



Forgotten Situations of Displacement



May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way; instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another.

Pope Francis



Photo: A young girl walking through Dollo Ado refugee camp, Ethiopia. The camp is home to refugees fleeing violence in neighbouring Somalia and Eritrea.



Photo: N Hkawng Pa camp is one of the many settlements for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Myanmar.



Photo: Internally displaced women can find a safe space and learn new skills in Douala, Cameroon.

When an emergency breaks out, forcibly displaced people find themselves at the centre of international debates.

Sadly, media and political attention do not last long. Soon the stories of refugees are neglected, their voices silenced.

Even if they don't make the headlines, people affected by crisis like those in Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, Venezuela, are still in need.

We must not forget them.



Photo: Rohingya fleeing persecution found safety in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh.



Photo: In the aftermath of Russia's attack, Ukrainian women fled to the Polish border (Sergi Camara).



Photo: A migrant mother arrived in Mexico holds her baby close (Javier Bauluz/ Entreculturas).

While attention to these issues is often short-lived, refugee situations are increasingly becoming protracted phenomena.

Forcibly displaced people spend years - even decades – away from home.

In many cases, much of that time is spent struggling to access protection and to have one's status recognised.

Everyone has the right to flee conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution, and natural disasters to seek safety somewhere else.

Let us **welcome** them with open hearts.



Photo: In Serbia, asylum seekers attempt the Balkan Route into Europe.



Photo: A young Yazidi boy living with his family as IDPs in Iraq (Sergi Camara/JRS).



Photo: Lebanon, a woman standing in front of ruins caused by the Beirut Blast of August 2020, which further displaced many refugees.

No one leaves their home, unless they have to. Being a refugee is only one aspect of a person's life journey – it is never the whole story.

Beyond statistics and numbers, those forced into exile are **people with dreams, families, and stories to be shared.**

Let us treat forcibly displaced people as brothers and sisters, no matter where they come from.



Photo: Teacher training in an IDP camp in Myanmar, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced once again by conflict.



Photo: In the Democratic Republic of Congo families have been displaced for decades due to civil unrest (Don Doll SJ).



We tried hard to make it through the hardships together as one family.

Gehad and her family fled the civil war in Yemen in 2018. In Jordan they found peace, but struggled to make ends meet.

To improve her livelihoods opportunities, Gehad signed up to various workshops at the local JRS centre.

Thanks to the skills she developed, Gehad helped her community during the pandemic, providing hand-sewn face masks.

Her children and husband also improved their English through JRS classes, and the whole family received much-needed psychosocial support.





Photo: Ajah and her grandchildren during a home visit in Maban, South Sudan.



Photo: Venezuelans re-cross the border after having bought first necessities in Colombia (George Castellanos).



Photo: A JRS staff member visiting a family with a disabled child in Bangladesh.

When Fr. Arrupe founded the **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)** in 1980, he called on us to go where the need is greatest, where the most vulnerable are neglected.

True to his vision, JRS continues to accompany, serve, and advocate for forcibly displaced people amidst new and existing humanitarian crises – ensuring that **no one is forgotten**.



Photo: In Kakuma, Kenya, JRS provides special needs education to the children living in the refugee camp.



Photo: Syrian children born in Lebanon have never seen their country (Kristóf Hölvényi/ Jesuit Refugee Service)



Photo: In Cameroon JRS created a garden where IDPs can cultivate food to sell and bring home.

We can find hope and strength walking alongside our displaced brothers and sisters and witnessing their outstanding resilience.

Let us pray together so that all refugees, everywhere, may **heal, learn, and determine their own future.**

Lord Jesus,
You were born in the insecurity of homelessness,
Your family had to flee the violence of the powerful,
You chose to walk the roads of Galilee with the poor,
You listened to and welcomed the marginalized, women who were despised, the sick and lepers,
You heard the call of the bereaved,
And in your silence before Pilate, you let the call for true justice resound.

To those who today suffer in exile or are cut off from their loved ones,
manifest your presence through the fraternal attention of men and women
who seek to accompany, defend and serve them.
Be the support of those people who commit themselves to following you,
to open future paths to the forgotten of this world.
Enlarge our hearts and nourish our daily commitment
to share the hope that you have brought,
and that you still bring to our world.

We ask this of you, who live with the Father and the Spirit
today and forever. AMEN.



Photo: Mother and child from Venezuela reaching the border with Colombia.



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