

REFUGEE & MIGRANT EDUCATION

Voices in Action: Transformative Collaboration and Educational Solidarity with Refugees & Migrants

Pontifical Urbaniana University | Rome, Italy
30 September–2 October, 2026



WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER	THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER	FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER
10:30Registration and Networking 11:30Preliminary Workshop Aiming Higher: Refugee Access to Higher Education: A 90-minute event convening universities and sector partners to explore what it would take to expand refugee access to higher education at scale. The session surfaces the institutional and policy constraints universities face and examines where refugee inclusion fits within their wider commitment to widening participation. Rebecca Telford Mansour, UNHCR Benedetta Marcaccini, UNHCR 13:30Welcome and Opening Plenary Welcome Remarks Professor Vincenzo Buonomo, Rector Urbaniana Ms. Francesca Bonelli, UNHCR Anthony Cernera, Ph.D. Keynote: Strengthening bonds of collaboration and solidarity with refugees and migrants in perilous times. Dr. Monica Attias, Community of Sant'Egidio Keynote: Higher education at the margins: from dream to reality - A Decade of Sharing the Journey Fr. Peter Bellais, SJ, Jesuit Worldwide Learning 16:00Short Break 16:15Panel - Refugee Perspectives Melodie Honen Delmar, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (facilitator) Stories of Challenge and Hope: Testimonies of Resettled University Refugee Students and of Students in Emergency Situations 17:15Meetings of the Working Groups: 1. Education of Refugees & Migrants Catherine Gladwell 2. Education about Refugees & Migrants Veronica De Sanctis 3. Advocacy & Accompaniment of Refugees & Migrants ~ Holly Brunker 4. Research ~ Tina Facca Miess 18:15Reception	9:00Morning Plenary 09:15Plenary Continuity of Education Across Contexts and Education Levels for Migrant and Refugee Population: the impact of funding cuts, research agenda gaps and promising models of intervention Moderator: Marco Grazia, JRS Panelists: • Rebecca Telford Mansour, UNHCR • Helena Murseli, UNICEF • Lily Neyestani, UNESCO HQ • Barbara Moser Mercer, AHEEN • Dr. John Bosco, JRS, former refugee 10:40Coffee Break 11:15Plenary Panel Models of Cooperation and Collaboration: 1. The Mother Cabrini Institute of Immigration, Prof Michele Pistone 2. University of Sanctuary, Nick Gill, University of Exeter 3. St. Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) and JRS 4. Jesuit Worldwide Learning 5. Refugee Education UK & John Carroll University, Catherine Gladwell, Tina Facca Miess 6. SIMN (Europe & Africa) Antonio Grasso, C.S. 13:00Lunch 14:30Plenary Pathways of Hope and Education: Ethical Principles and Practices Cardinal Fabio Baggio C.S. 16:00Afternoon Session -Series 1 5 Parallel Sessions 1.1 Archetects of Knowledge: Refugee Leadership & Institutional Power 1.2 The Higher Education Pipeline: Access, Persistence and the 'Day After' 1.3 Fostering Global Solidarity: Disruptive Pedagogies in the University 1.4 Identity & Resiliency: Voices of Dispaced Youth 1.5 Proyeccion Social: Bridging Institutions and Community 18:00Reception	9:00Plenary Atificial Intelligence: Opportunities & Challenges in Refugee & Migrant Fr. Maurice Emelu, John Carroll University with Questions and Discussion 10:25Coffee Break 11:10Plenary Report and Recommendations from the Working Groups: 1. Education of Refugees & Migrants 2. Education about Refugees & Migrants 3. Advocacy & Accompaniment of Refugees & Migrants 4. Research 13:00Lunch 14:30Afternoon Sessions - Series 2 5 Parallel Sessions 2.1. Gendered Solidarity: Women as Agents of Education and Renewal 2.2 Turning the Tide: National Policy Frameworks and Livelihoods 2.3 Pathways to Life: Holistic Formation and Early Childhood Care 2.4 Efficient Resource Deployment: Collaborative Innovation & Agency 2.5 Rights and Resilience: Ethical and Trauma-Informed Frameworks 16:45Final Session: Wrap Up and Next Steps, Call to Action, Open Discussion 18:00Closing Reception



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