

**- FACT
FILE no. 2**

Freedom of Movement

HANDBOOK FOR ORGANISING LOCAL DEBATES



emmaus INTERNATIONAL

Editorial by the President

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EDITORIAL BY THE PRESIDENT

'A NEW DIRECTION FOR MIGRATION'

Knowledge about migration is increasing: migration is caused by an increase in population movements and the emergence of new root causes, such as climate events and rapid changes on the world economic scene. However, the decisive factor is undoubtedly the gnawing belief that the world will increasingly have to deal with migration. At the present time, knowledge is not accompanied by objective awareness of either the issues at stake or the solutions that should be considered in the long term for the movement of people. Fear unfortunately holds sway in the general debate and when state or international policies are being developed, and we are seeing the erosion of rights and control and retention measures targeting the poorest members of society, who are perceived as being a threat and unwanted (to put it mildly). It goes to show just how far away we are from the vision of a world in which human interaction would be more open, just like the openness that exists for technology and financial services.

It is therefore up to the Emmaus groups around the world, whose reception practices are well-established and who are only too aware of their interdependence in a globalised world, to progress knowledge and the debate in their own way and therefore foster an ethos of freedom of movement and freedom to settle, which will lead to a better future in both host countries and countries of origin. Migrants who are supported and sheltered by Emmaus and all those who have left and continue to leave their homes on a quest for a better life need us to publicise and champion this ethos of freedom of movement around the world and for it to gain increasing coverage and be taken on board by governments and international institutions. Our campaign is another way of tackling the root causes of extreme poverty, as our founder, Abbé Pierre, entreated us to do.

“Fear unfortunately holds sway in the general debate and when state or international policies are being developed, and we are seeing the erosion of rights and control and retention measures targeting the poorest members of society, who are perceived as being a threat and unwanted”

Jean Rousseau

→ 'TOGETHER, LET'S TRY TO OPEN UP THE WORLD'

This handbook is aimed at the Emmaus groups that are faced with migration issues and are willing to promote freedom of movement through debates in their local communities.

The goal is to raise citizens' awareness about this issue, which is championed by the international Emmaus Movement, to listen to and pass on arguments, questions and objections which have been expressed in order to contribute to and direct Emmaus International's worldwide campaign on the issue, and to give as much coverage as possible around the world to our freedom of movement proposal. The idea is that this issue should be placed on the international agenda in the not too distant future.



Emmaus's stance on freedom of movement over the years

Today we have all the ingredients we need!

1. LETTING OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES GUIDE US

Our stance is based on the values of the Emmaus Movement and the practices of the member groups around the world: offering shelter and support, solidarity, addressing the root causes, living together, valuing everyone's knowledge, companion exchanges, etc.

→ **The principle of offering unconditional shelter and support**

→ **Tackling the causes of extreme poverty**

'Any (...) means to raise awareness and meet this challenge should also be used to ensure that those suffering most are served first, by sharing their troubles and struggles - whether public or private - until the cause of each ill is eliminated.' (Excerpt from the Universal Manifesto – article 6).

→ **Serving those who suffer most**

The Emmaus groups around the world have been taking in the most disadvantaged members of society for over 60 years. Nowadays, we are seeing that the proportion of migrants living in our Emmaus groups around the world is growing significantly, with this demonstrating that a new form of exclusion and marginalisation (and of poverty) is becoming an issue for migrants.

→ **The socially excluded as a force for change and solidarity**

All those who turn to our groups and organisations and who are all too often deprived of their basic human rights (healthcare, water, housing, employment, food, freedom of movement), whether or not they are migrants, regain their dignity and become key solidarity stakeholders, whether at local, national or international level, and therefore in their own way help to create alternatives to situations of injustice. They are therefore actively involved in the solutions devised to tackle the root causes of exclusion.

By way of example, thanks to the work of the companions in the Emmaus groups around the world, a budget of around 3 million euros is generated every year and is used to fund Emmaus's international programmes.

2. OUR DAY-TO-DAY PRACTICES

The positive impact of migration

→ **Experiences of offering shelter and support to migrants**

All the Emmaus organisations around the world have worked or are working with migrants. Without denying the difficulties involved when people from different cultures come together and the psychological rebuilding required, everyone says that migrants make an original and wide-ranging contribution to the group's work and to the group as a social community and that they provide original cultural interaction, new knowledge and a feeling of belonging to a modern world marked by diversity and the mixing of cultures.

→ Companion exchanges

Many companions have taken part in exchanges, visiting different communities and seeing with their own eyes what is happening outside their country. These exchanges provide the companions with an array of experiences and personal skills. This practice of 'freedom of movement' for companions, which has been in place since Emmaus was founded, has proved its worth and its benefits for the Movement.

