



Advocating for the Rights of Undocumented Migrants: An Overview of PICUM's Work Since 2001



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON
UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

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- Do you believe that all **workers** should be protected from degrading treatment, dangerous working conditions, and non-payment of wages?
- Do you think that all **women** should be able to report violence, seek justice and access the protections which women have been struggling to obtain for centuries?
- Do you consider denying someone **health care** on grounds of their residence status as fundamentally at odds with the principles of modern society?
- Do you wish to live in a community in which all **children** can go to school, have a secure and safe place to live, and grow up without the daily threat of being separated from their parents?
- Do you consider hospitals, schools, women's shelters and churches as spaces whose integrity should not be undermined by **detection practices** seeking to hunt down migrants on grounds of their residence status?

So do we.

Find out how we turn
our mission into reality.



Introduction: Overcoming Challenges to Upholding Undocumented Migrants' Rights

Denied access to a legal income and subsidised services, up to four million undocumented men, women and children residing in the European Union face significant barriers to access their rights and obtain the basic elements for survival. Nonetheless, undocumented migrants are increasingly asserting their right to have rights by organising and building alliances to create awareness, change policies and bring about positive change. In negotiating their entitlements, speaking out about their individual experiences or working collectively as part of a broader movement, undocumented migrants are challenging exploitation to regain control of their situation.

Providing essential support on the ground, civil society organisations and associations constitute a vital link to undocumented migrants' realities. Their experiences are crucial in educating others about the human rights situation facing irregular migrants, and enabling them to take action.

PICUM was born as an initiative of local organisations to bridge their front-line expertise regarding the daily realities of undocumented migrants to the migration policy agendas at European and global level. Now representing a network of more than 140 organisations and 160 individual advocates working with undocumented migrants in more than 38

countries, primarily in Europe, as well as in other world regions, PICUM works to bring the voices of undocumented migrants and their supporters to decision makers and to strengthen their capacities through training, workshops, networking and information sharing.

With over ten years of evidence, experience and expertise on undocumented migrants, PICUM promotes recognition of their fundamental rights, providing an essential link between local realities and the debates at policy level. PICUM has built a comprehensive evidence base regarding the gap between international human rights law and the policies and practices existing at national level. PICUM engages a broad cross section of policy makers, civil society actors, professional bodies, media and the general public in advancing its rights-based approach.

Tracing the growth of PICUM's network, this report will explain how a rights-based approach can be used to advance the recognition and realisation of undocumented migrants' dignity and rights. Highlighting PICUM's achievements in key thematic areas of access to health care, fair working conditions, education and housing, and justice, this report aims to serve as a source of inspiration for undocumented migrants and their advocates in other regions.

Carrying Out the Vision of PICUM's Extraordinary Founders

Michele LeVoy
PICUM Director



PICUM has grown over the past decade from a very small organization to a major EU network that is recognized by key institutions in Europe as well as globally. Throughout this time, it has strived to achieve the goals of its extraordinary founders, who envisioned an organization that could serve as a place for practitioners to exchange with one another about developments in their respective countries concerning undocumented migrants, as well as influence policy developments.

The thematic focus areas that PICUM has developed over the years – access to health care, fair working conditions, education, housing and justice, the particular situation faced by undocumented children and women, and criminalization of migration – have all been identified by PICUM members as crucial issues faced by undocumented migrants, and thus given priority as key work areas. PICUM's direct link to the realities on the ground and its ability to transmit these concerns to policy makers is one of the important characteristics of the organization's approach.

From the start, PICUM's work has also been exemplified by a firm grounding in the international human rights framework, which has provided a much-needed lens to measure how well laws and policies apply principles of non-discrimination and equality before the law to undocumented migrants. The great statesman and activist Nelson Mandela once said, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity." A rights-based approach provides the vision of where our societies should be moving to ensure that irregular residence status does not become synonymous with human rights abuses.

I have been fortunate to contribute to PICUM's growth over the years, from 2002 when I joined the organization as a researcher on the first EU project, and then as director from 2006. Throughout this time, I have witnessed the steady support of dedicated individuals, from members of the board and the team, to our volunteer network, based all over the world, who have contributed in numerous ways to PICUM's development. The growth of the network has also been facilitated by PICUM's increasing membership, as well as a diverse network of funders, who all realize the importance of strengthening civil society's response to migration and social policy developments. As we look ahead to the years to come, we hope to build on the past decade's achievements to advance towards more just and inclusive societies.



Over a Decade of Advancing Undocumented Migrants' Rights

The growth of PICUM from a small, joint initiative among local-level organisations and advocates in the late 1990s, to its current status as a leading NGO in European and international policy discussions on migrants' rights, represents a major success of the migrant solidarity movement in Europe.

Grassroots Response to EU Policy Developments

In the mid-1990s, a number of organisations working directly with undocumented migrants found that these realities and concerns were often side-lined by the focus on refugees and asylum seekers. Several of these grassroots organisations and individuals came together to discuss how they could build a European initiative focused on the rights of undocumented migrants, especially in the areas of housing, health care, labour rights and education. By 1998, this small group of civil society organisations had begun an initial mapping of the social situation of undocumented migrants in Belgium, Netherlands and Germany, offering proposals to ensure that these basic rights would not be ignored at European level.

During the same period, the European Union laid the pillars for a common immigration and asylum policy. Since the creation of the area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union at the European Council meeting on 15-16 October 1999 in Tampere, Finland, the EU has had competence to develop common policies on asylum and immigration.¹ One of the four priorities in this



PICUM's membership has substantially grown over the years. Twenty members could fit around one table at the 2002 Annual General Assembly (above), whereas nowadays (below), with more than 100 members, the Annual General Assembly is held in an auditorium.

¹ Presidency Conclusions, Tampere European Council 15-16 October 1999, available at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/polju/en/EJN360.pdf



"In the past decade, the European migration debate has seen increased attention and awareness regarding the rights of undocumented migrants by international organisations. To a large extent PICUM has contributed to this positive change. PICUM combines a very fundamental standpoint on the rights of undocumented migrants with a practical approach to improve their situation even when rights have not been acknowledged."

Marieke van Doorninck, Advisor Public Affairs, La Strada International

new common policy on immigration and asylum was to "tackle illegal immigration" through policies framed around the prevention of irregular migration and the facilitation of return, with a strong focus on border control, the fight against trafficking of human beings and repatriation of migrants.

The emphasis on border control overshadowed other causes of irregularity, such as inadequate visa and residence policies, administrative failures, etc. Similarly, the insufficient focus on the human rights dimension in border management has led to lack of protections, deaths at sea, and grave human rights violations against undocumented migrants by member states and border control agencies operating with a lack of collective or individual responsibility.²

To prevent further erosion of undocumented migrants' human rights and reaffirm Europe's founding values of solidarity, human rights and rule of law, PICUM was mobilised as a platform of civil society organisations to ensure that EU policies aimed at migration management conform to member states' obligations under regional and international human rights standards. The continued growth of the network, the large dissemination of its results, and the increasing interest shown by key decision makers, testifies to PICUM's relevant and effective approach in promoting the core rights of undocumented migrants across the region and beyond.



"It is impressive to hear what PICUM has accomplished in a short time frame and in such a political climate; you've found a deficit, alerted the right people to this deficit, and provided the tools that people need to overcome this deficit."

Tineke Strik, Member of the Senate of the Netherlands and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

² Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly report "Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?", 29 March, 2012, available at: http://assembly.coe.int/CommitteeDocs/2012/20120329_mig_RPT.EN.pdf



Looking Back

A Reflection on How PICUM Started

Pieter Muller, One of PICUM's Founders and Honorary Chair



Pieter Muller, former PICUM Chair (second from the right), Nele Verbruggen, former PICUM Coordinator (center), and Hildegard Grosse, former PICUM board member (second from the left) being awarded the Theodor Heuss Medal in 2004 for PICUM's "commitment to promote the right of any person to humane treatment, no matter what their legal status is."

.....

Why in the late 1990s did we feel that we should create an international platform for dealing with the issue of undocumented migrants? We realised that while in many European countries, organisations and individuals were already actively involved in this issue, there was no exchange of experience, no centre for developing expertise, no systematic contact with the European institutions dealing with migration issues.

We also realised that many people had made a basic mistake, thinking that undocumented migrants are 'illegal' and thus, by the meaning of this word, have no rights. The founders of PICUM were clear about this point: undocumented or irregular migrants or '*sans papiers*' are human beings possessing basic human rights. That is, the human rights every human being in any country is enjoying – or at least, should be able to enjoy. Any state, any government, any authority should safeguard these rights on behalf of all and everybody. There are simply no people without any rights; all people have basic human rights. We all are aware of this fact which PICUM was established to confirm.

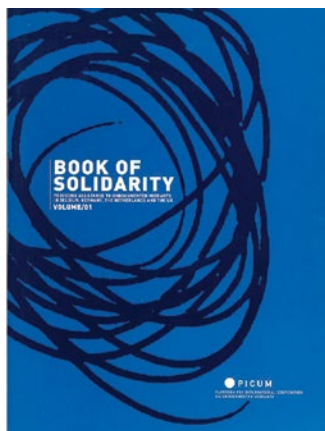
At the time of creating PICUM, we decided that the new NGO should deal not only with people who had been denied asylum but also with those who had lost, for instance, their temporary right of residence after a divorce, or following the termination of a work contract, thereby including workers, foreign spouses, domestic workers and others.



Didier Vanderslycke, Organisation for Undocumented Workers (OR.C.A.) (far right), one of the founders of PICUM and current treasurer, chairing the Working Group on Fair Working Conditions at PICUM's 2011 Annual General Assembly, 25 June 2011.

A further decision taken in the beginning of PICUM was that the platform should be open to both organisations and individuals agreeing with the organisation's basic principles. While the majority of organisations and individuals that joined PICUM are located in European countries, PICUM is open to those in other countries as well. Expertise on the rights of undocumented migrants and on practices in the various countries should be exchanged, the office in Brussels being a service centre for those seeking further expertise and providing expertise where this could be of use. Information and documentation would be provided, workshops and trainings given, governments, parliamentarians, lawyers, social workers and many more people would be listening, exchanging views, getting new insights.

