



Building the future together with migrants and refugees



JESUIT'S

On the 108th *World Day of Migrants and Refugees*, Pope Francis reminds us **to put the most vulnerable people at the center** by fostering the potential of our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

This year's theme, **“Building the future together with migrants and refugees”**, highlights that we can only grow - as a society and as a human family - if we all grow together in peace and dignity.



Through the JRS France *Welcome* scheme, Catherine opened her home to a young man from Sierra Leone. Each hosting experience is unique, and many connections will last a lifetime. (Photo: Bilal Zoba)

To build a fairer and more inclusive future, we must start by recognizing and **valuing migrants and refugees' unique gifts and skills.**

Let us create environments where our brothers and sisters can use their talents to rebuild their lives and contribute to the common good.



Dorian, a refugee from Cameroon, set up dancing classes in Bucharest, Romania, to help newly-arrived Ukrainian refugees relax and socialise.



In 2017, two Afghan families hosted by JRS Greece started a daily event to help Afghan refugees and asylum seekers connect and ease their stress with tea, coffee, and table games.

A refugee giving hope to people with disabilities

As a South Sudanese refugee living in Kenya, Mendy was part of a JRS programme from 2014 to 2018 that helped him complete his university education.

Today, **Mendy runs his own refugee-led non-governmental organization**, Hope Relief Rehabilitation for Disabilities Support (HRRDS), advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in Sudan and South Sudan.

Mendy credits his passion for human rights to his lived experience of displacement. He wishes to be a beacon of hope for other refugees and to prove to the world that refugees are never passive receivers of aid, but rather actors of social change.



Refugees should get meaningful opportunities to show what they can offer.

Mendy Hamedda

South Sudanese refugee and NGO founder





Clotilde, from Burkina Faso, learning fashion design in Seville, Spain. (Photo: Kristóf Hölvényi)

In his message, Pope Francis highlights that God's vision for the future can only be built together with the most vulnerable and the marginalized.

In the Kingdom to come, **no one must be excluded.**

Let us open our hearts to all forcibly displaced people - regardless of their origin or status – and build together an inclusive and just society.



Without this job, I wouldn't know what to do with my life in a new country.

Helping children is my life now, and it makes me feel alive.

Oleana

Ukrainian refugee in Romania, employed by JRS as teacher





Flor Marina, a refugee in Venezuela, was deported back to Colombia in 2015. In Cúcuta, she started a sewing business with the support of JRS.

All over the world, **displaced people have a lot to offer to host communities**, yet they rarely get the opportunity to flourish.

Through vocational training and livelihoods programmes, jobs can be created, and refugee and host communities can learn to work and prosper together.



I've decided to open this business with refugee colleagues because most of them have energy and motivation, but they are not allowed to own a business, to have a license. They are the most motivated people I've ever met.

Tsion Girma

Ethiopian national, JRS business training participant, and member of a group of refugees and locals setting up a new sewing enterprise





Ukrainian and Romanian women supporting newly arrived refugees in Bucharest, Romania.

Refugees and locals working together in Cameroon

Finding employment in a refugee camp is incredibly difficult. That's why twenty-two Congolese refugees in Burundi joined forces with six locals to set up a soap-making cooperative.

In a vocational training course promoted by JRS and Entreculturas, the group learned theoretical and practical aspects of the job and received the initial resources to start their business.

The resulting cooperative not only **created job opportunities** for the most vulnerable, but also **helped preventing the spread of COVID-19** by producing and distributing soap in the area.



We work together because the work of a single person is just impossible.

Fedha Pendege

Congolese refugee, member of soap-making cooperative in Burundi





Members of refugee-led soap-making cooperative at work in Burundi.

Above all, building a future together means opening ourselves to one another and **finding common ground**.

Only through honest and fruitful encounters can we create a common future where different perspectives are valued, and all voices are heard.

Let us work together towards a single, human family.



Muhammad, the leader of the Sudanese community in Malta, runs a butcher shop which fosters integration by serving as a meeting point for a lot of different people such as locals, refugees, tourists (Photo: Kristóf Hölvényi).



Arts and crafts activities with refugee children in Victoria Square, Athens (Photo: Kristóf Hölvényi).

As we work towards building a future together with migrants and refugees, let us follow Pope Francis's leadership and **join the prayer:**

*Lord, make us bearers of hope,
so that where there is darkness,
your light may shine,
and where there is discouragement,
confidence in the future may be reborn.*

*Lord, make us instruments of your justice,
so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish,
and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.*

*Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,
together with migrants and refugees
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.*

*Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is
to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.*

Pope Francis, Rome, May 2022



You can help refugees rebuild their lives: jrs.net/donate



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