



Refugees Digest 13 February 2017

Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons

In recent weeks the international community has witnessed the decisive, disturbing action of President Trump with regard to refugees and migration in the USA. Through a series of Executive Orders he has placed a 120 day pause on refugee resettlement programs, reduced the number of new arrivals from 110,000 to 50,000 for the 2016/17 financial year and has placed a temporary travel ban on citizens from seven Muslim majority countries. This has a very immediate effect on the 67,689 refugees who have already been cleared by the Dept. of Homeland Security and are travel ready. Even if the program restarts in May, only 20,000 of this number will be allowed into the USA under the new quota system. 30,000 had already gained entry before President Trump took office. Many of the links in this Digest speak to the fiercely contested debate around these actions. It must also be noted that while the spotlight has been on the USA, restrictive measures have also emanated from the EU and the UK. On 8th February 2017 the UK Minister responsible for Immigration announced that his government would close down the program for accepting 3000 unaccompanied refugee children. Only 250 such children have been assisted thus far under the program, in itself only a fraction of the promised number. EU data indicated that 90,000 unaccompanied children sought asylum in Europe in 2015, four times the number recorded for 2014. 13% of this number were under 14 years of age. The last link in this Digest confirms this. The closure of possibilities for refugees and forcibly displaced persons in the richer countries of the world, means that the burden of hosting the refugees falls on some of the world's poorer countries.

One positive, if unintended consequence, of the strong political action is that renewed interest in policies around displaced persons, questions of social justice in this regard and understandings of responsibility have once again been rigorously discussed. This is particularly so in faith communities and in the mainline churches in particular. Pope Francis, in the second link, makes a strong appeal for the welcome of refugees and an acceptance of the poor and marginalised. Many of the links speak to this rich theology and praxis of solidarity.

Peter-John Pearson
Director

- http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/02/03/us-refugee-resettlement-system-reels-trump-ban?utm_source=IRIN%20-%20the%20inside%20story%20on%20emergencies&utm_campaign=74942ed249-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-74942ed249-15708545
- <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/02/02/reject-inertia-mannequin-challenge-reach-refugees-pope-says/>
- http://globalsistersreport.org/column/horizons/migration/remembering-displacement-44761?utm_source=Horizons_Feb%203%2C%202017&utm_campaign=Email%20Horizons%201-27-17&utm_medium=email
- <http://links.cfr.mkt5175.com/servlet/MailView?ms=NTMzNDQ5MjgS1&r=NTA0ODM0NDc1ODQS1&j=MTEwMDU0MDY4OQS2&mt=1&rt=0>
- <https://paxchristipeacestories.com/refugee-stories/>

- http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/02/02/blocked-trump-unwanted-kenya-somali-refugees-face-new-crisis-famine-looms?utm_source=IRIN++the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm_campaign=6e11851af5-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-6e11851af5-15708545
- http://www.irinnews.org/special-report/2017/02/02/eu-strategy-stems-migrant-flow-niger-what-cost?utm_source=IRIN++the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm_campaign=6e11851af5-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-6e11851af5-15708545
- http://blogs.cfr.org/women-around-the-world/2017/02/01/u-s-international-policy-protect-refugees-timeline/?cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily_news_brief--link27-20170202&sp_mid=53335839&sp_rid=cGVhenNvbkbPpYWZyaWNhLmNvbQS2
- http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2017/01/nine-questions-protesting-donald-trumps-immigration-ban-must-answer/?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Lunchtime_Espresso_02022017
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/06/us/politics/trump-travel-ban-john-kerry.html?ref=world&r=0>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/05/us/politics/trumps-travel-ban.html?action=click&contentCollection=Politics&module=RelatedCoverage®ion=Marginalia&pgtype=article>
- http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/times-banned-immigrants-170128183528941.html?utm_source=Al+Jazeera+English+Newsletter+%7C+Weekly&utm_campaign=3352b81b5c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e427298a68-3352b81b5c-223148605
- <http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=30528>
- <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=31891>