

## **From compassion to crime**

*Documentary screening and debate*

24 June 2026

FEPS Headquarter

Avenue des Arts 46, Brussels

17:30-19:00

Many NGOs, civil society organisations, humanitarian workers, lawyers, journalists and private citizens across Europe dedicated their time and skills to help people in need – a commitment our societies and governments should be proud of. In many European countries, however, humanitarian aid to refugees is increasingly portrayed in a negative light, if not openly criminalised. Individuals and CSOs who provide life-saving assistance, food, shelter, or run search-and-rescue operations in the deadly Mediterranean Sea, risk harassment, arrest and prosecution under the alleged crime of facilitating "unauthorised entry, transit or residence" in Europe.

In the documentary ***From compassion to crime***, Dutch director Stanzen Jelsma tells the stories of individuals who have faced or are still facing intense legal battles and criminal charges for showing compassion towards others.

### **Programme**

- 17:30      *Presentation of the documentary*  
**Hedwig Giusto**, Head of the International Programmes
- 17:35      Screening of *From compassion to crime*
- 18:20      Debate with  
**Birgit Sippel**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group, Germany  
**Cecilia Strada**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group, Italy  
**Stanzen Jelsma**, documentary director, Netherlands
- Moderation  
**László Andor**, Secretary General, FEPS