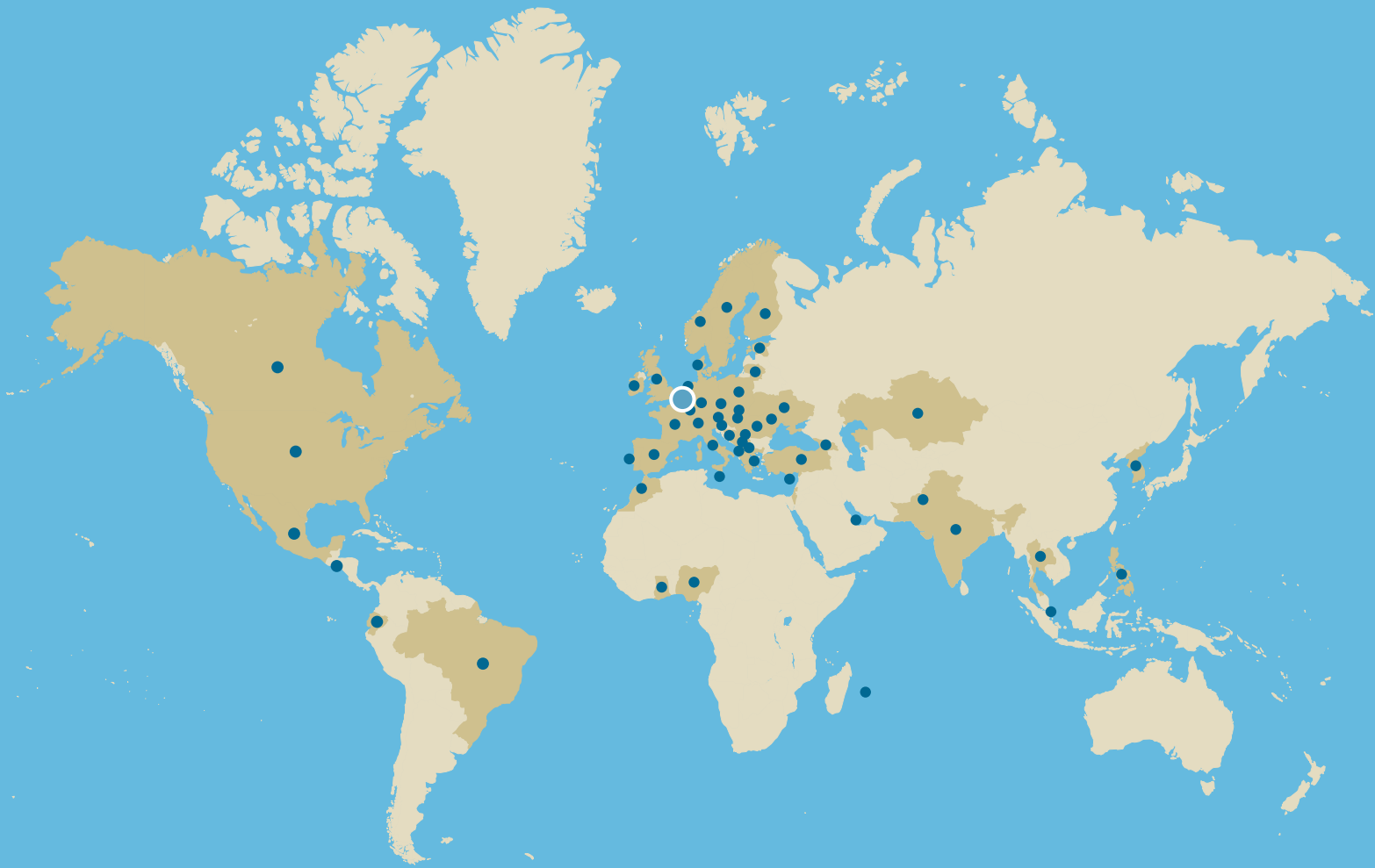
The office of PICUM is located in Brussels. While now an evident fact, for those of us who had to decide where the new organisation should be situated it was no point of discussion. For those less familiar with the abbreviation "ASBL" (association sans but lucratif – non-profit organization, under Belgian law), we can assure you that it stands for an association that does not aim to make profit. The only ones profiting are the undocumented migrants. Over the years, PICUM has moved to a bigger office, because its staff is now bigger, its work load and responsibilities as well.



"The Book of Solidarity", Volumes I-III, was the result of PICUM's first EU project and maps initiatives providing assistance to undocumented migrants across the EU.

There are good reasons for those who initiated PICUM to be proud of this development. This world is becoming more complex, intricate and interwoven, and societies that were rather homogeneous are becoming increasingly more diverse. Accepting human diversity requires openness of mind, broad views on the future of humankind and of this world. No narrowness, accepting new realities, but at the same time being realistic: people affected by changes of their human environment should be taken seriously, but at the same time people seeking security should be able to enjoy their human rights.

In our view, migrants, both documented and undocumented, are part of society and should be able to participate in it. Undocumented migrants' voices should be heard: we undocumented migrants have our rights, our rights as human beings, here we are!

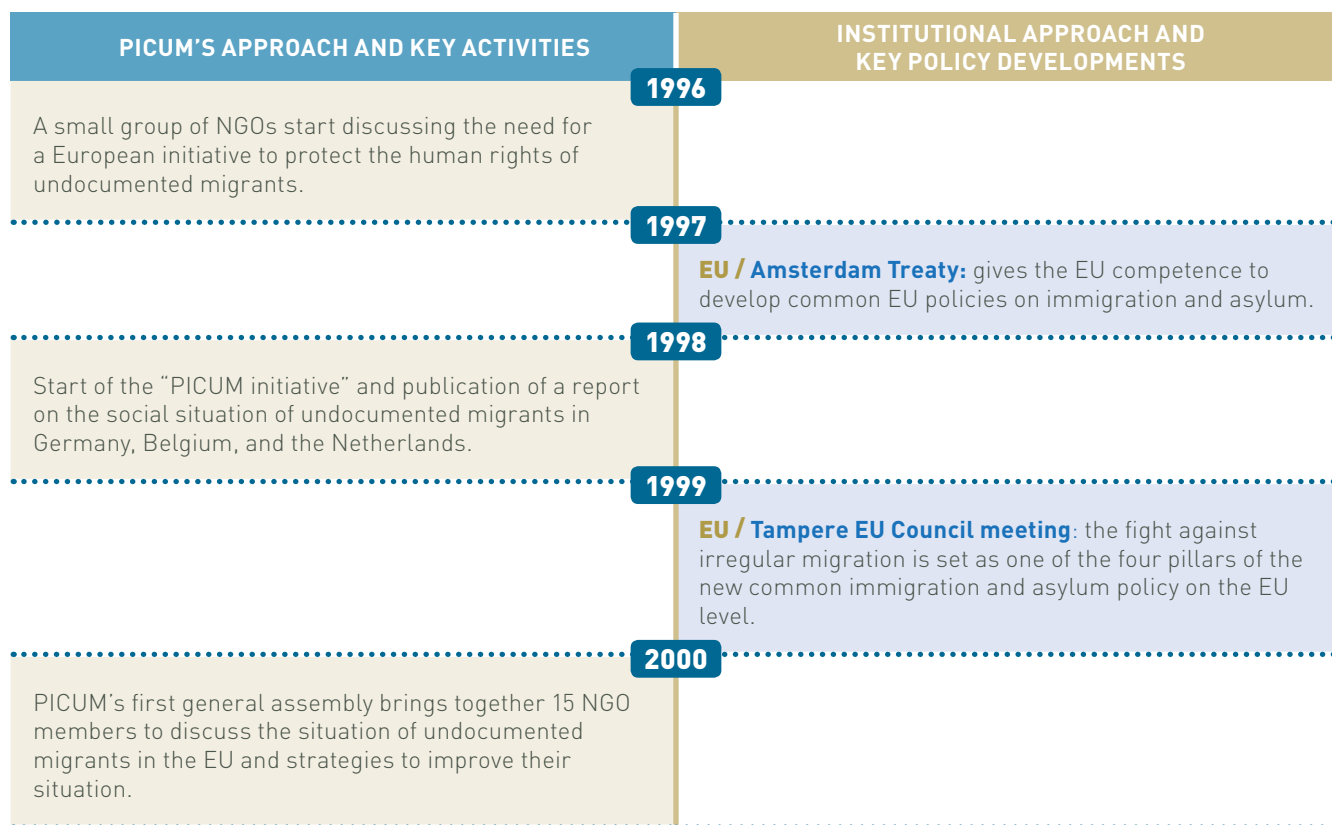


Over the past decade, PICUM staff, board and members have spoken at events in 42 countries around the world, on nearly all continents.

PICUM's membership now extends across 38 countries globally, including members in 22 EU member states.

Timeline of Key Policy Developments and PICUM Responses Concerning Undocumented Migrants

This timeline presents a brief overview of PICUM's key projects, publications and events from the start of the organization to the present day, as well as a selection of policy and legal developments within the European Union, Council of Europe and United Nations relating to undocumented migrants. It is not intended to be an exhaustive overview of relevant case law and policy initiatives. PICUM's ongoing efforts to collect evidence and bring issues such as undocumented migrants' access to health care, education, housing, fair working conditions and justice to the attention of policy makers are highlighted within a political context focused on the securitization of mobility and criminalization of migrants.



PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
Funding for a six-month project is received, and PICUM hires its first staff member. The organization registers under Belgian legislation as an official “non-profit organization” (asbl/vzw). PICUM holds its first international activity in Brussels, a seminar attended by 17 participants, to exchange experience and views of medical experts working with undocumented migrants in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the UK. PICUM's report of the event, “Health Care for Undocumented Migrants”, contains recommendations addressed at policy makers, medical professionals and NGOs.	2001 EU / European Commission introduces a proposal for a directive on “the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of paid employment and self-employed activities.” This directive aimed at establishing a common policy for the admission of migrant workers. While the proposal was received positively by several European institutions, discussions in the Council did not go further than a first reading of the text due to Member States' sovereignty concerns and diverging views on the issue. The proposal was finally withdrawn in 2006. EU / “Carriers Liabilities” directive (Council Directive 2001/51/EC) introduces financial penalties against carriers that transport undocumented migrants by air, rail, boat or road transport. EU / European Commission adopts a Communication on a “common policy on illegal immigration” (COM(2001)672 final).
2002 PICUM receives its first funding grant from the European Commission (DG Employment), for “The Book of Solidarity” project, to map initiatives providing assistance to undocumented migrants across the EU. Carried out in 10 EU member states, this project enables PICUM to expand its network to bring in members from Northern, Southern and Central Europe.	EU / Seville European Council Summit: Council reiterates that the “fight against illegal immigration” should be considered as a key priority and development aid will from now on be linked to readmission agreements. EU / “Facilitation Directive” (Council Directive 2002/90/EC) defines measures to penalize the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence.
2003 PICUM organises the first European conference on undocumented migrant workers at the European Parliament, bringing together nearly 200 representatives of civil society, trade unions, research institutes and policy makers from 20 countries to discuss the situation of undocumented workers in economies across the region.	EU / Dublin II Regulation: asylum seekers will be returned to the first European country they crossed when entering the territory of the EU.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
2003 <i>"Book of Solidarity: Providing Assistance to Undocumented Migrants"</i> is released, which seeks to counter the criminalization of undocumented migrants in the EU and respond to the EU "Facilitation Directive".	COE / FiDH v. France, Complaint No. 13/2003, European Committee on Social Rights. Successful collective complaint before the European Committee of Social Rights against France, to challenge a new law that imposed significant barriers on irregular migrant children's access to healthcare. The Committee made a landmark decision in overcoming the limitations of the Social Charter, whose scope only extends to regular residents. The Committee upheld this position in 2009 in another significant case, Defence for Children International (DCI) v. the Netherlands, Complaint No. 47/2008.
	UN / Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) is launched (2003-2005) by the United Nations Secretary-General with the mandate to provide the framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to the issue of international migration.
2004 PICUM actively contributes to the Global Commission on International Migration's Regional Hearing for Europe in Budapest, Hungary. <i>"Housing Situation of Undocumented Migrants in Six European Countries"</i> is released, which provides information on the right to housing and shelter in general, and gives an overview of the housing situation of undocumented migrants in six EU countries.	EU / Creation of the Frontex agency, tasked with the surveillance of EU borders in cooperation with third countries.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
PICUM begins a two-year project on access to health care for undocumented migrants, aimed at improving access to health care for undocumented migrants by reporting on the situation in eleven EU member states and building a network. This project is carried out with 19 partners, including healthcare providers, local authorities, and civil society organizations.	2005 EU / The Hague Programme (2005-2010): the key priority becomes the creation of an area of freedom, justice and security, and a new, “balanced approach to deal with legal and illegal immigration.”
	EU / European Council approves a “comprehensive approach” on migration that aims at working in partnership with third countries to address the issue of irregular migration, through the use of Readmission agreements with third-countries as a migration policy tool.
	UN / Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) issues General Comment No. 6 on “Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin,” which specifies that the enjoyment of rights stipulated in the Convention must be available to all children, irrespective of their nationality, immigration status or statelessness.
PICUM joins the Steering Committee of Migrants’ Rights International (MRI), a network of civil society organizations on the global level dedicated to the promotion of migrants’ rights. PICUM works closely with MRI to hold the first “People’s Global Action on Migration, Human Rights and Development,” an international civil society forum in conjunction with the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in September 2006.	2006 UN / High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is held in New York. This was the first ever high-level event organized by the General Assembly devoted exclusively to the issue of international migration and its linkages with development.
	EU / First Euro-African “Migration and Development” conference in Rabat. The new action plan links development aid to third-countries’ commitment to “stop irregular migration”.
	EU / European Commission issues a Communication on “Policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals”. (COM/2006/0402 final)

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
<i>“Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers”</i>, a toolkit of innovative strategies used by undocumented workers, migrant organizations and labour associations in both Europe and the United States to challenge exploitation and abuse, is launched at an international conference <i>“Protecting Undocumented Migrant Workers in Europe: Successes and Strategies,”</i> in cooperation with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).	2006 COE / Parliamentary Assembly issues Resolution 1509 (2006) “Human rights of irregular migrants,” inviting member states of the Council of Europe to guarantee irregular migrants the minimum civil, political, economic and social rights outlined in the resolution. ILO / Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, Non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration is issued by the ILO, which invites Member States, employers’ and workers’ organizations, as well as international organizations, to promote and respect its contents.
PICUM begins a two-year project on <i>“Fighting Discrimination-Based Violence against Undocumented Children in Europe.”</i> Carried out with five NGO partners, this project focuses on violence against undocumented children in the areas of health care, housing and education in nine EU member states. <i>“Clandestino- Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends Across Europe,”</i> a 2-year interdisciplinary project funded by DG Research, European Commission, begins, aiming at providing an inventory of data and estimates on irregular migration in selected EU countries. As the NGO partner, PICUM carries out dissemination activities at the local/national level and European level in several of the countries studied. <i>“Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe”</i>, the first report analyzing the legal entitlements of undocumented migrants in 11 EU member states, is released at an international conference with more than 200 participants.	2007 EU / European Commission issues a Communication on <i>“Circular migration and mobility partnerships between the EU and third countries”</i> (COM/2007/248) with an approach to labour migration that favours short-term solutions as opposed to settlement. EU / Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) is established, with the specific task of providing independent, evidence-based advice on fundamental rights.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES

2007

“Undocumented Migrants Have Rights! An Overview of the International Human Rights Framework” is published to reinforce and disseminate a rights-based approach to migration.

PICUM hosts the second **“People’s Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights”** in Brussels, which is organised by Migrants Rights International (MRI), the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and December 18. This international civil society forum coincided with the first **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** and was attended by nearly 200 participants from Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Africa and the Middle East.

2008

A **three-year strategy seeking to gender-sensitise PICUM’s rights-based approach** begins. PICUM explores the issues of health care, education, housing and fair working conditions from a gender perspective and develops a response to increased calls for information and support in the protection and empowerment of undocumented women.

PICUM begins **“Promoting rights and facilitating access to justice,”** a three-year project to strengthen the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants in Europe by increasing the monitoring and reporting of their human rights and engaging more directly with the development of laws and practices to improve their access to justice.

PICUM joins the interdisciplinary **“NowHereLand - Improving Services for Undocumented Migrants in the EU”** project as the NGO partner. The two-year project aims to create a knowledge base for providing, exchanging and developing good practices of health care services for undocumented migrants.

INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

GLOBAL / The first annual **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** is hosted by Belgium, with civil society organizations meeting one day prior to governments.

COE / Parliamentary Assembly issues **Resolution 1586 (2007) “Regularization programmes for irregular migrants,”** providing recommendations on formats of regularization schemes as well as the need to introduce more regular channels of migration.

EU / European Commission issues a Communication on **“a common immigration policy: principles, actions, instruments”** (COM/2008/0359). The focus of EU migration policies remains on returns and border management.

EU / “Returns Directive” (Council Directive 2008/115/EC) on “common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals” is adopted.

UN / Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) issues **General recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers.**

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
2009 DG Research (European Commission) and PICUM hold a workshop to disseminate the main findings of two research projects on irregular migration - "Clandestino" and "Undocumented Workers in Transition - to the policy community in Brussels. The two research projects were developed in response to the call for proposals on "Legal and illegal immigration towards the EU" that DG Research published in 2005 aiming to tackle this knowledge deficit. <i>"Undocumented and Seriously Ill: Residence Permits for Medical Reasons in Europe"</i> is released, which examines conditions for receiving a residence permit on medical grounds in 11 EU member states. <i>"Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions"</i> is launched at a conference focusing on undocumented children living with their families or other caregivers in Europe. This report outlines undocumented children's access to health care, education and housing in nine EU member states.	EU / European Parliament adopts a resolution on 14 January 2009 on "the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008" (2007/2145/(INI)), with specific recommendations to uphold undocumented workers' rights in the section on "irregular employment." EU / EUROSTAT now refers to the results of the Clandestino Project, which estimate that there are between 1.8 and 3 million irregular foreign residents in the EU. EU / "Employers' Sanctions Directive" (Council Directive 2009/52/EC) is adopted, providing for "minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals." UN / Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) issues General comment No. 20 on "Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights," which specifies that migration status is a prohibited ground for discrimination.
2010 PICUM joins a consortium to carry out research for the "Fundamental Rights Situation of Irregular Migrants in the European Union (FRIM)" project, run by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, which examines key aspects of the protection of undocumented migrants' fundamental rights in the EU.	EU / The Stockholm Programme (2010-2014): the EU identifies border control and "combating illegal immigration" as key priorities, and also proposes the development of an EU Action Plan on "unaccompanied minors." EU / European Commission proposes a draft "Seasonal Migrant Workers' Directive" on "conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment." UN / Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) adopts its first General Comment on migrant domestic workers.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
PICUM, Doctors of the World, European Women's Lobby and European Anti-Poverty Network co-organise a hearing at the European Parliament entitled "Preventing Undocumented Pregnant Women and Children from Accessing Health Care: Fostering Health Inequalities in Europe".	2010 COE / Commissioner for Human Rights presents an issue paper on "Criminalisation of Migration in Europe: Human Rights Implications," calling on Council of Europe member states to establish a human rights compliant approach to irregular migration.
Building on its previous research and development of a network, PICUM starts a new 2-year project "Building Strategies to Improve the Protection of Undocumented Children in Europe". Through a series of national workshops in seven EU member states, the project aims to help social service professionals, public officials, NGO representatives, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and undocumented families to build understanding of the problems children in an irregular migration situation face when exercising their rights to education, healthcare and housing, and develop strategies to overcome the challenges identified.	2011 COE / Parliamentary Assembly issues Recommendation 1985 (2011) "Undocumented migrant children in an irregular situation: a real cause for concern," underlining that lack of and unclear legal entitlements to primary and secondary education, health care and housing results in undocumented children facing high risks of poverty, exploitation, social exclusion and violence. EU / European Parliament adopts a resolution on 8 March 2011 on "Reducing health inequalities in the EU" (2010/2089(INI)), calling on EU member states to address health inequalities for undocumented migrants. UN / Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) holds a Day of General Discussion on Undocumented Migrant Workers, and begins work on a General Comment on Undocumented Migrant Workers. COE / Committee of the Ministers issues a Recommendation on "mobility, migration and access to health care" [CM/Rec(2011)13], calling on member states to grant undocumented migrants access to health care, to not require health agencies to report undocumented migrants to the authorities, and to remove practical barriers for accessing health care services.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
PICUM receives a 3-year operating grant from the European Commission PROGRESS fund, enabling the organization to substantially strengthen its network of frontline organizations by bringing around 100 member organizations to its Annual General Assembly and Annual International Workshop, offering thematic working groups, providing interpretation at events, as well as developing other initiatives and activities.	2011
	EU / Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) releases “Fundamental rights situation of migrants in an irregular situation in the European Union,” the first report to examine undocumented migrants’ access to healthcare, education, housing, and fair working conditions in the EU27. Two in-depth case studies covering 10 EU member states are also produced, on the legal, economic and practical obstacles faced by undocumented migrants in accessing health care; and challenges affecting undocumented migrants employed in the domestic work sector.
	ILO / Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 are adopted by the ILO, representing a strong recognition of the economic and social value of domestic work and a call for action to address the existing exclusions of domestic workers from labour and social protection.
	COE / Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No. 2010) is adopted, the first legally binding instrument at the pan-European level providing a comprehensive legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence.
	EU / European Commission adopts a Communication on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) (COM(2011) 743 final), accompanied by a Staff Working Document on Migration and Development.

