Global Migration and Refugee Crisis: Time to Contemplate and Act

ROME, ITALY - SEPTEMBER 14TH-16TH, 2016

ORGANIZED BY

JESUIT ALUMNI EUROPE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

JRS

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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LUMSA

WUJA

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Dear Alumna, dear Alumnus, Dear Friends,

Our European continent may be facing its greatest challenge since WWII. Migration to Europe from other continents and regions of the world of people seeking asylum or fleeing an undignified life, has become an issue for its humanitarian implications and also for our society due to the direct and huge impact at the cultural, religious, social, political and economic levels.

Armed conflicts, natural hazards, and economic crises in places all over the globe have triggered massive displacements of population which threaten to overwhelm our capacity to respond adequately, that is, both with humanity and order, and have generated a clash between two sometimes conflicting loyalties – the desire to embrace otherness and the attachment to our identity – which risks breaking the cohesion and the unity of our continent, a great achievement of our recent history that we used to take for granted.

It is time that Europe, as a community of destiny, starts reflecting around this issue, that is not likely to disappear any time soon and could even become more important as long as steps are not taken in the direction of preventing the migrations where they originate, by tackling the root causes that are triggering them: poverty and social despair, violence and oppression, climate change. As European citizens and as Christians, we are called upon to take an active part, modestly, but ambitiously at the same time, in this daunting task.

The European Confederation of Jesuit Alumni (ECJA), being aware of this unfolding situation, want to help approach the problem in ways that can be described as Jesuit, leading them to be “Contemplatives in Action”. For that purpose, it has set up the European Encounters of Jesuit Alumni, taking place in Rome, from September 14th to 16th 2016, an event in which we will be confronted with the migration crisis in a reflexive way, providing a glimpse at its different root causes, the challenges it poses, the response of the various actors and our possible role as bridge-builders and problem-solvers.

Under the title of Global migration and refugee crisis: time to contemplate and act, these European Encounters promise to be a series of moments in which we will enrich ourselves intellectually, open up spiritually and be touched emotionally. To organize this event, we have teamed up with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS International), a NGO created in 1980 by Father General Pedro Arrupe. With their help, we will have the opportunity to attend conferences offered by renowned experts in the field, which will help us understand the complexities surrounding migration in a holistic way. We will also have the opportunity to share with first-hand actors, what it means to be a refugee in a city like Rome and how we might help when we are back home, starting from the way we look at them. We will as well be able to interact with migrants who benefit from the actions of JRS and many others.

These European Encounters, which are preceded by a pilgrimage between Gubbio and Assisi (from September 10th to 13th), organized by the French Federation of Jesuit Alumni, will officially begin with the attendance of the General Papal Audience on Wednesday, September 14th. You will find in this folder all information regarding the program and the practicalities (registration and accommodation).

As President of the European Confederation of Jesuit Alumni (ECJA), I cordially invite you to join us and share what promises to be a challenging and moving experience, as the encounter with the Other will inspire us to live our lives as true followers of Ignatius.

AMDG

Enrique Rebés
President, European Confederation of Jesuit Alumni
PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
All Day  Arrival of European Alumni in Rome - Transport from Assisi to Rome (for those who took part in the Pilgrimage*)
12:30  General Audience with the Pope - Piazza San Pietro
12:30 - 19:30  Free time
19:30 - 22:00  Welcoming Dinner - Restaurant in Rome

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - LUMSA UNIVERSITY
09:15 - 09:30  Time for Recollection
09:30 - 11:00  Session 1: The root causes and challenges of global migration
Mauro Garofalo, Head of International Relations, Community of St. Egidio (tbc)
Martina Liebsch, Director for Policy, Caritas International (tbc)
11:00 - 11:30  Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00  Session 2: Acting as Christians: What does the Church tell us?
Francesca Doná, Responsible for the sector “Refugees”, Pontifical Council for Migrants (tbc)
Xavier Dijon sj, JRS Belgium (tbc)
13:00 - 14:30  Lunch Break / Free Time
14:30 - 17:30  Option 1: Experiential Tour: Rome in the Eyes of Refugees
Option 2: Visit of Ignatian Places (Chiesa del Gesù, Chiesa Sant’Ignazio, Camerette di Ignazio di Loyola)
Option 3: Discussion in small groups about the themes debated in the morning sessions
16:00 - 17:30  Option 4: Encounter with Refugees around a cup of tea
18:00 - 19:00  Mass - location to be confirmed
19:30 - 22:00  Festive Dinner - Restaurant in Rome

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - LUMSA UNIVERSITY
09:15 - 09:30  Time for Recollection
09:30 - 11:00  Session 3: Integration of Refugees and Migrants in Europe
Yahya Pallavicini, Imam, President of CO.RE.IS. (Communità Religiosa Islamica Italiana) (tbc)
Jill Drzewiecki, Mercy in Motion Campaign Development Coordinator, JRS International (tbc)
11:00 - 11:30  Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00  Session 4: The Jesuit Response: The Jesuit Refugee Service
Ken Gavin sj, International Assistant Director, JRS International (tbc)
13:00 - 14:30  Lunch Break / Free Time
14:30 - 17:30  Option 1: Experiential Tour: Rome in the Eyes of Refugees
Option 2: Visit of Ignatian Places (Chiesa del Gesù, Chiesa Sant’Ignazio, Camerette di Ignazio di Loyola)
Option 3: Discussion in small groups about the themes debated in the morning sessions
16:00 - 17:30  Option 4: Encounter with Refugees around a cup of tea
14:30 - 18:30  WUJA General Assembly Meeting (For WUJA Delegates and Council)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
09:00 - 18:00  Free for European Alumni  WUJA Council Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
09:00 - 12:00  Free for European Alumni  WUJA Council Meeting

* A pilgrimage is organized by the French Federation of Jesuit Alumni between Gubbio and Assisi, in the footsteps of Saint Francis, from 10 to 13 September 2016. All information to be obtained from François Lombard (flombard@turennecapital.com)
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION
To register for the European Encounters of Jesuit Alumni, and optionally request that we arrange for your accommodation, please visit

WWW.ECJA.EU

and fill in the registration form. The attendance fee is €125 for participants aged under 35 or over 75, €200 for others; €125 for spouses or companions of participants. It includes the Welcoming Dinner on September 14th and the Festive Dinner on September 15th.

Accommodation options are situated near the European Encounter Landmarks showing on the map.

In the registration form, you will be able to choose between 3 budget categories: 30-50€, 51-80€, 81€ and above — all prices per person, per night.

Once registered, you will receive an automatic confirmation email with further instructions, then a personal response to your accommodation request if you made one, within 24 hours.

Cancellations are eligible for refund if received by Friday, September 2nd, at the latest. Beyond that date, payments will not be refunded / will remain due.

All arrangements are handled by the Organizing Committee with the collaboration of WUJA — the World Union of Jesuit Alumni.

Visit www.ecja.eu for updates to the agenda and other information.
If necessary, send an email request to: europeanencounters@ecja.eu
or contact:
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