

Xavier Social Justice Network

DINNER 2022

supporting Jesuit Refugee Service



“Their work, their youth, their enthusiasm and their willingness to sacrifice enrich the communities that receive them. Yet this contribution could be all the greater were it optimized and supported by carefully developed programs and initiatives. Enormous potential exists, ready to be harnessed, if only it is given a chance.”

Pope Francis's message for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2022.



(Scan this QR CODE to read the full message)

Questions to consider:

What are we witnessing?

What values influence our understanding?

How should we act on our understanding?

What can we do?

‘I was a stranger and you made me welcome.’ Matthew 25:35

Current Climate

War in the Ukraine is one of the most significant refugee crises in recent times. It is Europe's worst refugee crisis since the Balkan wars of the 1990s. What does this mean?

More than **6.8 million** refugees have already fled Ukraine

Women and children make up **90%** of people fleeing the crisis



12 million Ukrainians are expected to need humanitarian assistance

1 in 5 women refugees experience sexual violence

**84 million people are currently displaced worldwide.
This number has doubled in the last decade.**

War in Ukraine has grabbed the world's attention and spotlighted the problems facing people seeking asylum. Without downplaying the importance of continuing our support to Ukraine, we would like to remind you that as of mid 2021, more than **two thirds of all refugees** that were displaced abroad came from just **five countries**:

- **Syrian Arab Republic – 6.8 million**
- **Venezuela – 4.1 million**
- **Afghanistan – 2.6 million**
- **South Sudan – 2.2 million**
- **Myanmar – 1.1 million**

2022-23 BUDGET

\$482.5 million is allocated by the Australian government for its offshore processing policy in 2022-23 despite having just 112 refugees and asylum seekers currently being held in Nauru.

\$9.65 billion will be the total cost of offshore processing by 2023.

\$20 million is going to be the budget of Australian Human Rights Commission in 2025-26. It will be cut by a third.

In his victory speech, the 31st Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, said that *“we should always look after the disadvantaged and the vulnerable”* and *“no one should be held back because we should always support aspiration and opportunity.”*



Photo: John Englart / <https://www.flickr.com/photos/takver/9377515138/>

We want to hold our new government to its promises, abolish Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas, and provide pathways to permanent protection. As a record number of people are being displaced worldwide, we want to encourage the new government to help develop a constructive global response to the refugee tide.

“Building the future with migrants and refugees also means recognizing and valuing how much each of them can contribute to the process of construction.”

Pope Francis, 2022



XAVIER SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Justice through advocacy and volunteering

We celebrated the release of 26 refugees from onshore detention on the 7-8th April 2022, joining around 250 people released since December 2020. An estimated 5 to 6 people transferred from offshore detention for medical reasons were still in detention as of April 2022. There are still over 200 people being held in the offshore processing facilities*.

**The Department of Home Affairs doesn't publish the number of people held in PNG since the arrangement with PNG ended*

What can we do?

- Make a donation to support the important work of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia
- Join the XSJN or subscribe to our mailing list by emailing xsjn@xavier.vic.edu.au
- Drop off food donations to Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, contact <https://basp.org.au/contact/>
- Write a letter or call your local MP about the injustice of long-term detention and human rights breaches
- Sign a petition to release people from detention.

Sources for the data in this issue: The data in this issue is the most recent available at the time of going to press. The sources include: <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/> ; <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/03/25/after-a-month-of-war-ukrainian-refugee-crisis-ranks-among-the-worlds-worst-in-recent-history/> ; <https://www.redcross.au/act/help-refugees/refugee-facts/> ; <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/our-letter-to-prime-minister-anthony-albanese/> org

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