PICUM'S APPROACH AND KEY ACTIVITIES	INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
2012	
PICUM joins the two-year project “Beyond Irregularity: Towards a sustainable approach to dealing with irregular migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe”, an interdisciplinary research programme on irregular and transit migration from sub-Saharan Africa through Morocco to the European Union. PICUM's role as project partner is to develop advocacy trainings for civil society organizations in Morocco and Nigeria.	EU / “Victims’ Directive” (Council Directive 2012/29/ EU) is adopted, setting out minimum rights for all victims of crime, including undocumented migrants, to be respected and ensured within the whole territory of the European Union.
PICUM is appointed as a member of the FRONTEX Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, a knowledge and expertise resource body to enable Frontex to gain information and advice to develop and promote the full respect of fundamental rights in all of Frontex's activities.	EU / Council of the European Union approves the “EU Action on Migratory Pressures – A Strategic Response”, an action paper that identifies as strategic priority areas for EU action both border management and the prevention of irregular immigration.
“Strategies to End Double Violence Against Undocumented Women. Protecting Rights and Ensuring Justice,” gathering laws, practices and partnerships that ensure rights and justice for undocumented women, is launched at a hearing in the European Parliament and supported by parliamentarians across the political spectrum.	UN / Committee on the Rights of Child (CRC) holds a Day of General Discussion on “The rights of all children in the context of international migration”. Strong calls are made for full implementation of child rights for all children, in migration law, policy and practice.
PICUM launches “Undocumentary,” a web documentary on the daily realities faced by undocumented migrants living in Europe.	UN / Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants begins a one-year comprehensive study to examine the impact of EU border management policies on the human rights of migrants in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
2013	
“Children First and Foremost: a guide to realizing the rights of children and families in an irregular migration situation” is launched at an international conference in Brussels, bringing together over 200 civil society advocates, front-line organisations, undocumented families, social service professionals, public officials, and national and European policy makers.	EU / European Commission issues a Recommendation on “Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage” (C(2013) 778 final), clarifying that health systems should be improved to address the needs of disadvantaged children, with special attention to the needs of undocumented children.
	UN / Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in October 2013.



Rights-Based Approach to Migration

1. What is a Rights-Based Approach to Migration?

A rights-based approach seeks to ensure that migration policies and processes adhere to the norms, principles, standards and goals of the international human rights system.

Derived from being human, natural rights cannot be bestowed or renounced by laws or policies. All persons, without discrimination, must have access to all fundamental human rights provided in the international bill of human rights. While nation states may grant or withhold

citizenship, differential treatment, either between citizens and non-citizens or between different groups of non-citizens, can only be undertaken to achieve a legitimate objective, and the course of action taken to achieve must be proportionate and reasonable.

THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS

International human rights law is a set of international rules, established by treaty or custom, on the basis of which individuals and groups can expect certain entitlements or benefits from governments.

The International Bill of Rights is made up three instruments:

- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols](#)
- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#).

The International Bill of Rights and five other UN human rights treaties represent international standards for the respect and promotion of human rights.³ These instruments contain a number of rights that are applicable to undocumented migrants, as clearly spelled out in their consistent and respective non-discrimination clauses, notwithstanding duly specified restrictive clauses.



³ The Core International Human Rights Instruments are available in English, French and Spanish at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx>

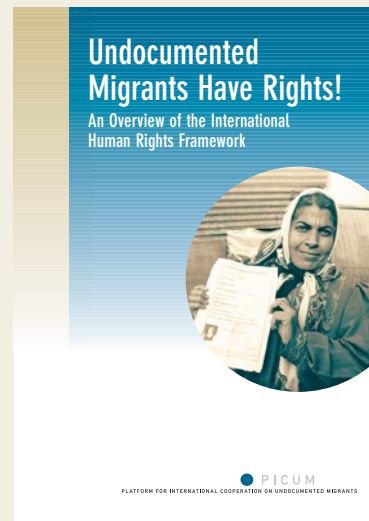
THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AS A KEY ELEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Non-discrimination, together with equality before the law and equal protection of the law without discrimination, constitute a basic and general principle relating to the protection of human rights. Almost all of the UN treaties have a clear reference to this principle.

The principle of non-discrimination means that any differences in the treatment meted out to migrants must conform to international law and must not breach migrants' internationally recognised human rights. Therefore, the principle of non-discrimination adheres to the rule of *jus cogens*, intended to be binding even without a clear reference in the text.

The principle of non-discrimination under international law does not prevent making distinctions between groups (including on the basis of nationality) but such distinctions have to be based in the law, meet a legitimate and pressing social concern, can be objectively justified, and are crafted carefully so as not to impinge disproportionately on the rights concerned. Otherwise, such distinctions will amount to discrimination and be unlawful.

Targeting undocumented migrants, human rights defenders and policy makers, PICUM's 2007 guide is a powerful tool in outlining the applicability of the international human rights framework to undocumented migrants.



2. How Does a Rights-Based Approach Define PICUM's Work?

PICUM works to ensure that the international human rights framework, which codifies the protections, rights and responsibilities of all people without discrimination, becomes a reality for migrants living and working in an irregular situation.

Grounded in the ethical position that all people are entitled to a certain standard of living, and that the equal worth and dignity of those suffering injustice are recognised, PICUM's approach is rooted in the international human rights framework to advance awareness, accountability and realisation of undocumented migrants' rights. Accordingly, PICUM addresses the fundamental causes of abuses against undocumented migrants, empowers them and their advocates to claim their rights (as rights holders), enabling both state and non-state actors with the duty to respect, protect and fulfil these rights to meet their obligations.

"Undocumented migrants may not speak up even if exploited and abused since they fear being detected and returned. Providing a direct link to undocumented migrants' realities, PICUM takes on a crucial role in protecting their basic fundamental rights."

Adriano Silvestri, Head of Sector Asylum, Migration and Borders, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

"PICUM's work highlights the dangers, insecurities, and predicament of millions of migrant workers and members of their families who are in an irregular status. States, labour markets, and capital benefit largely from the precarious situation of the migrant worker in this status as it brings down the cost of labour and ensures that labour is subdued and subservient.

PICUM's rights-based approach to migration sets to demonstrate how this structure could be minimized, if not all together reversed. It essentially drives us to fully comprehend that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights' and that 'no human being is illegal'."

William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum Asia

3. How is it Implemented in Practice?

STEP 1: Improving Understanding of Undocumented Migrants’ “Right to Rights”

By providing impartial, credible and accessible information on undocumented migrants’ entitlements and the implementation of these entitlements in both law and practice, PICUM has become a centre of expertise on the realities and rights of undocumented migrants.

PICUM monitors and reports on undocumented migrants’ realisation of human rights including the right to health, education, housing, and fair working conditions. PICUM works to inform and improve laws, policies and principles both in the domains of migration as well as broader social policies which influence the living conditions and welfare of society as a whole. PICUM is called on by migrants, civil society organisations, advocates, academics, states, as well as interstate bodies to give input on the human rights framework as it applies to undocumented migrants and provide key examples from the field regarding the realisation or limitation of these rights.

Undocumented Migrants - Symptom not the Problem

PICUM provides targeted and analytical input, expertise and assessment on range of policies and processes which lead to irregularity and define current responses to the phenomenon. PICUM’s members bear witness to the role of regular migration channels in pushing certain migrants into an irregular situation. PICUM strategically integrates these experiences into thematic debates on labour migration, asylum procedures, border management, and family reunification policies. PICUM’s active participation in the international migrants’ rights movement further informs its approach regarding global trends of human mobility, their intersection with development, trade, environmental, political and gender-related concerns, and how these impact upon irregular migration patterns and policies.



Michele LeVoy, PICUM Director, Kadri Soova, PICUM Advocacy Officer and William Gois, Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), at the UN Migrant Workers’ Committee Day of General Discussion (DGD) on “The Rights of Migrant Workers in an Irregular Situation and Members of Their Families”, 19 September 2011, Geneva, Switzerland.

PICUM provides essential input on regular migration channels, bringing its members’ experiences regarding the gaps and failings of policies on family reunification, labour migration, and asylum, among others, to the heart of these policy debates.

Challenging the Criminalisation of Human Mobility

The criminalisation of migration is a relatively recent phenomenon and by no means an apparent, necessary or even effective policy response. Normalised by casting migrants as ‘illegal’ and rationalised by blaming them for social and economic failings, these policies are implemented by limiting migrants’ access to justice and services on grounds of their residence status. For over a decade, PICUM has raised awareness about increasing economic reliance upon undocumented migrant workers, while systematically and effectively challenging the dehumanising and discriminatory terminology used against them. This work has initiated an evident shift in the debate regarding the contribution, presence, and rights of undocumented migrants at local, national, European and international levels.

