Name: Giuisi Nicolini

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age:

Occupation: Mayor of Lampedusa

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: Governments across Europe need to help us. Europe has a duty to open its eyes and put an emergency humanitarian plan into action. We have to govern this process rather than letting shipwrecks use natural selection to decide who arrives and who doesn’t. It is unacceptable to condemn people to die at sea. The holding centre on the island is designed for 250 migrants, at times this year we have had over 2000 people in there! Action needs to be taken.

Name: Giacomo Paoli

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 42

Occupation: Italian Coast guard

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: I can’t describe to you the suffering; some of the horrific things we have encountered keep me awake at night. Since the beginning of 2015 over 2500 people have died in the Mediterranean, 800 when one shipping vessel capsized near Lampedusa. These people are desperate and illegal traffickers are profiting from this desperation. We have a duty to take care of these people.

Name: Zada Kurdi

Country of origin: Syria

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 38

Occupation: Teacher in Syria before the war started.

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: The fighting in Syria started in 2011 and since then it has just got more and more dangerous. We made the decision as a family to flee Syria and crossed through 5 countries to get to Libya. We spent all the money we had to pay the boat owners and left from Libya. Conditions in the detention centre are difficult but at least we are all together and alive.

Name: Umberto Ambrosoli

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Milan, Italy

Age: 50

Occupation: Office worker

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: As a member of the Lega Nord I believe that all migration into Italy should be stopped. We simply don’t have the space and resources needed and they are a burden to our country.

Name: Silvia Marchetti

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Rome, Italy

Age:

Occupation: Journalist

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: Italy must do its part. It can and should accept a reasonable share of migrants. There is a moral issue; we cannot just let migrants drown in the seas or send them back to countries in crisis. Secondly, migrant labour could also help Italy’s economy after a triple dip recession.

Name: Gino Maggiore

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 55

Occupation: Fisherman

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: I’m a fisherman, I want to catch fish, not dredge out dead bodies. I read that in 2013 60,000 immigrants arrived in Lampedusa, in 2014 it was 175,000 and the numbers just keep going up and up. Whatever the government and officials are doing about this problem needs to be done quicker, I hope they don’t forget the impact it is having on us on the island.

Name: Damiano Zambrotta

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age:

Occupation: Hotel Owner

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: We used to be famous for our beautiful beaches and a balmy climate, but that’s all changed. For most people, when they think about Lampedusa, they think about refugees and, unfortunately, they think it’s not such a great place for a holiday. Who wants to holiday near a refugee holding centre?

Name: Antonio

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 52

Occupation: Supermarket owner

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: Look, I am not heartless, and I recognise these people are in search of a better life, but something has to be done. They are keeping away the paying customers and tourists. If it continues I may have to close the store and consider migrating myself!

Name: Mohammed Monadi

Country of origin: Tunisia

Currently living: Florence, Italy

Age: 26

Occupation: Street vendor

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: Lampedusa is just 70 miles from the coast of Tunisia. Before I left my country I worked as a waiter in my father’s restaurant. My family worked hard to put together the $2000 for me to migrate 5 years ago. The journey was terrifying and I continue to face dangers every day, but wages are so much better here and most the money I make I send back to my family.

Name:

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Rome, Italy

Age: 78

Occupation: Retired politician

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: I find it more and more difficult to leave the house these days and doing every day chores is nearly impossible. My carer is an angel! I think we need to consider the aging population issue facing Italy, before we turn back immigrants.

Name:

Country of origin: Lampedusa

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 82

Occupation: Retired

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: I have lived in Lampedusa all my life. I am very proud of the island, it used to be so tranquil and calm. Yes the tourists would come in the summer and it used to get busy but now it has all changed. I walk through the streets and there are so many people, they just wander and wait around until the authorities move them onto another part of Italy. I don’t go out at night, I’m just too afraid.

Name: Vincenzo Lombardo

Country of origin: Italy

Currently living: Lampedusa, Italy

Age: 67

Occupation: Retired gravedigger

Opinions on migration in Lampedusa: I was in charge of our small cemetery in Lampedusa for a number of years. I retired a couple of years before the disaster in April 2015, but when the bodies started to be washed up on to the shores I felt that some action should be taken and I started to arrange the burial these men, women and children deserved.