citizens in any news story, in areas other than their status as migrants, refugees or a minority.
- **When showing experts and professionals transmitting messages and/or giving their opinion, also attempt to include people from the countries the news item is about**, not only to ensure a wide range of sources but also to present the culture to which the story is related. The aim should be to provide a realistic, appropriate message in line with the context in which it occurs.

The active participation of community representatives and also directories and agendas of experts, associations and organisations can be very useful in achieving this aim..

07

## Include the gender perspective and intersectionality in the content.

As a whole, migrants and refugees are under-represented in the media, but we should note that other factors can make them two or even three times more invisible. This is the case of female migrants and refugees, and increases further when these women are very old or young.

Including the gender perspective and intersectionality involves:

- **Making female migrants and refugees more visible, putting them centre stage and giving them a voice** for them to express their discourse, as well as providing information on the issues that affect them specifically.
- **Ensuring no sexist language is used, orally or in writing; using non-sexist, inclusive images; providing data broken down by gender** and producing messages and content that breaks down and questions gender stereotypes related to migrants and refugees.
- **Taking people's intersectionality into account**: many other factors make up our identity and how we view and live in the world. In addition to gender, such factors can be age, sexual orientation, ethnic group, religion, disability, etc., and they can lead to inequality, discrimination and invisibility.

In this respect, messages should promote the representation of migrants and refugees from the perspective of intersectionality, highlighting their particular situation and raising awareness of the problems they face because of such intersections.

08

## Respect the rights and free will of migrants and refugees when presenting and interviewing them.

The rights and principles related to a person's privacy must be scrupulously respected when covering news related to immigration.

- **The media should always have the person's explicit consent** before the interview and clearly explain the aims and scope of the publication or broadcast so as not to create false expectations.
- **People can be introduced by their name and surnames or by mentioning their professional or civic position.** It is not advisable to define them by their cultural, religious or ethnic group, unless necessary. In this case, the media should ask them whether they want to be introduced as migrants or refugees or not.
- **The media should not make their testimonies anonymous unless they explicitly request it.** However, in some cases, it may be essential to protect the identity of an interviewee to avoid possible risks or repercussions from them being identified. It should be agreed whether safety measures are required, such as a fictitious name, omitting or altering personal details, showing their image or not, pixelating images, filming them from the back or against the light or distorting their voice. Such precautions are even more extreme for refugees: being identified could complicate administrative procedures or even endanger them if they are suffering from persecution.
- **Emphasis should not be placed on the legal situation or country of origin of refugees or migrants unless the context or news story warrants this.**
- **Interviewees should be given enough time to understand and think about the questions.** Use professional interpreters or translators if the journalist does not speak the interviewee's language. This action prevents possible misunderstandings, ensures his/her rights, and makes the interviewee feel more comfortable. This recommendation is even more relevant in the case of young children and adolescents.
- **Invasive images or close-ups should not be recorded** without the specific permission of the interviewee.
- **Care should be taken to make sure interviewees are not made to relive painful situations, traumatic experiences or to feel uncomfortable.**

09

## Moderate online participatory platforms to eliminate messages with discriminatory or hate-filled content,

The media must actively control and moderate their online participatory platforms to detect and eliminate racist or xenophobic messages that disseminate discriminatory or prejudiced stereotypes or encourage the discrimination of migrants and refugees.

Similarly, video-sharing platforms and social media sites must **apply the necessary mechanisms to block harmful messages and audiovisual content**, as well as hate discourse, preventing users from spreading such content.

It would be useful for video-sharing platforms and social media sites to have a trusted flagger specialised in evaluating migration-related content in order to shorten the time such harmful messages are in circulation.

Furthermore, when a user creates a channel or profile, the video-sharing platforms and social media sites should explicitly state that discourse containing discriminatory content or hate related to migration is banned, reminding citizens that they are liable for such behaviour.

10

## Guarantee active training and suitable working conditions for news professionals.

Depending on their size and possibilities, news companies should encourage training, refresher courses and, if necessary, specialist training of their personnel regarding how to report migration and diversity in the media.

- Although current production routines do not favour this, **news staff should have the time and suitable working conditions to be able to create more accurate**, higher quality content using a wide range of sources.
- It would be helpful **to establish professional criteria and internal procedures that guarantee the quality of news coverage**.
- Without infringing selection procedures based on merit, suitability and opportunity, media companies should try to ensure their workforce is **made up of professionals with a range of cultural, religious and ethnic, in line with the plural nature of Catalan society**.<sup>5</sup>
- To encourage the training of people interested in a career in journalism or communication, **university faculties and centres that provide journalism and communication courses should foster educational initiatives that raise students' awareness in an active, multidisciplinary way against hate discourse due to reasons of xenophobia, racism, sexism, LGBT phobia or any other kind of discrimination**.