CAMPAIGN ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY REGARDING MIGRANTS

The use of accurate and ethical terminology has been an on-going and longstanding theme of PICUM's work. As a result, many major civil society networks, international organisations and policy makers have internalised PICUM's argument and now use "irregular" or "undocumented" instead of "illegal" in relation to migrants.

As far back as 1975, the UN General Assembly requested that "all United Nations organs and specialized agencies... utilize in all official documents the term 'non-documented or irregular migrant workers' to define those workers that illegally and/or surreptitiously enter another country to obtain work."⁴

The Council of Europe, European Parliament, European Commission as well as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) emphasise the importance of correct terminology in relation to migrants. This very recent shift in discourse, evident at both civil society and institutional level, has advanced the rights-based approach to irregular migration and encouraged both key organisations and institutions to reassess their position and take on undocumented migrants' concerns.

2007

"We should make an immediate distinction between those who deserve international protection and are asylum seekers, and those who are simply illegal economic migrants. Illegal migrants should be repatriated."

Franco Frattini, Vice President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security (2004-2008)⁵

2010

"And let me be clear about my vocabulary too: illegal migrants do not exist. People may come to the EU and might be required to use irregular ways...but no human being is illegal."

Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Home Affairs (2010-2014)⁶

4 General Assembly, Measures to ensure the human rights of all migrant workers, 3449, 2433rd plenary meeting, 9 December 1975, para 2.

5 Franco Frattini, Vice President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security (2004-2008), EUX.TV Interview: "Franco Frattini on illegal immigration," 9 July 2007, editor: Raymond Frenken. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbUwnd_sl0A (2.28).

6 Source: Cecilia Malmström speaking at "The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change" organized by the International Organisation for Migration, in Geneva, 29 November 2010 (Ref: SPEECH/10/699). Full transcript available at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-10-699_en.htm?locale=en

PICUM PRIORITY: AWARENESS RAISING



PICUM works to promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying the protection of undocumented migrants' rights among relevant partners and the wider public.

PICUM coordinates networking and information exchange to facilitate changes on the ground while mainstreaming undocumented migrants' concerns within policy debates. This support benefits migrant-led organisations, NGOs, service providers, policy makers and others interested in supporting and empowering those with an irregular status. PICUM advances the needs and experiences of its members in a framework that promotes dialogue and partnership, engaging a broad spectrum of actors in promoting a rights-based approach towards irregular migrants.

"Over its ten years of work, PICUM has been crucial in giving visibility to the vulnerability of undocumented migrants in Europe which puts them at heightened risk of human rights violations. Access to basic rights is often denied to them and those who experience abuse face enormous barriers in accessing justice because they lack an immigration status."

**Anneliese Baldaccini, Amnesty International
European Institutions Office**

STEP 2: Empowering Undocumented Migrants to Claim their Rights

Promoting the realisation that irregular migrants are human beings with rights protected by international human rights law, PICUM works to ensure their meaningful and systematic inclusion in the global movement to claim these rights.

PICUM raises awareness about the far reaching economic and social contributions made by undocumented migrants, their achievements in negotiating their rights, and their essential role in the broader movement to address discriminatory policies and practices. PICUM is dedicated to providing information, networking, and practical support to undocumented migrants and their advocates to improve their daily realities, acknowledge their expertise, and ensure the effective realisation of their rights.



Participants at PICUM's conference on "Undocumented Migrant Women in Europe", 12-13 December 2011

With origins firmly within the migrants' rights movement, PICUM considers the participation of migrant communities as both a means and a goal in all aspects of its work.



PICUM Board Member, Edel McGinley, chaired a capacity building meeting with migrant women and advocates, a day prior to PICUM's international conference on "Undocumented Migrant Women in Europe", 12-13 December 2011.

To enable the participation and empowerment of undocumented migrants in challenging the erosion of their right to rights, PICUM has facilitated the participation of undocumented migrants in key discussions at the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Parliament, and the EU's Annual Fundamental Rights Conference.

Facilitating the Participation of Undocumented Migrants in Its Activities

PICUM prioritises the participation and empowerment of migrant communities in challenging the erosion of their right to rights. By connecting the voices of those excluded from policy debates, working with them to develop a valued and recognised evidence base, PICUM provides an internationally respected platform through which they may improve their realities at local, national, regional, and international level. By increasing the linguistic diversity of its materials and activities, offering its resources and expertise free of charge, waiving membership fees for volunteer-based groups and providing a solidarity fund to facilitate their participation at key events, PICUM maintains the voice of migrant organisations within its growing network, facilitating their input and their expertise at activities and debates both on the national and international levels.

Priority Work Areas Based on Members' Needs

PICUM's thematic areas work areas, working methods and strategic goals have all been developed in cooperation with its members, in order to support them in their daily work. PICUM members contribute to the organisation's work in many ways: they steer the long term planning of PICUM, and provide strategic input and support to all events, research projects and advocacy initiatives. PICUM members benefit greatly from being part of an international network working for the rights of undocumented migrants. In coordinating networking and information exchange to bring about changes on the ground, while mainstreaming undocumented migrants' concerns within policy debates, PICUM advances the needs and experiences of its members in a framework that promotes dialogue and partnership.



Members of PICUM's Working Group on undocumented women, meeting to discuss access to shelter and housing for undocumented women in Europe, 4 October 2012.

By strengthening the capacity of frontline advocates and organisations through essential policy and research-related support, PICUM builds accountability for undocumented migrants' rights from the bottom up.

PICUM PRIORITY: CAPACITY BUILDING



Committed to supporting those involved in effectively preventing and addressing discrimination against undocumented migrants, PICUM continues to provide practical and strategic support to both individuals and organisations free of charge.

PICUM coordinates information exchange, disseminates good practices and promotes networking to improve the practical and policy context for those working with irregular migrants. PICUM has assisted its members' engagement in the realisation of just and fair strategies in the domains of healthcare, education, housing, fair working conditions, and access to justice, by providing them with comparative policy frameworks, facilitating their engagement with the international human rights framework, mainstreaming their concerns into public and political debates, and strategically linking their experiences to the European and international policy agendas.

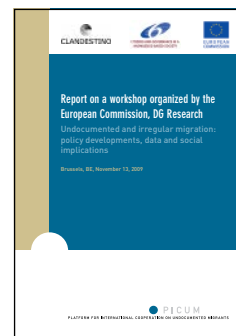
“TRUSTED, a transnational self-organised group of migrant domestic workers formed in 2002, is grateful to PICUM for including us as a member and for enabling us to participate in conferences which place the plight of undocumented first in its agenda. Our representatives come back from PICUM events well informed and with various materials which we use to educate those not fortunate or brave enough to cross the border. PICUM's reading materials and website are very helpful and have inspired us to come out and be visible, visibility which helps to us to conquer our fear as undocumented and assert our rights.”

Edgar Legaspi, Membership & Information Coordinator, TRUSTED Migrants, The Netherlands

STEP 3: Helping Service Providers, Public Authorities and Policy Makers to Meet Their Obligations

Affirming the basic obligation of both state and non-state actors to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of undocumented migrants, PICUM provides targeted, pragmatic and policy-relevant tools enabling both state and non-state actors to ensure fair treatment and accountability.

PICUM is committed to constructive dialogue with the makers and executors of policies affecting undocumented migrants. Addressing frameworks regulating the movement of people across international borders, PICUM also engages in policy frameworks encompassing broader issues related to human welfare such as health, education, housing, working conditions, gender equality and child rights. By rooting its approach in the international human rights framework, PICUM has brought about commitment and change for undocumented migrants within both policy and practice.



To improve policy makers' understanding of the complexity of irregular migration, PICUM was a partner on the project CLANDESTINO: “Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable, Data, Trends Across Europe” (2007-2009) funded by European Commission DG Research. The research findings were launched at a workshop in the European Commission on 13 November 2009 attended by key representatives of the European Commission (DG AIDCO, DG EMPL, DG JLS, DG RELEX, DG RTD), the Council of the EU (Visa Unit), the European Socio-Economic Council, the Fundamental Rights Agency, FRONTEX, EUROPOL and the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA).

Increasing Understanding of Undocumented Migrants' Right to Rights

PICUM's newsletter and thematic publications have monitored interpretations of undocumented migrants' rights by treaty bodies, independent experts, national courts and professional organisations. By reaffirming the universality and indivisibility of rights and clearly delineating the responsibilities they imply, PICUM seeks to strengthen the capacities of service providers, public authorities and policy makers to meet their obligations towards undocumented migrants. Serving as a clear and consistent voice on the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants, PICUM has alerted a broad range of actors to the complexity and fluidity of mobility and status, and helped them to identify the inconsistencies which a control-based policy response poses to their obligations under international human rights law.

PICUM provides comprehensive and accessible information regarding the core tenets of the international human rights framework and its application to undocumented migrants.

Clear and Policy-Relevant Information Regarding Human Rights Obligations

PICUM's work has contributed to a growing recognition that the discrimination, exploitation and abuse of undocumented migrants is not a valid policy response, but a violation of their human rights. Attentive monitoring and reporting of undocumented migrants' access to human rights has allowed PICUM to foster recognition that discrimination faced on grounds of their immigration status constitutes serious and systematic violations. PICUM has traced these violations to both control-based policies seeking to detect or regulate undocumented migrants' presence, as well as the design and execution of social policies which fail to address their presence, needs and entitlements.



Michele LeVoy, PICUM Director, speaking at FRA Annual Conference 2012, Poland.

Engaging Authorities and Policy Makers at Local, Regional and International level

PICUM's practical insight and grounded expertise has enabled it to effectively engage local, regional and city level authorities, gain a valued presence within national and European policy debates, and emerge as a key actor on the global migration policy scene. PICUM has also played a central role in initiating dedicated studies, statements and initiatives by the United Nations, Council of Europe, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, European Parliament, and Committee of Regions, among others, underlining the obligations of both state and non-state actors to uphold the dignity and rights of undocumented migrants.



Xavier Alonso Calderón, Representative of the General Directorate for Immigration of the Government of Catalonia, showing an example of a new health card for undocumented migrants in Catalonia, at the roundtable on "Guaranteeing Access to health care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe: What Role can Local and Regional Authorities Play?", 12 December 2012,

organised by PICUM, the Committee of the Regions and Eurocities. To counter a restrictive legal framework recently established at the national level, the Government of Catalonia adopted complementary regional provisions to grant undocumented migrants a special health card, to be able to access to health care services.

