

# Beyond The Headlines



## Migrants and Refugees: Sharing Our Common Home

In the face of the challenging migration crisis, Pope Francis has summoned us to work towards a more humane society through the welcoming, protection, promotion and integration of migrants, as proclaimed in his message for the 104<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This is an issue that concerns every Christian, not only because of our common humanity but also, and perhaps above all, because of the Christian command to love the stranger as oneself. Pope Francis started his message by reminding us of that fundamental imperative: *“You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God”* (Leviticus 19:34).

There are many obstacles, prejudices and misinformation directed towards migrants and refugees. Hence there is a need to question a mainstream narrative that enhances division, and stigmatises those whose hope is simply for a safer and more dignified life.

We hope therefore that the links for the resources listed here will be of use in looking behind the headlines and informing and promoting an alternative narrative: a genuine ‘Sharing Our Common Home.’

### On The Pope’s Summons: A Christian Imperative

Migrants and Refugees Section: <https://migrants-refugees.va/>

Vatican office personally directed by Pope Francis. It helps the Church worldwide to support those who are forcibly displaced by conflict, natural disaster, persecution or extreme poverty; those who are making their difficult way to safety or are stuck; and those who fall victim to human trafficking.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018:

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco\\_20170815\\_world-migrants-day-2018.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20170815_world-migrants-day-2018.html)

### On The UN Global Compact: An Agreement in Waiting

Compact for Migration: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

The global compact for migration due to be signed in September 2018 will be the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

### On World Migration: Data & Info

International Organisation for Migration: <https://www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018>

Data and information on migration as well as thematic chapters on topical migration issues. The report can be downloaded from the site - as a whole, or by separate chapters.

The Migration Observatory: <http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/>  
Facts and figures on migration

Scottish Refugee Council: The Facts Booklet

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/6115/SRC\\_The\\_Facts\\_Booklet.pdf](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/6115/SRC_The_Facts_Booklet.pdf) Downloadable booklet refuting some widespread myths on migration.

... *“I was a stranger, and you made me welcome”*



## On The Scottish Response: Strategies, Initiatives & Facts

### New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 - 2022

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/01/7281>

### Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees: <http://www.sfar.org.uk/>

Project which seeks to co-ordinate and promote action by faith communities in Scotland to support asylum seekers and refugees.

### Refugee Survival Trust: <http://www.rst.org.uk>

Small charity that provides grants and integrated support services to asylum seekers and refugees living in Scotland. These grants and services alleviate poverty and destitution, or help refugees and asylum seekers to access education and employment, and to integrate.

### Bikes for Refugees: <https://twitter.com/Bikes4Refugees>

Charity which recycles donated bikes for distribution to refugees & asylum seekers - volunteer led community project dependent upon your support.

## On Welcoming: A Reality?

### A Deep Hospitality <https://www.jrsuk.net/blog/a-deep-hospitality-with-migrants-and-refugees/>

The Provincial of the Jesuits shares his reflections for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

### Pope Francis: Stop using the word 'illegal' as a synonym for 'immigrant'

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/media-need-to-tell-the-whole-story-on-migration-pope-francis-says-75231>

### Suicide raises alarm about UK treatment of child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/17/suicides-raise-alarm-about-uk-treatment-of-child-refugees-eritrean>

### Border Treaty blamed for Calais migrant surge that has led to violence

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/03/border-treaty-migrant-surge-calais-violence>

*“Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ.”*

*- Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2018*

**Sharing Our Common Home** - Our Scottish response to Pope Francis' call to Welcome, Promote, Protect and Integrate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsV1BLOtX2g>



Search for Justice and Peace Scotland



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