<sup>5</sup> Some international media, such as the BBC, already have experience in formulating and applying diversity [plans to boost inclusion among their workforce](#).



# GLOSSARY

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This glossary aims to clarify the main concepts related to migrants and refugees. Some of these concepts are still evolving and currently under debate, and may therefore change. In alphabetical order.

## **Aporophobia**

Form of discrimination that comes from a feeling or behaviour that rejects or is hostile towards poor people. This phenomenon can be associated, although not always, with another kind of discrimination towards migrants due to the vulnerable situation such people might represent.

## **Asylum**

Practice via which a state guarantees protection and assistance for people who have fled their country of origin for various reasons, generally related to the violation of one or more fundamental rights. Although often associated with the political sphere, it also covers those suffering persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Convention and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights establish this right to asylum.

## **Unaccompanied or Separated Children/Adolescents/Youngs**

Children and young people who are migrating and have become separated from their parents or other relatives and are not under the custody of another adult who would normally be responsible for them, due to law or custom.<sup>6</sup>

## **Complete shelter**

Type of shelter that covers all aspects of the migrant people or families, from the most basic (housing, healthcare, work, education) to those related to acceptance by the community and participation in the host community's social, cultural and political life.

## **Deportation**

Returning a foreign national to their country of origin after they have been refused asylum or as a consequence of their expulsion.

## **Displaced, internally displaced**

Someone who has been forced to leave their home due to conflict or persecution (e.g. similar reasons to refugees), or due to a natural disaster or some other circumstance. Unlike refugees, internally displaced people remain in their own country.

## **Dublin Convention**

Agreement between the member states of the European Union that determines which state is responsible for examining an asylum application. It was signed in 1990 and ratified by Spain in 1995. Subsequently, the Convention was replaced by the Dublin II Regulation (2003) and Dublin III (2013).

**Ex-pat**

Someone living in a state other than their country of origin, temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons but related particularly to work.

**Extradition**

Procedure through which a state's authorities hand someone over to the authorities of another state that has claimed them, for this person to stand trial or to complete a sentence that has already been passed.

**Female genital mutilation**

Practice carried out on girls and women that involves the total or partial ablation of the external female genitalia or any other aggression to the female genital organs for cultural or religious reasons and without any therapeutic purpose. It is considered to be an intentional violation of human rights.

**Forced marriage**

A marriage in which one or more of the parties is married without their consent or against their will. This can become a way to exploit people via trafficking.

**Human trafficking**

The capturing, transportation or harbouring of people, often taking advantage of their vulnerability, by means of threats, the use of force, deceit, kidnapping, fraud and abuse of power, or with authority over the victims, to exploit them for profit.

The victims can be exploited in many different ways: sexual exploitation, forced marriage, slavery or servitude, forced labour, forced begging, being made to carry out crimes, extracting their organs or body tissue, etc.

**Humanitarian shelter**

Urgent social assistance or healthcare, temporary protection programmes and care for the basic needs of migrants in a vulnerable situation.

**Immigrant**

Someone who has migrated and settled in a territory.

**Inclusion policies**

Measures to promote the full participation of foreigners in society, within a context of the co-existence of different identities and cultures.

**Interculturality**

An approach to social transformation based on three principles: the aim that everyone should be included in a society; the knowledge, recognition and use of diversity, and encouraging positive interaction between all members of society.

**International protection**

Broad concept that consists of guaranteeing that people who have had to flee their own country because their human rights have been violated or are at risk of being violated can enjoy basic human rights in the absence of the protection they should be provided by the authorities of their own country. One of the basic principles of international protection is non-refoulement.

**Intersectionality**

Theory that studies the interrelations between social identities and systems of oppression, dominance or discrimination. It states that a person's identity is based on the interaction between many different biological, social and cultural categories that occur simultaneously in a person, such as ethnic group, gender, background, social status, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, etc. How these factors interrelate determines the potential discrimination, oppression or privileges a person may experience.

**Islamophobia**

Aversion, hate, fear, rejection and/or hostility towards Islam (the religion based on the Qur'an) and, by extension, anyone practising this religion.