PICUM PRIORITY: **ADVOCACY**



PICUM works to incorporate undocumented migrants' human rights concerns within a broad range of policy agendas at national, regional and international levels.

PICUM has established undocumented migrants' access to education, housing, health care, and fair labour conditions as the norm, enabling the effective targeting of both legal and practical barriers in these domains. Instead of addressing irregular migration as a stand-alone issue, PICUM has drawn the debate toward the human rights at stake, focusing on how to ensure dignity and rights regardless of immigration status. PICUM's evidence base ensures an informed and proactive approach to advocacy, identifying common experiences at grassroots level, highlighting gaps in the public debate, and integrating these concerns within civil society and government agendas. Not only has this approach informed PICUM's members' engagement in national policy debates on social inclusion, gender discrimination, workplace rights, public health etc., but has major relevance to organisations supporting undocumented migrants in other world regions.



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Participants at public hearing at the European Parliament on *"Preventing Undocumented Women and Children from Accessing Health Care: Fostering Health Inequalities in Europe"*, 8 December 2010, organised by PICUM, Médecins du Monde, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).

"The work that has been done by PICUM has been extremely important for those who work on migrants' rights issues in different regions, not only in the context of Europe. One of the critical contributions of PICUM is their unique focus on the rights of undocumented migrants. The combination of strategies and actions that PICUM has developed such as networking, researching, training and advocacy is not only an example for many other institutions, but also the key for improving the chances of social and political change. This approach has led to the production of very useful, quality tools for everyone who works on promoting the rights of migrants, particularly those who are in more vulnerable circumstances due to their migration status."

Pablo Ceriani, University of Lanus, Argentina



Action and Achievements

1. Access to Health Care

The right to health is a core right, essential to the realisation of all other rights. Assuring undocumented migrants' entitlement to the highest attainable standard of health remains a key priority for PICUM. Access to healthcare was the topic of PICUM's first activity as a newly founded network in 2001. PICUM was the first organisation to analyse undocumented migrants' legal entitlements to health care in different member states of the European Union, gather good practice examples, and enable transnational cooperation between migrants' rights organisations and healthcare professionals on the issue.

PICUM's activities have established undocumented migrants' right to health in Europe, and engaged a broad range of state and non-state actors in challenging the obstacles and barriers in accessing these rights.

ACTION

First European Civil Society Initiative Bringing Together Health Professionals and Migrants' Rights NGOs (2001)

From 22-23 March 2001, PICUM held a seminar in Brussels bringing medical experts and non-governmental organisations working with undocumented migrants in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom together to exchange their experiences and viewpoints in order to improve both policy and practice. To inform a broader audience of its innovative approach, PICUM produced a report describing the various national contexts, the role of medical ethics and human rights for the work of healthcare providers, and a detailed set of recommendations aimed at both practitioners and policy makers.

“Since 1998 we have provided health care to over 3,000 undocumented migrants in Sweden. PICUM has been very important to us, giving the opportunity to be a part of a bigger discussion, to compare the situation in Sweden with other countries, and to engage in mutual learning. We have to act together for the rights of the undocumented migrants - but also for the principles of a human society built on rights and ethical values for everyone.”

Anne Sjögren, Nurse/ Team Leader, Rosengrenska/Red Cross in Gothenburg, Sweden

First Mapping of Health Care Legislation, Policies and Practices in Europe (2007)

In 2007, PICUM released the first report analysing the legal entitlements of undocumented migrants in 11 EU member states. Conducted through a unique partnership of healthcare providers, local authorities and civil society organisations, this report identified successful practices existing in law, policy and practice, serving as a good partnership model, enabled the transfer of both legislative models and practical examples, and led to positive developments at both national and EU policy levels.



Left to right: Margarete Spohn, Stelle fuer interkulturelle Arbeit Muenchen (Germany), Antonio Salceda, Hospital Punta de Europa (Spain), Henk Vis, Gemeentelijke Gezondheidsdienst Rotterdam, (The Netherlands), and Ellen Druyts, Medimmigrant (Belgium) speaking at a session on building partnerships at the local level at PICUM's international conference on "Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe", 28-29 June 2007.

PICUM in cooperation with Eurocities held an international conference on 28-29 June 2007 on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe. 200 participants came together to address the problems associated with insufficient access to health care services for undocumented migrants.

"Throughout history, immigration has enriched Andalusia as a people and a culture. Despite attempts by the central government, undocumented migrants in our region have retained the right to health care on equal terms with those born here. Ultimately, we do this for public health and human rights reasons. Immigration represents a chance to revitalise civil society in cooperation with the efforts and commitment of organisations working closely with irregular migrants. Through their work and dedication to this issue, organisations like PICUM dignify our society."

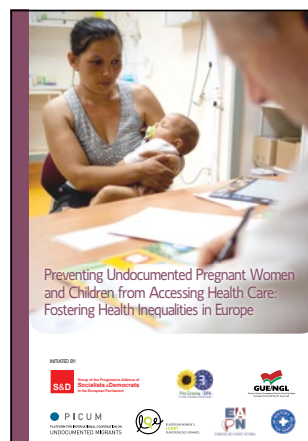
Josefa Ruiz Fernandez, Secretary General of Public Health, Social Inclusion and Quality of Life, Andalusian Government, Spain

OUTCOME

- PICUM's monitoring and reporting activities on access to healthcare for undocumented migrants brought significant attention to inconsistencies between states' international obligations vis-à-vis national legislation and practice.
- In Sweden, PICUM's EU-wide analysis on access to health care for undocumented migrants in both law and practice provided a vital cornerstone for efforts by medical professionals and civil society organisations in bringing about a change in law. The highly publicised "Right to Health Initiative", involving a cross-section of Swedish health professionals, trade unions and civil society organisations, has succeeded in bringing about legislative change to expand undocumented migrants' legal entitlements to care. This initiative drew heavily on the work of PICUM to highlight Sweden's failure to ensure the right to health for undocumented migrants and offer alternative models of legislation, practice, and provision.
- PICUM has gained a credible position among medical professionals: its research has been referred to in international medical journals including 'The Lancet' and 'Health and Human Rights.' PICUM is frequently called upon by professional bodies to underline the public health, human rights and ethical considerations surrounding the provision of healthcare to undocumented migrants.
- PICUM's multifaceted approach was adopted by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in their 2011 study on healthcare as part of the "Fundamental Rights of Irregular Migrants" study, which transferred PICUM's analysis to the 27 member states of the European Union.

"PICUM has carried out valuable action throughout the years. Having created one of the most important networks amongst health and social care associations in Europe, PICUM's reach now extends to the most significant policy level institutions. PICUM's work allowed us, for the first time, to learn about and compare legislative aspects and best practices regarding access to healthcare for undocumented migrants, enabling health professionals to present precise and credible motions and submissions to their national governments. This work is done in a friendly and professional way, best represented by the smile with which the PICUM team welcomes us to Brussels."

Daniela Panizzut, Società italiana di medicina delle migrazioni (SIM) and Pierfranco Olivani Commissione Ministeriale Sanità e Immigrazione (NAGA), Italy



PICUM joined with Médecins du Monde and several other partners to organise a joint hearing in the European Parliament in December 2010. This event supported the adaptation of a resolution on "Reducing health inequalities in the EU" on 8 March 2011, in which the European Parliament called on member states to tackle health inequalities for undocumented migrants.

2. Fair Working Conditions

PICUM has worked continuously to establish undocumented migrants' right to fair working conditions and engage key organisations, institutions, and society in the realisation of this right.

The majority of undocumented migrants are workers, confined to the informal economy where their unprotected status exposes them to various forms of exploitation and abuse. PICUM has led the way in addressing this situation in Europe by offering an informed, pragmatic and rights-based framework for policy makers and civil society. As a network of frontline organisations, and with a foothold in the global movement for migrant workers' rights, PICUM has developed a solid evidence base about the presence of undocumented workers, the global economic reliance upon them, and the urgent need to ensure their rights as workers.

ACTION

First European Conference on Undocumented Migrant Workers (2003)

PICUM's first step was to identify the sectors in which undocumented migrant workers in Europe were employed, and the key issues they faced.

In May 2003, PICUM brought together nearly 200 representatives of civil society, trade unions, research institutes and policy makers from 20 countries to a symposium in the European Parliament to discuss the situation of undocumented workers in economies across the region.

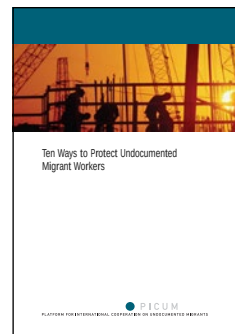
The report produced following this event outlined the global forces contributing to international labour migration, the labour conditions faced by undocumented workers in



PICUM international conference, "Undocumented Migrant Workers", European Parliament, 26 May 2003. By framing evidence and expertise on the contributions of undocumented workers to economies in Europe, PICUM propelled efforts to ensure these rights at the European level.

various sectors, the importance of basic social rights with particular focus on the right to fair working conditions, and details of supportive measures involving labour inspectors, trade unions and NGOs in the promotion of undocumented workers' rights.

"Ten Ways": Good Practice Framework to Respond to These Realities (2005)



Having brought much needed attention to the realities faced by undocumented migrant workers, PICUM responded to requests from the field for a framework of practical methods and actions enabling the realisation of undocumented migrants' workplace rights.

Firmly rooted in a rights-based, community action, and alliance building approach, PICUM's report "Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Workers" offered a variety of innovative strategies used by undocumented workers, migrant organisations and labour associations in both Europe and the United States to challenge exploitation and abuse. Launched at an international conference in cooperation with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), this framework has also acted as a bridge for PICUM with the trade union movement and organisations active in the anti-trafficking movement.

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Michele LeVoy, Director, presenting PICUM's "Ten Ways" report at OSCE Seminar on "Co-operation to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings in the Mediterranean Region", which took place on 8 February 2013 at the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome, Italy.