3. A STRONG TRACK RECORD

Apart from the Movement's organisations being committed at local level to offering unconditional support and shelter and to putting in place alternatives to situations of injustice, collective campaigns to support migrants have been run for over 20 years at all levels:

→ Campaigning alongside undocumented migrants

The Movement's organisations have been heavily involved in such campaigns in France and Italy since the 1990s. They have also worked with refugee populations displaced during dramatic political upheavals (in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example) in West Africa in the 1990s and on many other occasions.

Even more recently, we have seen the campaign about the so-called 'solidarity crime' in 2009 in France and the 'No-one is a stranger in my town' campaign in Italy in 2010.

→ Migration and human trafficking (2003-2007)

In both its declarations and in practice, Emmaus International supports the Emmaus groups that give shelter and support to the victims of human trafficking. This work is very important in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, where targeted support initiatives have been devised.

→ The Emmaus International 'Migrants, not slaves!' campaign (2006-2008)

Within the context of the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, Emmaus International launched the 'Migrants, not slaves!' campaign in 2006.

→ 2007 World Assembly declaration

At the Sarajevo World Assembly in 2007, all the Emmaus groups from around the world reiterated that freedom of movement is a fundamental right, and therefore called for all citizens and civil society organisations worldwide to defend and offer unconditional shelter and support; a founding principle of the Emmaus Movement.

→ 2008 'Bridges not Walls' campaign

Emmaus International co-organised the 'Bridges not Walls' campaign with the CRID. Over 300 organisations from the developed and developing worlds signed up to the 'Montreuil 2008 Final Declaration' which highlights 70 recommendations made by civil society in the North and South of the world. The recommendations were passed on to the governments of the European Union, as they are at the root of new European immigration policy, and to the second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on migration and development, which was held in Paris on 25 November 2008.

→ A Visa for the World (2009)

A collective book published by Emmaus International and publicising the experiences of migrants assisted by Emmaus groups around the world, and of staff, trustees and leaders: *A Visa for the World* highlights the need for a change of direction in this area and legitimises our call for freedom of movement.

This campaign has received the support of the former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

2

Working together for freedom of movement

We are counting on you. Together we can make our voice heard and publicise the alternatives that we are championing!

*This Resource Sheet, for internal use only, is aimed at clarifying our legitimacy to take action on freedom of movement, not only as a result of the work and experience of the grassroots Emmaus groups worldwide, but also because of the alliances and initiatives pursued jointly with other international or continental organisations (see **appendix 3**: List of international organisations upholding freedom of movement).*

WHY DOES EMMAUS HAVE LEGITIMACY IN THIS FIELD?

- 1. Because we can simply no longer accept repressive and coercive policies** that lead to exclusion, poverty, human rights violations and deaths by the thousand.
- 2. Because it is in the very nature of the Emmaus groups to tackle the root causes of poverty and exclusion** with the treatment being inflicted on migrants unfortunately being a dramatic example of these problems.

Because Emmaus fights worldwide to ensure that people can live dignified lives and that there is access to the same rights for all, including freedom of movement, which is enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- 3. Because numerous indicators and stances upheld by civil society organisations and the United Nations lead us to think or clearly demonstrate that freedom of movement is and will be beneficial for societies and peoples** in terms of economic and cultural benefits, unlike the exorbitant cost involved and the ineffective measures used to regulate migration.
- 4. Because our world is increasingly longing for new international political, economic and environmental regulations**, therefore making this **the right time to change direction**. This opportunity must be seized even if the way ahead is long and difficult.
- 5. Because, following in the footsteps of Abbé Pierre, the Emmaus Movement has often been a pioneer in its practices and its vision of a fairer world** (involving the most excluded members of society, the solidarity economy, sharing wealth, world governance).



3

Strategy for promoting freedom of movement



What can be done? Eight local and international initiatives need to be put in place in Emmaus International

- 1. Hold debates at local level in the Emmaus groups.**
 - To inform, publicise Emmaus International's stance and send out a 'signal' all around the world from the member groups.
 - To develop arguments in favour of freedom of movement.
 - To provoke and promote legislative changes at local and national level and beyond.
 - To forge alliances in order to champion freedom of movement with other organisations.
- 2. Continue circulating *A Visa for the World*** (internally and externally in the case of the local groups) in order to convey the current reality of migration and the more socially responsible future prospects that are taking shape.
- 3. Involve international figures, politicians, intellectuals and campaigners who are willing to support the principle of freedom of movement.**
 - To place the issue on the agenda of the international institutions.
- 4. Consolidate and widen existing arguments.**
 - By collating and circulating research work on freedom of movement.
 - By promoting and even supporting freedom of movement success stories.
- 5. Develop and reinforce the network of 'supporters' of freedom of movement registered on the specially created website www.avisafortheworld.org**
 - To increase public take-up of our campaign.
 - To have a core group of activists to call upon to support initiatives.
- 6. Set up and establish a major annual flagship event on the issue.**
- 7. Take concrete action on migrants' rights** (on the ground and at every level) and seize the opportunity to uphold freedom of movement at local, national, continental and international Emmaus events.
- 8. Invest human and financial resources** in order to achieve the objective of promoting freedom of movement in the long term and get national and regional Emmaus organisations on board.



