



Refugees Digest 29 **August 2018**

Refugees, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Displaced Persons

In the first weeks of July, 180 civil society organizations found agreement on some of the principles that should frame the Global Compact on Migration. This agreement came ahead of the sixth and final round of talks on the Compact, which took place in New York. The protection of children, family unification, and a plea to enhance processes of integration, featured strongly in this agreement. From a policy perspective these principles speak to the core of human rights-based policies.

<https://www.icmc.net/newsroom/news-and-statements/global-compact-for-migration-its-now-or-never>

The issue of separating the children of displaced persons from their parents and guardians continues to gain public attention. The call for re-unification has intensified across vast sectors of society. Attention has also been given to the creeping campaign, in some sectors of opinion making, of 'demonising children.'

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/demonising-children-european-borders-180628123823263.html?utm_source=Al+Jazeera+English+Newsletter+%7C+Weekly&utm_campaign=6695d1eac9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e427298a68-6695d1eac9-223148605

<http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2018/bishops-end-border-visit-calling-for-urgent-reunification-of-children.cfm>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/trump-administration-reunites-majority-of-separated-families-by-court-deadline/2018/07/26/7db6263c-9102-11e8-8322-b5482bf5e0f5_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.b266696c190

In an important theological insight, the US Bishops reaffirmed that the starting point of their policy engagement is embedded in the human person and the rights that adhere to the person.

https://cnstopstories.com/2018/07/10/bishops-sought-to-share-journey-with-migrants-not-join-political-fray/amp/?_twitter_impression=true

An interesting article on the demographics in European societies shows that, had it not been for immigration, the population of Europe would have been 1m people less than it now is.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/europe-s-migration-and-population-growth-nexus/8047?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=13-07-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=3a72042ed0da248a18f664113a327e12

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres reminded the world that migrants comprise 3% of the international population and contribute 10% of the overall global gross domestic product.

<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23migrants&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email>

After the 2015/2016 refugee crises more and more policy makers began to take seriously various models for integrating refugee populations. This article looks at cost-benefit analysis models and argues that such models can help identify the impact of integration programs.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/cost-benefit-analysis-refugee-integration-programming>

This article, penned by an Italian doctor working in Lampedusa, is critical of European responses to the refugee issue and the hardening of attitudes towards this phenomenon.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/11/pietro-bartolo-lampedusa-doctor-migrant-deaths-mediterranean-slaughter-innocents?CMP=share_btn_fb

The Bishops of Europe, meeting recently, emphasized the needs to value the lives of migrants, to accompany them in different ways, and to do advocacy in their favour.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/for-europe-s-bishops-defending-migrants-and-their-dignity-go-hand-in-hand/8069?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=17-07-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=3a72042ed0da248a18f664113a327e12

<https://cruxnow.com/interviews/2018/07/12/swedens-top-catholic-says-pope-can-still-sway-immigration-debate/>

A lively policy discussion is taking place in the UK, especially after the decision to leave the EU, on possible shapes of migration policies. Voices are calling for the application of common good principles to this debate.

<http://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/viewpoints/blog/reader/the-complexities-around-migration.html>

<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2001/01/31/fortress-britain>

Cardinal Vincent Nichols speaks of his visit to the Jesuit Refugee Centre and his dismay at the stories being told of the struggles of refugees and asylum seekers to find a welcome and acceptance in the UK. He says that he is aware of the fact that there are hard cases that the authorities have to deal with, but that it seems to him that all cases are dealt with in a hard manner.

<http://www.jesuit.org.uk/node/6537>

Pope Francis has spoken very strongly on the vexed issue of migrants crossing the Mediterranean and being prey to smugglers and traffickers. He urged European nations to come to the aid of the migrants.

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/pope-francis-urges-europe-to-rush-to-aid-of-migrant-laden-boats/8114>

Finally, this link takes you to an analysis of young African migrants and the push factors that prompt them to take the risky journeys to new pastures against unbelievable odds.

https://international.la-croix.com/news/forced-to-leave-africa-s-young-migrants/8123?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_content=24-07-2018&utm_campaign=newsletter_crx_lci&PMID=3a72042ed0da248a18f664113a327e12

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