

Seminar “Covering Migration: Challenges Met and Unmet”

Hosted by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Gulbekian Foundation, in partnership with the Global Editor’s Networks, this seminar of editors, migration journalists and migration experts will discuss challenges, best practices and opportunities.

Organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), hosted by the Gulbekian Foundation, and in partnership with the Global Editor’s Network, this seminar of editors, migration journalists and migration experts will discuss challenges, best practices and opportunities in the media coverage of migration.

In this era of unprecedented mobility, migration and the associated increase in cultural and ethnic diversity often generates or reinforces stereotyping. In today’s societies, migration is often perceived as a threat to stability, prosperity and identity. Often migrants are used as scapegoats, are stigmatized and held responsible for existing problems. When playing their role of agent of information, media can have a positive influence in enhancing pluralistic societies. On the other hand, when supporting myths, stereotypes and prejudices, media can reinforce a climate of tension.

For institutions like the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations that see the role of media in shaping public opinions and behaviors as crucial, it is timely to create a platform to further dialogue with media professionals on the issue of migration. Identifying challenges and best practices in the coverage of migration will help provide opportunities to counter misrepresentation and misinformation of migrants that encourages mistrust and leads to a social malaise between newcomers and host communities.

Aiming at engaging a more global discussion, the UNAOC proposes to present the recommendations of the seminar on the occasion of its annual Forum, in February 2013 in Vienna.

The High-Level reunion, which will be opened by High Representative President Jorge Sampaio and moderated according to the Chatham House Rule, brings together a selection of editors, journalists and migration experts from the Mediterranean region. In addition, the seminar will welcome representatives of the main organizers and partners - including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Global Editors Network (GEN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Union – and high level experts on migration.

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Moderator: Amy Selwyn, News Xchange

AGENDA

Friday 25 January 2013

13:00 – 13:30

Opening remarks

- *UNAOC High Representative, President Jorge Sampaio*

13:30 – 15:15

Round table

Identifying the issue, sharing the challenges:

What are the common flaws when covering migration? Why these flaws? A media professional's perspective

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:30

Setting the frame

a) Definitions, key notions, types of migration

- *Catherine Withol de Wenden, CERI-Sciences Po*

b) Facts and Figures: what is now and what to expect?

- *Jean-Philippe Chauzy, International Organization for Migration*

c) Migration and Identity

- *Dr. Khalid Koser, Geneva Center for Security Policy*

d) Migration and Integration

- *Jan Niessen, Migration Policy Group*

e) Migration and Discrimination

- *Pia Oberoi, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

17:30 – 18:00

Wrap-up session

20:00

Dinner

Saturday, 26 January 2013

08:45 – 10:00	Working groups Use news stories to examine and debate media coverage of migration
10:00 – 11:00	Round table Right words? Right images? <i>Exploring the importance of the careful choice of language and images when covering migration</i>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:00	Media Ethics and Migration • Aidan White, Ethical Journalism Network
12:00 – 12:30	Media and Migration in France: a case-study • Marie Luce Viaud, Observatoire Transmedia (OTMedia), INA
12:30 – 14:00	Working Lunch: Round table Best practices: <i>Share potential resources and potential strategies for a more balanced coverage of migration</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Coffee Break
14:15 – 15:45	Working groups: Recommended Action Drafting recommendations
15:45 – 16:45	Plenary session Finalizing recommendations
16:45 – 17:15	Closing • UNAOC High Representative, President Jorge Sampaio