

# GENT DECLARATION

1. Taking into account the fact that the general situation of refugees and migrants is delicate in different European countries,
2. Taking into consideration that this situation is due to the lack of refugee self-reliance in the specific context of different European countries
3. This situation is getting worse due to the fact that they are excluded totally at the conception, discussion and decision making levels, within the European Union
4. Taking into account the ambition expressed by the refugee and migrants groups, associations, organisations who attended the conference organised between the 12 and 14 November 2003 in Gent (Belgium)

Considering that :

1. This first experience of SHARE has revealed the inputs of an eventual cooperation between European Union entities and refugee and migrants associations
2. Through SHARE, the European Union demonstrates their interest in supporting refugee and migrants self-reliance
3. In the past years, the ethnic minorities diversity population is in a continuous increase
4. That the cultural, social, political and economic contribution of refugees and migrants is fundamental and even unpredictable
5. That refugees and migrants are, in different ways, the appropriate persons to take over their own destiny

We set up a network of associations, organisations of migrants groups whom the role would be to have an active implication in the decision-making process on their behalf, within the European institutions and within the members states.

Proposed by :

- The Refugee Women's Organisation- Romania
- Share Austria



<http://www.erad-network.org>
