



Globalisation is

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“Globalisation is leading us and even forcing us to try to finally build a supportive world.” **Abbé Pierre**



Editorial

Being able to move freely is important! By Kader, a companion at Emmaus Neuilly Plaisance in France

I came to France in 2001 and I struggled for six months, living on the streets, going from shelter to shelter, all alone. I then came to Emmaus Neuilly Plaisance. I now know Emmaus inside out. I was deported in 2005. I thought this was unfair, as I hadn't done anything wrong, I was working at Emmaus and I was helping people. I had done everything in order to stay and in the end I lost everything that I had built up over my four-year period in France. Everything had changed in Algeria. I had the opportunity to return to France in 2006 and work in the same Emmaus community. I have my points of reference in France, I have friends and I feel more 'calm and collected'. Five years later, I applied to the prefecture to be given leave to remain. My application contained an employment contract. The story has a happy ending as my application

was accepted, but I always think of the others who have been deported. It's hard leaving everything behind, leaving your family, to settle elsewhere, to leave your country because there is no hope. It's not a choice. I wouldn't change anything that has happened in my life, even though I have suffered. Being able to move freely is important! I will never forget my experiences and I will always be there to support others!



All aboard

- The OUC will be officially launched at an event on 23 May at UNESCO in Paris. The launch event will bring together the organisation's supporters. The first passports will be handed over to public figures and victims of repressive migration policies.
- A trilingual website www.o-c-u.org has been created to publicise the OUC and its news.
 - Register in order to become a "Supporter of the OUC" and pass on its news.
 - Encourage the general public and civil society organisations from your country to become "Supporters" or "Partner Organisations" of the OUC so that they commit to global freedom of movement and settlement.
- Are you in contact with States or public figures that could support the OUC and the universal citizenship passport? Please contact the International Secretariat of Emmaus...

An Emmaus International publication - 2013
contact@emmaus-international.org
47 av. de la résistance - 93104 Montreuil Cedex, France
Publication director: Jean Rousseau and the Publications Group
Designed and drafted by Judith Marie
Translated by Gillian Easton
Graphic design: Nicolas Pruvost (www.nicolaspruvost.fr)
Illustration by Claire Robert (clairerobert.org)
Photo credits: Anthony Foussard, Emmaus International.
Printed on FSC certified paper by Loire Offset Titoulet

www.emmaus-international.org

leading us [...] to try to finally build a supportive world.

Emmaus in movement

In February 2013, Emmaus International, the Utopia Movement and the France Libertés Foundation created the Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC) which seeks to promote global freedom of movement and settlement. This initiative is rooted in the Movement's commitment over the past two decades to migrants' rights and its work to address the root causes of poverty.

Many Emmaus groups worldwide are confronted by the presence of migrants in difficulty in their local areas. They offer them unconditional shelter and support and enable them to regain their dignity by contributing to social and solidarity initiatives. The difficulties encountered by these groups and their analysis of the situation have compelled Emmaus to get involved in a more political sense. Via successive campaigns - *Migrants, not slaves!* (2006), *Bridges, not walls* (2008) and *A Visa for the World* (2009) - the Movement has endeavoured to denounce the failure to respect migrants' rights and the problem issues that cause situations of exclusion and poverty. "We must call for change, as Abbé Pierre did, and take a long-term view, going beyond immediate solutions", explains Jean Rousseau, the president of Emmaus International. "The Movement's commitment to getting the International Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights ratified has been an innovative initiative in this area. The OUC falls under the same category", he adds.



Freedom of movement - a fundamental right
"In Brazil, the Emmaus groups are faced with the phenomenon of internal migration, so some do not feel affected by the issue of freedom of movement", explains Luis Tenderini, the leader of Emmaus Recife. However, Luis Tenderini stresses the importance of collectively committing to this issue. "This political action is concrete, even though for some groups it is not reflected in direct support for migrants. Championing freedom of movement

means championing a fundamental right, enshrined in article 13 of the Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of Movement is also about meeting people's need to choose a place to live and a place to live well. It should be a global objective for the Movement." He encourages the groups to support the initiatives run by the Movement so that everyone is aware about this right for all. "It is possible to make progress and you could even say that it is an obligation! Abbé Pierre always worked with those who suffer most and also sought to address the causes of extreme poverty. Everyone should get involved in this fight!", he exclaimed.

The Organisation for Universal Citizenship (OUC)
Emmaus International has worked with two partners in order to create the Organisation for Universal Citizenship. This new phase will enable more concrete progress to be made towards worldwide freedom of movement and settlement through two initiatives: the universal citizenship passport and the call for an international conference on freedom of movement to be held under the auspices of the United Nations. The passport will be



issued by the OUC. The countries that recognise its validity will enable holders to freely settle in their territory. Talks are currently being held with states interested in the principle of freedom of movement. Jean Rousseau stressed the interest of these negotiations: "in the past, progress has been made on issues discussed in international institutions due to the support of one or two States. The aim is to change the paradigm about the issue of migration. This involves a dialogue that does not currently exist and must bring together all the actors involved: NGOs, migrants' representatives, states and international institutions." Emmaus International presented the OUC at the last World Social Forum, which was held in Tunisia, in order to call for global civil society stakeholders to join the initiative. Some 30 public figures (intellectuals, politicians and artists, among others) from all continents have already agreed to be holders of the universal citizenship passport. An event at UNESCO in Paris on 23 May will bring together the organisation's supporters and will mark the start of a bigger campaign.

Visit to Björkä (Suède)

Emmaus Björkä (Sweden) supports undocumented migrants and gets involved in national campaigns in support of a more humane migration policy. Interview with Nanna Nilsson, a volunteer at the group.

What does your work with migrants actually involve?
We help undocumented migrants and 'failed' asylum seekers who have chosen to remain in Sweden. We support networks of non-profits which enable them to receive financial support, accommodation and access to healthcare. Some work at our group but we are unable to give them accommodation. Generally, they are involved in sorting clothing so that they do not have to face the general public in the shop or go on furniture collection runs, as they are afraid of being caught by the police.

Do you run campaigns too?
There is a major debate underway at the present time in Sweden because the police are implementing a "more effective" deportation policy! For example, in the underground and in the public transport system in general, the police systematically check the papers of anyone who doesn't look Swedish! This scares undocumented migrants. Undocumented migrants hide away and are too scared to go out in order to do their administrative paperwork or get treated if they are sick. This is just one example of the constant 'hounding' of undocumented migrants and the racism that it is engendering. Our group is involved in a campaign calling for Sweden to have a more humane migration policy. We should not be deporting people who feel



threatened in their home countries! In a more general sense, everyone should have the right to live where they want, wherever they come from. However, freedom of movement remains a thorny issue as it encounters a lot of resistance.

What do migrants contribute to their host countries?
They bring new ideas and experiences to the table. This is positive for a country. But for me, it is not the issue! They should be welcomed even if they "contribute nothing"! Nobody should have to risk their life in order to settle elsewhere and have a better existence. Most people go to neighbouring countries with the idea of being able to return home once the situation improves. Syria is an example of this. I don't think that global freedom of movement would trigger a sharp increase in the number of migrants in Europe. Generally, people prefer to remain close to their families, in a place where they feel at home. If they decide to leave, it is because they feel a real need. In Sweden, we are delighted that the Emmaus Movement is campaigning for freedom of movement! We are drawing on this worldwide commitment at local level and it makes us stronger!