**Migrant**

Someone who migrates; i.e. leaves one territory to settle in another.

**Migratory movements**

Displacement of migrants from one place to another, either individually or as a group, with a change in their usual residence. It refers to voluntary migrants and should therefore not be used to refer to refugees or asylum seekers. Migratory movements can be temporary or permanent.

**Migratory routes**

Routes taken by migrants to reach their destination, often passing through several countries. People can be exposed to situations of risk during such journeys.

**Mixed flows**

Migratory movements in which both migrants and refugees travel together; i.e. people requiring international protection having left their countries for various reasons. There is an increasing number of people in a desperate situation in such migratory movements, both due to the wide range of reasons why they have had to flee their own country and also due to the risks they face.

**Multiculturalism**

Process in which two or more cultures co-exist but without mutual knowledge between them nor any enrichment as part of their co-existence; rather, they share a territory but there is minimal interaction.

**People smuggling**

Helping people to enter a state illegally, often including their transportation, when they don't have the nationality or a residence permit for that state, with the purpose of benefiting economically from the smuggling.

**Principle of no-return (*non-refoulement*)**

Forbids states from returning a person, directly or indirectly, to a place where their life or physical health may be endangered. This principle forms the cornerstone of international law regarding refugees, is contained in all human rights agreements and is binding on all states.

**Racism**

Doctrine that, based on specific phenotypes, supports the inferiority of certain races or ethnic groups compared with others, by virtue of which discrimination, social segregation, economic exploitation, etc. are justified.

**Refugee**

Any person who is outside their country of origin because they have a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion (Geneva Convention, 1951).

**Repatriation**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines this as the personal right of a prisoner of war, civil detainee, refugee or civilian to return to his or her country of nationality under specific conditions. This also applies to crises for diplomatic personnel and international civil servants.

**Return**

Expulsion from the state, without the need for proceedings, of foreigners who have attempted to enter the country illegally or, after their expulsion, contravene the ban on them entering the country.

**Schengen Agreement**

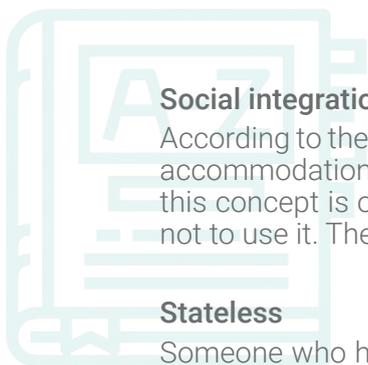
Treaty that led to several European countries abolishing their internal borders (those between these countries), focusing such controls on their external borders (with third party countries), with common rules being applied in areas such as border control, visas and cooperation. A common space was established, known as the Schengen Area, which covers a large part of Europe. Approved and signed in the city of Schengen in 1985 and in force since 1995.

**Social cohesion**

Degree of consensus among members of a social group or the feeling of belonging to a common project or situation.

**Social inclusion**

Process that guarantees everyone has the opportunities and necessary resources to take part fully in a society's economic, social and cultural life and to enjoy the living conditions and a level of well-being that are deemed normal in the society in which they live. An inclusive society has and implements mechanisms to guarantee the human rights, dignity and active citizenship of everyone who forms a part of it.

**Social integration**

According to the European Commission, integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of EU member states. However, in society this concept is often used as a synonym for "assimilation" and, consequently, it is advisable not to use it. The recommended term is *inclusion*.

**Stateless**

Someone who has no nationality; who is not considered to be a national of any state under its legislation.

**UMM**

Acronym for *unaccompanied migrant minor*. This refers to foreign children who are migrating alone. As this term has become stigmatised, it is advisable to replace it with terms such as *unaccompanied or separated children/adolescents/youths*; *children/adolescents/youths who have migrated/come by themselves*; *children/adolescents/youths with no family or adult referents*, etc.

**Unaccompanied or separated children/adolescents/young**

Children and young people who are migrating and have become separated from their parents or other relatives and are not under the custody of another adult who would normally be responsible for them, due to law or custom.<sup>6</sup>

**Vulnerability**

When a person is at greater risk and more susceptible to being injured or affected physically or morally or to being harmed by a given situation.

**Xenophobia**

Attitudes, prejudices or behaviour that reject, exclude or despise other people because they are foreigners.

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<sup>6</sup> For more terms related to unaccompanied children, see the glossary in [Guidelines on media coverage of children and adolescents under government guardianship](#).



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