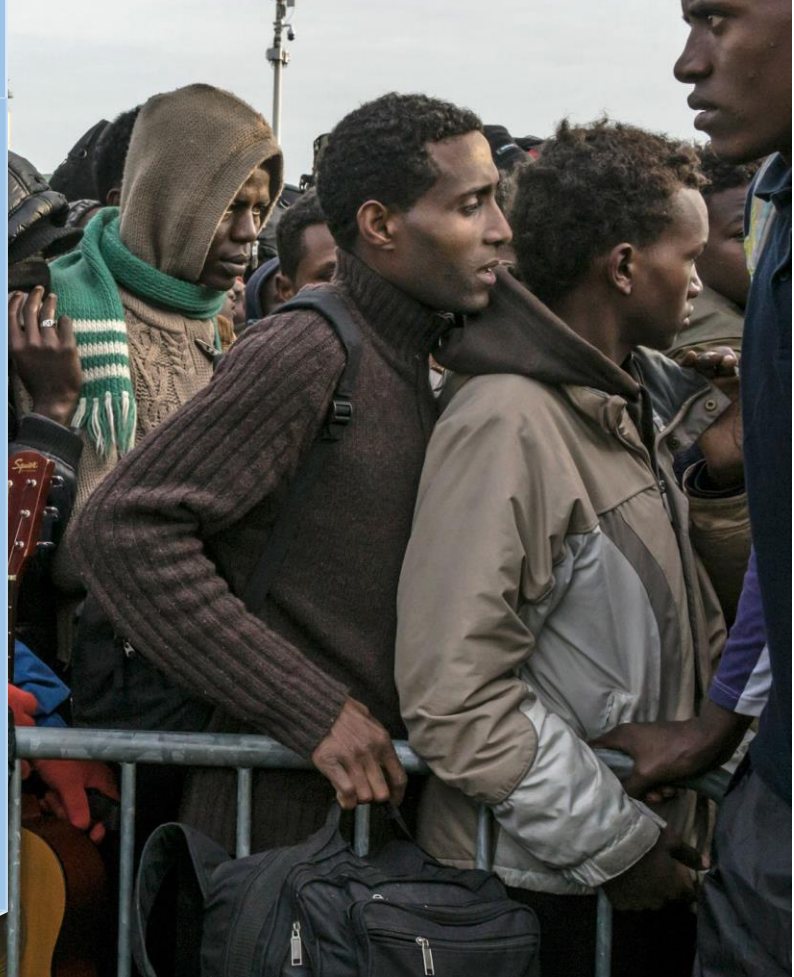


PACE SIDE EVENT

Courts Matter! Improving Migration Policy through ECtHR Judgments

WEDNESDAY
10 OCTOBER 2018
13.00 – 14.00
Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

The event will be preceded by a reception.



Supported by

**OPEN SOCIETY
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Recent PACE reports have documented alarming trends in the treatment of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants across Europe. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has developed a rich body of case law in this field that could protect the rights of foreign nationals. Yet, many of these judgments lack state enforcement or remain unimplemented. In the face of populism and rising anti-immigrant sentiment, a concerted effort is needed – involving, *inter alia*, governments, national parliaments, civil society, and Council of Europe entities – to ensure that asylum and migration policies are fully compliant with states' obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

This side event brings together a range of actors to discuss the state of execution of key migration and asylum-related ECtHR judgments, and the additional measures that European states must take to ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Speakers:

- **Mr Rupert Skilbeck, Director, REDRESS (London/The Hague)**
Protecting refugees and migrants from violence by state agents: implementing *Zontul v Greece*
- **Ms Sophie Scheytt, Head of Advocacy, Sea-Watch Germany (Berlin)**
From push-backs to pull-backs? *Hirsi Jamaa and Others v Italy* and Italian support for Libyan pull-back operations
- **Mr Simon Cox, Migration Lawyer, Open Society Justice Initiative (London)**
Chowdury and 41 Others v. Greece: when a Government's immigration policy causes forced labour of migrant farm workers

Co-sponsored by:

- **Ms Tineke Strik** Rapporteur on human rights impact of the 'external dimension' of EU asylum and migration policy
- **Mr Evangelos Venizelos** Rapporteur on the implementation of judgments of the ECHR
- **Ms Petra De Sutter** General Rapporteur on conditions of reception of refugees and migrants

SPEAKER INFO

Simon Cox

Simon Cox is the Migration Lawyer at the Open Society Justice Initiative, where he develops, implements, and manages legal strategies and projects to promote the rights of international migrants worldwide, and advises migrant-led groups to use the law and work with lawyers. Currently, he is supporting labour migrants from South-East Asia in Greece in making more effective use of national laws. He is the Justice Initiative's case lawyer for 42 Bangladeshi irregular migrant applicants in *Chowdury v Greece* (ECtHR, 2017), a leading judgment on forced labour of farm workers; and in *CHEZ* (Court of Justice of European Union, 2015), a leading judgment on race discrimination against geographical communities. Before joining the Justice Initiative, Simon spent 16 years as a barrister, practicing from Doughty Street Chambers in London.

Sophie Scheytt

Sophie Scheytt studied law in Spain and Germany, with a focus on administrative law and international maritime law. Since 2012, she has worked as a pro bono legal advisor for asylum seekers with Amnesty International in Berlin. Following several stints with international organisations and NGOs, including UNHCR and "borderline-europe", she joined Sea-Watch in the beginning of 2018 as Head of the German Advocacy Unit and member of the Legal Unit. At Sea-Watch, a non-profit organisation that conducts civil search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean, she is responsible for coordinating the organisation's advocacy work in different countries, including the Netherlands, Italy and Malta.

Rupert Skilbeck

Rupert Skilbeck is the Director of REDRESS, an international human rights organisation that brings legal cases on behalf of individual victims of torture, and advocates for better laws to provide effective reparations. REDRESS uses victim-centred strategic litigation to have an impact beyond the individual case so as to address the root causes of torture and challenge impunity. Before joining REDRESS Rupert was the Litigation Director at the Open Society Justice Initiative, where he oversaw human rights litigation in more than 100 cases including torture, deaths in custody, discrimination, fair trial rights, corruption, national security, and international criminal law. Prior to this he *inter alia* worked with international and hybrid criminal tribunals in Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sierra Leone, and practiced as a barrister in London.