



Senza chiedere il permesso

for the freedom of migrants — من أجل حرية المهاجرين
 — 为移民自由 — pour la liberté des migrants
 — تارکین وطن کی آزادی کے لئے — за свободу мигрантов

per la libertà delle e dei migranti

This issue is the result of a series of meetings where dozens of migrants started to **discuss together how to fight and organise against racism and exploitation in Bologna and other cities**. Several associations - Senegalese, Gambian, Guinean and Moroccan - took part in the discussions and stated that now is the time **to overcome the differences among migrants' conditions so that we can fight together**. Indeed, with racists in government in Italy and Europe, the problems of migrants are increasing every day. There are those who stay for months waiting for the commission, those who win protection and risk being thrown out of the reception centre, those who want to convert the international protection into a work permit but cannot, those who struggle to renew their residence permit for work, those who cannot find a home because of the racism of the owners or simply because they are women and migrants.

This issue collects the voices of migrants who participated in these assemblies. We know that **it is necessary to continue to extend the participation in this assemblies to as many migrants as possible, men, women, boys and girls, working men and women, students**. We will organise a new assembly in the autumn, in order to **continue to discuss our problems with work, housing, residence permits and racism**, and to find out together how to take the struggle forward. Let's share this paper as widely as possible!

Stop expulsions from reception centers: a migrant victory



Migrants at the Ozzano reception centre fought and won against the racism of the Prefettura di Bologna. When the operators of the centre told them that they had to leave the place within ten days after being granted international protection, the

migrants decided to raise their voices. Chanting "**We won't end up on the streets!**", they took to the streets with the Coordinamento Migranti and held a press conference in front of Bologna's town hall.

The migrants from Ozzano **overcame their fear and denounced** the racist practices of the Prefettura, which wanted to expel them from the centre without informing the International Protection Service of the ASP of Bologna, which manages the second reception centre.



[Watch the video by a migrant from Ozzano](#)

Their protest forced the Prefettura to reverse its decision: all the migrants concerned were transferred to the second centre.

Thanks to their struggle, they have obtained what is rightfully theirs as beneficiaries of international protection: a roof over

their heads and the possibility of training and finding a job.

With the arrival of summer, it is expected that the Prefettura and the reception cooperatives will return to deporting migrants in

order to deal with the overcrowding in the centres. **But now all migrants know that, as happened in Ozzano, it is possible to organise and win against the institutional racism that governs the reception system!**

Housing and landlord's racism in Bologna



Having a job is fundamental to obtaining a residence permit, and having a home is essential to being able to live. But in addition to the institutional racism of permits, today each one of us also has to endure the racism of landlords.

Finding a house is difficult for everyone, even for Italians, **but migrant men and women are daily denied the possibility of renting, just because they are migrants.** There are agencies that have been set up just to make money and scam us out of this situation. Sometimes we manage to talk directly to the owners; they invite us to see the house and as soon as they see us they say, "No, the house is no longer available". **Nowadays it's not enough to have a permanent contract and all the guarantees; the owners still won't rent a house to someone with black skin.** It's not true that the owners have had bad experiences with migrants; the truth is that they're just racist!



[Watch the video by
Assemblea donne
del Coordinamento
Migranti](#)

For migrant women, especially those with children but no partner or husband, the situation is even more difficult because they always ask for a man to guarantee the income. But we refuse to be submissive for a house; we want it in our name and we will fight against any form of patriarchy that wants us to be obedient and dependent.

Only by raising our heads can we rebel against all this; only by raising our voices can we be heard! **We must unite and fight loudly against racism, we must protest against the inertia of public administrations** that do nothing and do not make available the houses and spaces that exist. We must shout loudly that we cannot be without a home!

We want our documents! Struggling against the racism of institutions



With the racist right wing in government in Italy and Europe, problems with residence permits are increasing every day. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain or renew documents.

Asylum seekers are affected by the Cutro law, which has accelerated the processing of those from so-called 'safe countries' and increased the number of rejections. In addition, those who are now granted special protection can no longer convert their permit into a work permit. In recent months, police headquarters have also denied conversion to those who have been granted international legal protection. Many of us had to go to court to get the conversion, spending time and money to have our right recognised.

Other migrants living in reception centres often have to wait months to be called by the Commission and then several more months to receive the results. **In the Mattei centre**, when the six-month provisional permit expires, it is not renewed until the Commission gives us the results. This means that we are without documents for three or four months, during which time we cannot do anything, not even work.

Family reunification is becoming more and more difficult because the institutions are delaying and letting the deadlines for applications expire. For migrant women, arriving through family reunification means having a residence permit that depends on their husbands or fathers, even if they are violent. This makes it difficult or impossible to report abuse or violence, as this could mean losing the possibility of staying in Italy.

Even those who have lived in Italy for years have many problems with their residence permits. Every time it has to be renewed, a lot of money is spent and a lot of time is lost. **The bureaucracy takes months, and in the meantime we have problems with work and access to services.** But when it comes to issuing permits or deporting migrants, the same authorities can be quick!

We cannot remain silent in the face of all this. **Without documents, we cannot find a job, we cannot find a house and we cannot build a life outside the detention centres or away from our families.** We cannot accept that the lives of migrant men and women remain in limbo because of the racist decisions of the institutions. To fight against the blackmail of residence permits is to fight for our freedom.

The exploitation of migrant workers at Interporto and in warehouses

In June, **Satnam Singh**, a 31-year-old **Indian migrant**, died after losing an arm at work and being left to die by his employer. But it wasn't just his employer who killed him. Satnam and his wife had been working for the company for two years, more than ten hours a day, without ever having had a contract: he was killed at work by the racism of Italian laws, which every day condemn migrant men and women to exploitation and underpaid work.

Satnam's case is extreme, but one doesn't have to go to the fields of Latina to see the effects of these laws. **In Bologna, it's enough to take a tour of the Interporto and the warehouses scattered around the province.** These are the places where migrants and asylum seekers mostly work. We find work mainly through agencies, with very short contracts, even for a few days. Every day we wait for a message telling us when the shift starts. There are no buses between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., so we have to go to work early or wait for hours after the shift ends. **The money they give us is little and not enough to live in Bologna. We are forced to work long hours of overtime, which is often unpaid.** When our contracts expire, the companies sack us and hire someone else.

If we protest alone, asking for more money or refusing to work overtime, they leave



us at home. The agencies and companies blackmail us with our residence permits. **They know we need a job, otherwise we can't renew it. They know that we need money immediately,** because that's the only way to escape the misery of the welfare system and pocket money.

Nowadays, working is not enough to build a life. All this is unacceptable and the situation is getting worse every day because of racist employers and institutions. We have to find a way to organise together against all this.

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