PICUM's "Ten Ways to Protect Undocumented Migrant Workers" retains huge global relevance. PICUM is frequently called upon by international organisations, governmental bodies, research institutes, and civil society bodies to present this pragmatic and rights-based framework.

"Because of their expertise, PICUM is really one of the most important front players for the cause of undocumented migrant workers. PICUM actively supported our worldwide campaign 12-BY-12, which aimed at mobilising support for the ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers. We look forward to continued opportunities to work together with PICUM to promote the rights of undocumented migrant workers".

Marieke Koning, Equality Officer, International Trade Union Confederation

OUTCOME

- As member of the Steering Committee of Migrants' Rights International (MRI), PICUM has become a recognised and respected global partner on the rights of undocumented migrant workers. PICUM works closely with MRI in advocating for fair working conditions at the UN level and with other civil society organisations within the Global Forum on Migration and Development, an inter-governmental forum to discuss migration and development.
- In addition to increasing its collaboration with trade unions at European and international levels, PICUM's focus on labour rights has brought a growing number of local and national level unions into its membership and improved cooperation and partnerships among undocumented migrant organisations and trade unions across Europe and in other world regions.

- PICUM has had a visible and effective influence on several key policy processes in the European Parliament, from the Resolution of 14 January 2009 on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU,⁷ to the amendments made by the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee to the Seasonal Workers Directive⁸.

“Recent developments in the European Parliament concerning, for example, the Seasonal Workers’ Directive, are a sign that PICUM’s work is having an effect.”

Jean Lambert, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (UK, Greens/European Free Alliance)

- PICUM and Migrants Rights’ International have been instrumental in advocating for the development of a General Comment on Undocumented Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by the UN Migrant Workers Committee. Expected for release in 2013, the General Comment echoes PICUM’s concerns regarding the criminalisation of migrant workers, the restriction of their economic and social rights, and the need for international cooperation to address this situation.

7 European Parliament resolution of 14 January 2009 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008, available online at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0019+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

8 LIBE Amendments “Better working conditions and social rights for seasonal workers”, 25 April 2012, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120423IPR43736/html/Better-working-conditions-and-social-rights-for-seasonal-workers>



PICUM Director Michele LeVoy was an expert panellist in the common space segment of the 2011 Global Forum on Migration and Development, which brought together more than 800 civil society and government representatives.

“PICUM’s key position and significant expertise in the area of migration makes it an important partner for us in our aim for decent working conditions for undocumented migrants. The Swedish Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrants provides advice, assistance to negotiate with employers or in court if required. The reports and newsletters that we regularly receive from PICUM strengthen our expertise and provide us with the relevant information in our work. Through our membership in PICUM we have access to a broad and very competent network of key people in the field.”

Maria Östberg Svanlind, The Swedish Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrants

3. Access to Education and Housing for Undocumented Children and Their Families

PICUM has identified a dangerous trend towards the erosion of the rights of children in an irregular migration situation, whose families face homelessness or overpriced and insalubrious private rental accommodation and who face significant barriers to access public schooling and healthcare services. Nonetheless, both policy makers and civil society activists have failed to address the urgent situation facing children living with their families in an irregular situation.

Since 2007, PICUM has developed essential evidence regarding the impact of immigration control mechanisms upon the well-being of the child. PICUM has led calls to ensure that discussions, programmes and policies on migrant children include all migrant children irrespective of residence status. In bridging a significant gap in awareness, information and action regarding the needs and rights of these children, PICUM has renewed and enriched the debate on migrant children's rights at both European and international policy levels.

"PICUM provides a unique perspective on the everyday struggle that undocumented migrants – often, parents with children – must go through in order to have a safe place to live and to have their fundamental rights respected."

Mauro Striano, Migration and Participation Policy Officer, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)

ACTION

PICUM Addresses Invisibility of Undocumented Children with their Families (2007-2009)



Addressing the lack of visibility facing undocumented children who frequently live with their families in extremely precarious situations, PICUM's 2009 report "*Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions*" conducted an important mapping of the impact that immigration control policies have upon undocumented children's social rights in nine EU member states.

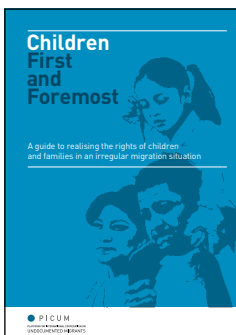
In January 2009, PICUM held the first European conference specifically focused on undocumented children accompanied by their families or other caregivers in Europe. The event brought together over 150 NGOs, service providers, and policy makers from more than 20 countries worldwide to circulate PICUM's findings, foster networking, share innovative solutions and build consensus for future action.



François Crépeau, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, speaking at PICUM's international conference, "Children First and Foremost: Realising the rights of children and families in an irregular migration situation", 26 February 2013.

"Building Strategies to Protect Children in an Irregular Migration Situation in Europe" (2011-2013)

Elaborating on this success, PICUM undertook a series of national level workshops to identify specific issues facing undocumented children in the domains of education, housing and health care in seven EU member states. Facilitating a constructive debate between national-level policy makers and advocates, these workshops enabled a more in-depth look at the needs of undocumented children, assessed existing policy responses and harnessed the vital expertise required to devise context-specific solutions and recommendations.



PICUM produced a guide to support and encourage responses aimed at securing the rights of children in an irregular migration situation. Launched at an international conference in February 2013, this guide provides essential support to those on the ground and will be used to shape and support the on-going advocacy work of PICUM and its partner organisations on this key issue.

OUTCOME

- PICUM has built partnerships with key actors working in the area of child rights at EU level, through its membership of the Child's Rights Action Group (CRAG) - an informal grouping of organisations committed to working together on EU policy relating to child rights - as well as through other ad hoc joint activities. PICUM was also one of 13 NGOs granted a permanent seat for civil society representation in the European Forum on the Rights of the Child established by the European Commission to enable stakeholder involvement in the EU's child rights policy. Through these activities, PICUM has brought more visibility and recognition to the situation of undocumented children accompanied by their

"PICUM is an indispensable tool for *Education Without Borders Network* (Réseau Education Sans Frontières - RESF) in addressing the cause of undocumented migrant children in France and elsewhere in Europe. Every day in the field, we face countless battles to protect families or children, but ultimately it is our hope that these activities lead to a change in the law and in society as a whole. PICUM provides an opportunity to make contact with others working in different contexts and to hold up the voice of migrants, particularly children, in Europe. PICUM's actions, conferences, reports, and appeals provide us with a real boost, an essential opportunity for Europe to develop its consciousness beyond differences, and towards unity."

Richard Moyon, Co-Founder, Education Without Borders Network (RESF)

parents or other caregivers, who are often overlooked at European policy level. For example, the 2013 European Commission Recommendation "Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage" recommends health systems are improved to ensure all children enjoy their right to health, listing undocumented children as one of the groups requiring special attention.

- PICUM has been actively contributing to consultations and events organised by UN bodies relating to child rights, for example around children in immigration detention, the right to health, the best interests of the child, and the 2012 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion on "The rights of all children in the context of international migration". Taking the pivotal opportunity to raise attention to the discrimination faced by undocumented children and families, and its contradiction with legal obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, PICUM submitted materials, actively participated in the discussions, co-organised a high-level side event to the day, and gave input to the final report and recommendations, in close collaboration with UNICEF.



Michele LeVoy, PICUM Director, panellist at hearing on undocumented children at the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Migration, September 2011.

PICUM was invited to participate in a hearing on undocumented children at the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Migration and provided an opportunity for both frontline organisations and undocumented children themselves to testify. PICUM has worked closely with the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Migration on the issue of undocumented children and PICUM's research substantially contributed to the Committee's 2009 report on this issue.

"The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has been working closely with PICUM since 2005 on a range of issues linked to the rights of irregular migrants and children in particular. The first port of call for anyone looking for information on rights of irregular migrants, PICUM provide a strong focal point for civil society's views and work and can draw on the knowledge and skills of their network at a moment's notice. PICUM have provided a great deal of support to the Parliamentary Assembly Rapporteurs when preparing related thematic reports."

Mark Neville, Head of Secretariat of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- Drawing heavily on PICUM’s research and mirroring the network’s own focus areas, the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly adopted a report and recommendations in 2011 on “Undocumented migrant children in an irregular situation: a real cause for concern,” calling on all Council of Europe members and institutions to improve the protection and rights for undocumented children. PICUM and its members contributed to the drafting of this report through targeted submissions, active participation in a parliamentary hearing, and through key meetings with various bodies and parliamentarians of the Council of Europe.



Left to right: Leda Kouroumba, Commissioner for Children’s Rights, Cyprus, Alexandra Attalides, European Parliament in Cyprus, and Sotiroula Charalambous, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, at roundtable on “Child poverty and well-being: Spotlight on the situation of migrant children in Cyprus and the EU”, 17 October, Nicosia, Cyprus, organized by PICUM, Commissioner for Children’s Rights in Cyprus, the Office of the European Parliament in Cyprus, Eurochild, and KISA, Action for Equality Support and Antiracism.

“PICUM offers a platform for defending, supporting and promoting the rights of migrant children at international, European and national level. Such action is of utmost importance, as it was evident from the 2012 workshop that the Office of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in Cyprus co-organised with PICUM and their national member KISA on the Rights of Migrant Children in Cyprus. PICUM’s action brings to the light the absolute necessity to adopt legislation, measures and policies that have the effect of protecting migrant children and contribute to the creation of a space that allow them to develop their capacities and full potential in becoming active members of the society in the countries where they live, in full equality. I strongly believe that PICUM’s activity, as a civil society network, in cooperation with other stakeholders, will eventually bring the change migrant children need in their lives.”

Leda Kouroumba, Children’s Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus

4. Access to Justice

Undocumented migrants may face arrest, prosecution and deportation if they make contact with the police to report violent or exploitative treatment. Indeed, the growing linkage between migration control mechanisms and access to basic services present a disproportionate barrier to their security and empowerment. PICUM's members are particularly concerned about how unequal treatment can push certain categories of migrants into irregularity and then, create a range of *de jure* and *de facto* discriminations limiting their access to justice and protection because of their residence status.

