

Intervention 1. Katie Hopkins. Hopkins World - afternoon session Weds 19 Sept

My name is Katie Hopkins. Hopkins World

I confess, I am an outsider. I have not spent too much time in conference rooms like this, with people in suits wearing badges, but I have spent a great deal of time in the ports of Southern Italy and Sicily, observing first hand the highly sophisticated operations of the NGO rescue boats across the Med, and those profiting from their cargo of humans.

I have also spent time working on the streets to understand their victims - particularly women trafficked into prostitution, now working at the side of the road in Europe.

Be clear - NGO rescue boats do not involve a frantic search for people. They boats have scheduled departure times and pre-agreed collection zones off the Libyan coasts. In effect, they are a ferry service across the Mediterranean and part of the business model of the trafficker

I recommend members of the OSCE follow the excellent lead of Mr Salvini in Italy, and cease support for NGO rescue operations in the Med, move to impound NGO boats purporting to act as rescue vessels, and refuse to give port to these boats - in our shared aim of halting the trafficking of people for profit.

Controlling inflatable boats from China is like trying to combat Hurricane Florence with an umbrella.

In July, the Spanish government agreed to take 630 persons moved across the Med on board the 'rescue ship' Aquarius - a German- Franco endeavour.

By accepting the human cargo of these boats governments of Britain, Germany, Portugal, France and Spain are - by extension- part of the problem. Be part of the solution and stop the boats.

Thank you