Getting through. The pressures of life know no boundaries.

“However much barbed wire you put up, however many border guards there are, you will not stop people getting through. The pressures of life know no boundaries.”  
— Stéphane Melchiorri (Head of Political Programmes at the International Organisation for Migration)

A founding principle: unconditional welcome

The Emmaus Movement seeks unconditional welcome in its groups. It offers to families in need who pay a very small amount in rent, and produces and sells second-hand goods. Alongside this we develop renewable energy production and collecting rainwater. We have also set aside a plot of land to grow vegetables. In the city of Livorno there are currently 220 companions living in 6 Emmaus communities.

Freedom of movement: why and how?

At its heart the book urges us to defend freedom of movement. Emmaus groups are not just the homes and workshops where people live and work, but also the workshops; they produce and sell products, promoting fair trade and selling organic produce. Some Emmaus communities have had to close temporarily due to pandemic restrictions.

Emmaus International is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which works to uphold the dignity of individuals and communities who seek support and shelter. It is a grassroots movement of companions, combining voluntary action with solidarity with others in the South of the world – are a perfect illustration of this prospect of interdependence and yet attempts are made to check them and deny this established fact. Above all, from the issue of migration under duress and its toll of suffering, and in spite of the unorthodox behavior of rich nations, local codes were recently enforced by developing countries, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) redoubled its support for migrants. The Emmaus Movement strongly opposes and works to defend education, legal rights, and gender and geopolitical balance. The experience of the Emmaus Movement shows that we embolden long ago the path where freedom and humanity must go hand in hand. Let us all, inside or on the move, to spread this still novel idea and bring about the dawn of freedom movement - a fundamental human right enshrined in article 13 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Campaigning for freedom of movement

Does your group work with migrants? Why not organise a day to highlight the benefits of movements to ensure respect for the dignity of migrants and of their fundamental rights.

www.emmaus-international.org

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