

This document is an English synopsis of the most important content of our homepage. The original homepage is written in German, including content in Italian, Albanian, Portuguese and French. You find references to the original website using the links.

## [Home](#)

"The right to marry and to have a family is guaranteed."  
(Article 14, Swiss Federal Constitution)

TESORO

Association for addressing the suffering of illegalized migrant families with seasonal and annual residence status.

Illustrations: Nando von Arb

## [Become a Member](#)

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## [Imprint](#)

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## Claim

### **Attack on the Family!**

#### **Imagine ...**

... you arrive in a country and learn that your children are not allowed to enter. Despite your lack of political rights, you attempt to appeal to the immigration police. All your requests are rejected, and the reason given is "the current over-foreignization of our country".

... as a teenager, you want to 'integrate' into Switzerland, only to discover that a law from the 1930s, which separated you from your parents in early childhood, was intended as an 'anti-integrative' measure.

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## **Association**

### Events

#### About us

On October 1, 2021, an association was founded under the name TESORO with the purpose of representing the interests of family members affected by the Swiss Seasonal Worker Statute (A) and Annual Resident Statute (B). Due to the ANAG - the Law on the Residence and Settlement of Foreigners - approximately half a million migrant worker families were separated, criminalized, and illegalized from 1934 to 2002.

- An attack on migrant families that were "not allowed to exist."
- An assault by immigration authorities on the integrity and privacy of migrant workers.
- An assault by society, which for decades refused to acknowledge the violation of the human rights of these families.
- An assault on humanity through inhumane economic exploitation systems such as the rotation principle.

The affected individuals continue to suffer from the consequences to this day. TESORO transforms this suffering by naming the violence. TESORO believes that what the affected individuals know about structural racism in Swiss family policy is a hidden treasure, valuable to society as a whole. TESORO means turning objects of history into active and thinking subjects. Despite the immense fragmentation of our individual fates, we stand in solidarity with each other and with other groups affected by family separations and illegalization.

TESORO is committed to ending the current violence against migrant families and integrating the history of this attack on families with Statute A and B into Switzerland's collective memory. The members of the TESORO association demand:

- Official recognition of the suffering and an apology from Swiss authorities.
- Historical examination of the illegalization of families with Statute A and B.
- Adequate financial compensation for the incurred suffering.

### Board

The board members Paola De Martin, Melinda Nadj Abonji, Miroslav Janjic, Maya Ziegler, Egidio Stigliano, and Toni Ricciardi, as well as the audit committee members Loris Scola and Christoph Scherrer, were reconfirmed in their positions for another two years at the General Meeting on March 31, 2023.

#### **TESORO Board Members and Their Roles:**

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Paola De Martin

President

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Melinda Nadj Abonji

Vice President

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Actuary

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Toni Ricciardi

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**[Statutes](#)**

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## [Media Enquiries](#)

How do you communicate an attack on families that were not allowed to be? In Switzerland, a country where privacy and family life are sacred?

### **Caption:**

"Lo Stagionale", directed by Alvaro Bizzarri (Switzerland, 1973), film stills. The main character of this Swiss film classic from 1973 is a seasonal worker. He works and lives with his son in Switzerland. The federal immigration authorities (Fremdenpolizei) inform him in writing that he is not allowed to do so and that the child must leave the country, or they both must leave. The father is desperate. No authority, no embassy representative, no union can help him to exercise his human right to live legally with his child in Switzerland. These film stills show how well the phenomenon was already known in the media in 1973: the seasonal worker opens a drawer full of newspaper articles he has collected on the subject.

### **Appeal to Media Professionals!**

We have observed that for half a century, media attention has been focused on the representation of individual fates of those affected by the Statutes A and B, which quickly gained attention and were then soon forgotten. Therefore, we appeal to those responsible for the media.

### **A Paradigm Shift is Required!**

Are you interested in a long-term socio-political change? And in conveying our expertise, concerns, and experiences, given a human face by members of TESORO in your medium? Please get in touch with us! We are looking forward to establishing a profound collaboration with you.

- [Press Review](#)
- [English Article: BBC 2022](#)

## [Contact](#)

## [Become a Member](#)