

Defending Human Rights, Promoting Artistic Freedom: Research and Practice of Temporary International Relocation Initiatives

Programme of the MRI digital network event on 17 September 2020

Part 1: Current challenges & debates on temporary international relocation (public session)

Time: 2pm-3.30pm CEST

Inputs: Michelle Müntefering (Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office);
Johannes Ebert (Secretary General, Goethe-Institut);
Dr Lisa Bogerts (MRI research coordinator)

After two welcoming addresses, this session aims to summarise and discuss the findings of the following short-term research projects and new publications issued within the MRI research programme:

- Wellbeing During Temporary International Relocation: Case Studies and Good Practices for the Implementation of the 2019 Barcelona Guidelines ([download publication here](#))
- Relocation Initiatives and Their Impact on Home Communities: Case Study of Kenyan Human Rights Defenders ([download publication here](#))
- The Challenges of Safe Return: Supporting Civil Society Actors After Temporary Relocation ([download publication here](#))
- Collaboration Between Temporary Relocation Initiatives: Potentials, Challenges and Next Steps ([download publication here](#))

Please find a short description of each research project on [MRI's research homepage](#).

Part 2: Workshops on wellbeing & safe return (two internal, parallel sessions)

Time: 4pm-6pm CEST

- **Workshop 1: Safe return & its alternatives**
Chairs: Elisabeth Dyvik (International Cities of Refuge Network/ICORN);
Luciana Peri (EU Human Rights Defenders Relocation Platform/EUTRP,
formerly Shelter City Costa Rica)

Based on the findings of MRI's research project on safe return ([Seiden 2020](#)) and the experiences of the workshop participants, this session will identify key recommendations for dealing with the challenges of return after temporary relocation and its alternatives (in case return is not an option). The results will be published as an illustrated manual for practitioners.

- **Workshop 2: Wellbeing in temporary relocation**
Chairs: Dr Alice Nah (Centre for Applied Human Rights/CAHR, University of York);
Maik Müller (Martin Roth-Initiative)

Following up on the [2019 Barcelona Guidelines](#) and MRI's collection of best practices and case studies ([Bartley 2020](#)), this workshop will identify key recommendations for addressing challenges around wellbeing. The results will be published as an animated short video for practitioners.

Part 3: Lessons learnt for promoting human rights & creative spaces (public session)

Time: 6.15pm-6.45pm CEST

Inputs: Petra Drexler (Head of Division at the German Federal Foreign Office; Cultural Department);
Elisabeth Dyvik (ICORN);
Maik Müller (MRI)

In this short wrap-up session all participants will come together to summarise the findings from the previous workshops and ideas for next steps at the intersection of human rights, arts & culture.

Registration:

Registration is closed. All successfully registered participants have received a confirmation e-mail.

MRI will treat all your personal information confidentially.

The digital event will be held on the video call platform BigBlueButton. All sessions will be in English.

The event addresses the following groups, but is open to others as well:

- civil society actors (human rights defenders, writers, artists, inter alia) who are interested in the topic of temporary relocation, including (current or former) participants of relocation programmes;
- managers, administrators and donors of temporary relocation initiatives;
- institutions and individuals working at the intersection of art/culture, activism and human rights;
- host organisations for at-risk artists, writers, researchers and human rights defenders;
- wellbeing support providers;
- researchers working on temporary relocation and its challenges.

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