Policies and practices which prioritise the detection, apprehension and removal of irregular migrants over their ability to report and complete a complaint effectively prevent undocumented migrants from reporting crime. By criminalising victims and potential witnesses on grounds of their residence status, undocumented migrants effectively become 'zero risk victims' as perpetrators who target them remain unpunished.

ACTION

PICUM's Rights-Based Approach Promotes Accountability and Justice for Undocumented Migrants

One of the first activities of the newly founded PICUM network was to develop an online database of legal entitlements for undocumented migrants in various EU member states as well as a contact list of legal and policy advocates providing support to claim these rights. While PICUM's engagement within international monitoring and reporting bodies has increased, the network has continued to provide frontline advocates, service providers and



Plenary session, "Using Legal Strategies to Enforce Undocumented Migrants' Human Rights", PICUM international workshop, 15 June 2012. Over 200 frontline service providers, legal experts, and representatives from key monitoring and reporting bodies, came together to explore strategies through which to advance undocumented migrants rights at national, regional and international levels.

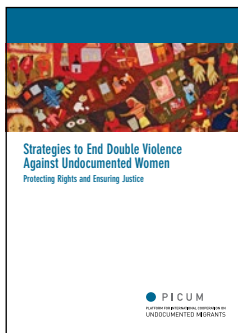
professionals with accurate information, accessible support and effective methodologies so they may bring about justice and accountability for undocumented migrants' rights from the bottom up.

PICUM Develops Framework for Ensuring Justice for Undocumented Migrant Women

In recent years, PICUM has developed a specific focus regarding the impact of service restrictions and detection practices upon undocumented migrant women experiencing gender-based violence. In 2010 and 2011, PICUM conducted field visits to twelve EU member states, meeting with undocumented migrant women, civil society organisations, as well as policy makers, police and local authorities to identify undocumented women's experiences of gender-based discrimination and violence, and identify successful initiatives and methods to overcome them.

“PICUM’s work on access to justice for undocumented migrant women identified the unacceptable gaps existing in cases of gender-based violence; this was central to forming the position of the European Parliament on the Victims’ rights directive. Together, we managed to ensure that this directive covers protection and rights for all victims regardless of their residence status. Policy makers across Europe urgently need to tackle the discrimination, violence, and hardships faced by many undocumented migrants, but to put the right policies in place we need the input and expertise of organisations such as PICUM.”

Mikael Gustafsson, Member of the European Parliament (GUE/NGL, Sweden), and Chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in the European Parliament



Released in 2012, PICUM’s report “*Strategies to End Double Violence Against Undocumented Women*” gathers a broad range of laws, practices and partnerships that respect rights and ensure justice for all women in Europe without discrimination. Showing what works, where, and how it came about, PICUM’s report highlighted the agency, capacity and impact of migrant women themselves in bringing about change.

OUTCOME

- PICUM successfully integrated its concerns within the EU Directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. In addition to issuing a joint statement with its member organisation La Strada International, PICUM launched its report on violence against undocumented women at a cross-party event in the Parliament which was hosted by the Chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality. PICUM’s efforts led to the insertion of an amendment by the European Parliament affirming that all victims of crime should be protected under this directive, regardless of their legal status. A legally binding instrument, this Directive now imposes clear obligations upon member states to remove legal and practical barriers preventing the protection of undocumented victims of crime.



Left to right: George Joseph (PICUM board member, Caritas Sweden), Jean Lambert (Greens/ EFA), Eve Geddie (PICUM Program Officer), Trifa Shakely (“Ain’t I a Woman?” Campaign, Sweden) and Mikael Gustafsson (GUE/NGL).

PICUM’s report on ‘Strategies to End Double Violence Against Undocumented Women’ was launched in the European Parliament, Brussels on 21 June 2012.

"I first had the chance to attend one of PICUM's conferences on undocumented women in 2011; the panel contributions were informative and stimulating because they encouraged the sharing of information and expertise of the professionals and personal experiences of undocumented migrant women themselves. The following year, I was invited to lead a workshop at PICUM's General Assembly; another packed event with individuals from different backgrounds and countries, all sharing the same keen interest in promoting the rights of undocumented migrants."

Kuldip Kaur Phull, Tribunal Judge, United Kingdom

- PICUM and its member organisations have enabled greater recognition regarding the need to broaden protections afforded to undocumented migrants who find themselves in situations of extreme exploitation. PICUM's increasing visibility and influence in the debates surrounding anti-trafficking measures has led to more careful consideration of the need to ensure safeguards and residence permits for those coming forward to report abuse.
- PICUM also works to improve accountability for the violations of migrants' rights at national level. In 2012, PICUM organised two national level seminars in response to calls from Greek and Cypriot members for assistance in addressing erosion of migrants' core rights and access to justice.



Left to right: Maria Papamina, Greek Council for Refugees, Dora Oikonomou, Amnesty International – Greek Section, Nikitas Kanakis, Doctors of the World Greece and Michele LeVoy, PICUM Director – co-organizers, together with the Greek NGO i-Red, of the conference “The silent humanitarian crisis in Greece: Devising strategies on national, European and international levels to improve the situation of migrants in Greece”, 3 December 2012, in Athens, Greece. This event brought over 90 participants representing civil society organizations, professionals, practitioners, advocates, activists, journalists, donors and migrant communities.



Looking Ahead

The Next Decade and Beyond: Alliance Building, Organizing and Empowering

Edel McGinley, Community Worker: Irregular Migration at Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) and Member of PICUM's Executive Board



This publication demonstrates that so much has been achieved in realising the rights of undocumented migrants across the European Union. The collective fight for rights has seen civil society rally against exploitation, fight criminalisation for assisting undocumented migrants, shown that access to health care makes economic sense and demonstrated that by standing in solidarity and by acting collectively that we can and have effected change.

Over the next ten years when we think of the societies we want to be part of it is a vision that upholds and respects human rights and puts people at the heart of policy responses. Advocates for migrants' rights have long made the link between the lack of legal channels of migration and irregular migration.

EU and national policy development therefore over the next ten years needs to move away from the restrictive migration agenda of the past into a new phase which considers shifting global patterns of migration. New and fast emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil will put pressure on the EU to develop more, not less legal channels of migration. The current focus however on temporary work programmes which undermine rights and standards will in the long run make the EU uncompetitive and unattractive and facilitate exploitation and irregular migration.

While politicians, policy makers and civil society actors grapple with the future, the immediate situation of undocumented migrants living and working within the EU remains. Setting out a vision for Europe which puts equality at its heart and affords people the right to legalise their status is long overdue. Building power is therefore necessary to lever this type of response through alliance building, organising and empowering undocumented migrants, and through generating and showing public and political support for the rights of undocumented migrants.

Lessons learnt from the last ten years remind us that change is slow but that it is worth fighting for.

Importance of PICUM in the Years to Come

Don Flynn, Director of Migrants' Rights Network in the UK and Chair of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants and Chair of PICUM



My personal involvement with PICUM began in 2004, just as the founders of the platform were completing one of its first projects, the Book of Solidarity. Attending a PICUM conference in Antwerp on behalf of a UK-based NGO, it was immediately clear to me that this was an initiative that was framing the issue of undocumented migration in Europe in a completely new way, and one that had great potential for forging a constructive engagement with civil society and official policy-makers.

PICUM has continued this direction of work since this date. The key features of its approach – to reach outwards to involve a wide range of stakeholders in the various aspects of its concerns and to work with them to help clarify the evidence and the messages that came from it, and to act as principled advocates for change – have been developed and refined over the course of the last ten years. PICUM now provides the premier space in civil society for intelligent, informed discussion about irregular migration.

It retains its focus of wanting to do something practical about the things it uncovers as it works alongside undocumented migrants, with respect for human rights and protection from the danger of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people being its guiding principles.



Get Involved in Our Work

Join the Movement to Reclaim Undocumented Migrants' Rights and Reassert Europe's Founding Values of Equality and Discrimination

JOIN THE PICUM NETWORK

PICUM welcomes support from individuals and organisations who share its mission. PICUM relies on the solidarity and commitment of volunteers, frontline advocates, organisations and service providers in building and strengthening its network.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact the PICUM secretariat where we will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Tel: +32/2/210.17.80

E-mail: info@picum.org



Group of former PICUM interns and volunteers.

MAKE A DONATION

In addition to the subscriptions provided by its network, PICUM counts a broad range of public funders, foundations, and private as well as personal donors among its valued supporters.

PICUM's broad reach, diverse network and innovative responses to the urgent human rights situation facing undocumented migrants at both European and at global level, offers a number of valued opportunities for collaboration with foundations, corporate and institutional funders.

For more information on how you support our daily work and future development, please contact the PICUM secretariat where we will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

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E-mail: info@picum.org

You can donate to PICUM by transferring your singular or regular contribution to PICUM's account in Belgium (Euros):

Account number: 001-3666785-67

IBAN: BE93 001366678567, SWIFT/BIC Code: GEBABEBB
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GET INFORMED AND SPREAD THE WORD

As a network of frontline organisations, service providers and professionals working directly with undocumented migrants, PICUM holds a unique position and is committed to providing accurate, insightful and up to date information on undocumented migrants realities and rights.

All of PICUM's reports, policy briefs and toolkits are available online and free of charge at www.picum.org.

Visit our website to learn more about PICUM's work as well as opportunities to get involved and spread the word.

Subscribe to PICUM's News Bulletin and Quarterly

PICUM's online newsletter reports on undocumented migrants' access to human rights and monitors violations and deaths occurring at the border. Available to subscribers and web users free of charge, PICUM's fortnightly bulletin remains a valued source of information among NGOs, researchers, policy makers.

Released every three months in seven languages, PICUM's Quarterly Newsletter provides a key summary of news events, civil society initiatives and policy developments. Available in English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Italian, both online and by subscription, the bulletin reaches a wide audience worldwide.

Subscribe to PICUM's news bulletin and quarterly, and access our archives dating back to January 2001 free of charge at www.picum.org

Watch and Share PICUM's Web Documentary



UNDOCUMENTARY is an innovative web documentary produced by PICUM to highlight the daily realities of undocumented men, women and children in Europe. Available in English, French and Spanish, this online initiative seeks to inform and educate society about the presence, realities and rights of undocumented migrants.

www.undocumentary.org





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