



## **Refugees Digest 20** **November 2017**

### **Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons**

The Holy See has called for migration policies that keep intact the family unit, and has decried legal impediments which make family unity difficult. On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Archbishop Jurkovic, the leader of the Holy See's Observer Mission to the UN Geneva, pointed out that there are close to one billion people with some sort of migration status. He said that statistic is "a tangible sign of increasing inequalities, socio-economic imbalances, and unregulated globalization." He regretted that the immediate response to irregular migration is all too often one based on security.

<https://cruxnow.com/cns/2017/10/12/find-ways-keep-migrant-families-together-vatican-official-says/>

[http://www.osservatoreromano.va/vaticanresources/pdf/ING\\_2017\\_042\\_2010.pdf](http://www.osservatoreromano.va/vaticanresources/pdf/ING_2017_042_2010.pdf)

Pope Francis has strongly reiterated his appeal for a spirit of welcome to be extended to refugees and migrants. He says that it is not a time for "sterile laboratories" but for welcome.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=33611>

A broad alliance of interfaith movements has come together in the UK to assist in community-based sponsoring of refugees.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33593>

In the UK there is a vigorous campaign to protect the rights of unaccompanied minors who are technically, under the Dublin Agreement, entitled to stay in the UK because they have family there. There will be protest actions on 24<sup>th</sup> October, the day Parliament debates the immigration aspects of Brexit. Issues of family reunification have become a key aspect of immigration policies, with most governments proposing very restrictive interpretations to such possibilities.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33598>

It has emerged recently that old smuggling routes across the treacherous Black Sea, used during the Soviet era, have re-opened, ferrying refugees in ill-equipped, decommissioned boats. This makes it a very dangerous exercise. Most of the refugees land in Romania.

[http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/10/16/old-route-new-dangers-migrant-smugglers-revive-black-sea-route-europe?utm\\_source=IRIN%20-%20the%20inside%20story%20on%20emergencies&utm\\_campaign=efa86e2a4c-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_ENGLISH\\_ALL&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-efa86e2a4c-15708545,](http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/10/16/old-route-new-dangers-migrant-smugglers-revive-black-sea-route-europe?utm_source=IRIN%20-%20the%20inside%20story%20on%20emergencies&utm_campaign=efa86e2a4c-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-efa86e2a4c-15708545)

Faith-based communities in the USA are committed to advocacy which would keep the rights of 'Dreamers' intact without the fundamentally anti-immigration compromises suggested recently by the White House. Digest 10 covered this issue extensively.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/keep-dream-act-free-strings-activists-say-about-childhood-immigrants>  
<http://maryknollogc.org/article/maryknoll-letter-congress-pass-dream-act-0>

In the wake of the terrorist attack on 31<sup>st</sup> October in New York City, President Trump again called for extreme vetting of all entering the USA, greater border controls, and tighter internal immigration controls. Extreme vetting for people from certain countries such as Syria, Sudan and South Sudan includes the need to supply addresses and phone numbers of every place stayed in over the past ten years. The Administration has also hinted at reviewing the benefits and protection offered to holders of ‘Temporary Protected Status’, which offers protection to those who entered the USA without documents due to natural disasters, armed conflict, or extraordinary circumstances. Commentators are saying the President Trump is systematically putting into policy the promises around immigration made during the presidential campaign.

<http://maryknollogc.org/article/upholding-human-dignity-migrants-refugees>  
[https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/trump-has-put-anti-immigrant-campaign-promises-action?utm\\_source=Nov%20%20%20De%20Tarle%20and%20immigration&utm\\_campaign=cc\\_110217&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/trump-has-put-anti-immigrant-campaign-promises-action?utm_source=Nov%20%20%20De%20Tarle%20and%20immigration&utm_campaign=cc_110217&utm_medium=email)

The article below very succinctly deconstructs some of the myths and prejudices which surround the refugee narrative. It tackles five prevalent myths, especially peddled in the USA but certainly not only in that country. The second link leads to a similar article, but with a greater focus.

<https://firstperson.oxfamamerica.org/2017/11/five-myths-about-refugees-you-might-hear-around-the-thanksgiving-table-and-how-to-debunk-them/>  
<https://firstperson.oxfamamerica.org/2017/01/slamming-the-door-on-refugees-wont-make-america-great-again/>

Recently, at an international meeting of Catholic Universities, Pope Francis urged the universities to use their skills, research and insights to assist with the plight of refugees and migrants at all levels. He asked them to conduct research into the reasons for the refugee phenomenon, as well as to open spaces for refugees to be welcomed into universities.

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/11/04/171104e.html>

The extreme vulnerability of women in the process of migration, the complexity of sexual violence *en route*, and the complex realities of enforced sexual favours, as well as genuine relationships along the way, make for difficult situations for women on the move.

<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/women-under-siege/why-so-many-migrant-mothers-arrive-in-europe-pregnant-1>

Another vulnerable group are young people. It is estimated that seven million young people between the ages of 10-24 years are amongst the overall refugee numbers. It has been pointed out that they are subject to very particular challenges. This article speaks to the special needs of young refugees.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/11/uns-global-compact-refugees-must-address-needs-young-people/>

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