

EUROPEAN ENCOUNTERS OF JESUIT ALUMNI

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY

DISCUSSION GROUP:

Global Migration and Refugee Crisis

Thursday Sept 15th 2016 Rome / Lumsa University

Rapporteur by Juan C. Rodriguez Ovejero

GROUNDING

· After the Morning session with Mauro Garofalo, Pep Buades and Alain Deneef, a group discussion (3) was organized in the afternoon with the purpose to review the morning messages, add personal and organization experiences that each participant has with the purpose of propose (as a group) some actions to be considered by each the other Organizations of ex alumni participating in the meeting

PROPOSED ACTIONS

After an open discussion (1), it has been drafted some actions to consider in each Organization

· Remind the role that Ex alumni can (and should) play - a clear action plan to be drafted in alignment with the Church's position and also considering the local context

The work done by JRS has been well appreciated and the Alumni could work in tandem with the JRS to strengthen their efforts

The political engagement of Jesuit Alumni and also how to use the Alumnus who are in influential positions and bureaucratically

· A process of internal reflection on the position/ on Refugees to avoid oversimplification and unprecise positions currently existing in the media public debate;

CONSIDERING

- Assume the definition of Refugees versus Migrants that has been by the Church to include the economic causes and the effects of climate change ([link](#)) – This allows to cover several critical situations in today's world where these people can be eligible of the protection supported on international agreements.

- A Reflection process to Position ourselves /our people

Eliminate the oversimplification and unprecise positions on cases and situations on Refugees in media & public debate

Do not assume the situation as presented; review/ reflect in a critical way ... to get the position

Promote open discussions with participation of experts based on robust information and real experiences

(Open, critical, precise, free discussion...)

Support of the professional work of the JRS and other cases of SJ and people from our own groups

Communicate our position among our people first; public debate; media, opinion leaders

- Debate/ discuss/ assume the Suggestions of the Church presented today in this congress (2)

Encourages us to act welcoming, accompanying and defending people in their immigration transit and in their integration processes in societies of destination

Reminds us that our action to host, support and protect of migrants and refugees has an ethical dimension and shows the theological dimension

Papal messages for World Day of Migrants and Refugees invite us to play a role, to act, to take action; many significant and prophetic actions

It was also reviewed the presentation for this coming Saturday to Pope Francis – reflects well our discussion

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- The European Confederation and the World Union of Jesuit alumni are committed to this mission on to support refugees and the people that is suffering. And we will continue this with a positive attitude and excitement. We have organized these Encounters and have agreed to spread among our Alumni activities Jesuits Refugee Service (JRS). In the next step, we would like to get involved in the activities JRS of each country, and also to support the different social and corporation organizations that the Society of Jesus has as a source of education and development of our Alumni. We have these tools close to us.

- We have to be also realistic on the political dimension to face the problem of refugees. And we observe that these problems are addressed with demagoguery and populism. For this reason, we consider the need of some alumni place a role in this debate and also play a role in the decision-making politics with the aim that the problems receive the treatment it deserves in today's Europe: humanitarian assistance on arrival, integration in our host societies and also working to prevent/ deal / solve situations at that force refugees to leave their countries.

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ADDITIONALLY

(1) Some Cases/ experiences were mentioned in our discussions

- o Ireland: Excellent work
- o Portugal: Experience: 15 Years ago, independent of political parties and connected with president of the republic-lead by a SJ with JRS
- o India: complexity - 1 country similar in complexity to the European Union
 - France: Experience with family-to-family welcoming program, a well-documented reflection prepared

(2) Conclusions on the “Acting as Christians” Presentation (Pep Buades, S.J)

- The Church encourages us to act welcoming, accompanying and defending people in their immigration transit and in their integration processes in societies of destination. It encourages us to create spaces of shared life (live together), to serve and to accompany; to reflect/ recap from the study and research, to educate/raise the sensitivity in our neighbors in the cities and the members of our communities in the faith, to influence immigration policies. It encourages us to act so that our actions are significant, and we create spaces/ environment where signs and prophetic words to be seen and listened.
- The Church reminds us that our action to host, support and protect of migrants and refugees has an ethical dimension; Remind that to use social sciences to understand the migratory phenomenon, and an ethical /philosophical reflection to select among our moral options. When the Church proposes, the Word of God reveals/ shows the theological dimension of the actions of hosting, supporting and protecting migrants and refugees- the Lord himself is present. When the Church reveals/teaches and points specific calls to action; is giving a response to the signs of the current times in human history, interpreted under the light of faith.
- The Papal messages for World Day of Migrants and Refugees contain some specific calls, invite to reflect from a certain angle ... It does not give us orders, but is inviting us to play a role, to act, encourages to take action. It is a good help, but it is worth seeing so many significant and prophetic actions done by Christians, by religious organization, by Christian communities. This will be our biggest stimulus.

(3) The Working Group

- Monika Smaliskaite / Lithuania
- Adesina Buraimoh-Ademuyewo / Nigeria / Vice President WUJA
- Juan Carlos Rodriguez Ovejero / Spain
- Tony White / Ireland
- Revanthy Rugimini / India
- Alain Deneef / Belgium / President WUJA
- Manuel Mansergas / Spain

- Filipe Farelo / Portugal
- François Camenen / France
- Josep Buades S.J / Spain / Speaker
- Mercedes Puyuelo / Spain
- Juan Montoya / Colombia