The arrival of persons fleeing persecution, conflicts and human rights abuses or looking for better opportunities at the coasts of the European Union (EU) has dominated much of the debate in Europe on migration and asylum in the past years. The images of the thousands of men, women and children arriving on boats in Italy, Malta and the Greek islands as well as the reports about those who died on their way to Europe have sadly become all too familiar.

At this seminar*, Professor Andrea Saccucci will look at the duties of States to preserve and to protect the fundamental rights of those refugees and migrants who are risking their lives at sea.

Andrea Saccucci graduated in Law at the LUISS University of Rome, Italy, and obtained a Ph.D. in Human Rights from the University of Palermo, Italy (2002). He has been Adjunct Professor of International Law at the University of Naples II, Italy, since 2006 and Adjunct Professor of International Protection of Human Rights at the University of Urbino, Italy, since 2003. Since 2011, he also holds a course of Migration Law at the LUMSA University of Rome. He was visiting scholar at the Law School of the Columbia University of New York, U.S.A., in 2006, and ever since he has been cooperating with the Human Rights Clinic and the Human Rights Institute. Beside the teaching activity, he is an attorney specialized in human rights individual and collective litigation before national and international courts and bodies; member of the Executive Board and strategic litigation Coordinator of the Unione forense per la tutela dei diritti dell'uomo, member of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo and of the Human Rights Group of the Scuola Superiore dell’Avvocatura. He was recently awarded the PILnet’s 2012 European Pro Bono Award for exemplary partnership in the public interest.

* This seminar is organised in the frame of the Human Rights and Migration Law Clinic, which is offered in cooperation by the Departments of Law of the Universities of Turin and Eastern Piedmont and the International University College of Turin (IUC). This clinical program attempts to bridge the gap between classroom education and the reality of professional practice, sensitizing the students as future professionals to the problems of social justice and to foster a sense of social responsibility by involving them in areas from pro bono legal advice for Asylum seekers and migrants to strategic litigation, research and advocacy activities in the field of migration (more information on the clinical program can be found at www.giurisprudenza.unito.it or at www.iectorino.it ).