Local debates: how to prepare for your debate

The recipe for holding a successful debate

1. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS

- **Invite the widest and most diverse range of participants possible (see box)**
 - Invite your usual customers, volunteers or partners and spread the word among networks known to you such as networks of charities and NGOs, businesses, academics, students, institutions, citizens, elected officials, etc.

The more diverse the socio-professional groups attending the debate are, the more representative the debate will be.

The aim is to publicise Emmaus's stance to as many people as possible and not just to committed civil society stakeholders. This aspect is obviously linked to the chosen venue and the partners who are organising the event.

- Tell nearby Emmaus groups about the event in order to widen the circle.
- Publicise the event and invite migrants' associations and migrant support associations. They can get involved in Emmaus International's initiative, publicise it (in their networks) and support it by assisting with media coverage of the debate and Emmaus International's stance, circulating *A Visa for the World*, and registering their support for freedom of movement on the website.

Be aware: there is a risk of the debate being monopolised by stakeholders who work on this issue a daily basis or who are directly affected. The method for chairing and leading the debate therefore needs to be properly prepared.

- Remember to invite young people to attend!

- **Choose the right moment to organise the event (seize opportunities such as other events which are already planned).**
- **Assess what resources are required to organise the debate depending on your chosen configuration:**
 - Get a specialist to participate
 - Keep the event to a scale which matches the group's financial capacity ¹
- **Choose a venue in the group's premises or elsewhere (such as a municipal function room, cinema or theatre) for the debate on freedom of movement.**
- **Pay attention to how the debate will be chaired and led in order to ensure a good quality, balanced debate and to avoid 'stirring up' passions, and move from the debate to concrete action.**

¹ In the event of financial difficulties arising, see whether Emmaus International can provide assistance.

First and foremost, assess how committed your group is to the freedom of movement cause in order to decide whether or not it would be preferable to start with an internal debate (carefully weigh up the pros and cons of both possibilities). If your group is not yet sufficiently informed, make it a priority to start with an internal debate in order to ensure that everyone has the same information and knowledge about the Emmaus Movement's commitment to this cause.



- **Set and follow a running order, define the debate's content and how it will be run beforehand with the chairperson.**

Example of a possible running order:

- Introductions session: roundtable session (if the debate is being held in the Emmaus group).
- Debate aims and arrangements: SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
 - . Why is it morally desirable?
 - . How will it help humankind to progress?
 - . How you can get involved.

- **Consider the option of opening with a relatively short session** to introduce the theme (with a show, a play about migration, a film, or reading of excerpts from *A Visa for the World*). This method kicks off the meeting in a more appealing way and lays concrete foundations for the debate and discussions.

For example, there is a 'game' created by CIMADE (a French association) on migrants' experiences (the game can be downloaded from www.lacimade.org and could be a good introduction to the debate, as it highlights obstacles to freedom of movement and their disastrous consequences).

- **Ensure that you have a really good grasp of the various resources in this handbook developed by the Emmaus groups (for internal use).**

Some of the Resource Sheets featured in this handbook are still being developed, while others will be adapted and added to once we receive feedback from the groups. Updated versions will be sent to you on a regular basis to replace the previous ones, including:

- The 'Arguments for and against freedom of movement' **Resource Sheet (4-C)**.
- The 'International texts and conventions supporting freedom of movement' Resource Sheet (**appendix 2**).
- The 'List of international organisations upholding freedom of movement' Resource Sheet (**appendix 3**).
- The 'Bibliography – list of films, books etc. about the subject' (**appendix 4**).

Don't forget to 'revise' beforehand!

- **Identify the solutions and alternatives offered by Emmaus** in terms of offering unconditional shelter and support and the positive dimensions of migration that you could stress.
- **Link the issue of freedom of movement to your group's local context**, taking a topical issue or recent event in the local area as a starting point.
- **Prepare the personal stories of migrants in your group.**
 - Enabling migrants to talk about what made them leave their home countries and the obstacles to freedom of movement can help set up the debate, but these presentations need to be prepared with the migrants (for example, ensure that the personal account does not in any way jeopardise the migrant's situation).

There are other, easier, options available, such as getting companions or actors to read out personal accounts from *A Visa for the World* (where names and locations have been changed).

- If prepared properly, personal stories help to establish a clear link between Emmaus's proposals and the real-life situations of the migrants in our groups.

- **Think about event communications / media coverage well in advance**

- Do not hesitate to contact the International Secretariat of Emmaus to help you to publicise the event locally.

You can also make use of the existing media guide (available to download from the Emmaus International website www.emmaus-international.org)

- In all cases, and in order to be as efficient as possible in your media relations work, you must be able to answer a number of key questions: When? What type of debate? What target audience? What theme and what will be your 'catch-line'?

- **Inform the International Secretariat of the date of your event:**
s.melchiorri@emmaus-international.org or t.bodelet@emmaus-international.org
 The event will be included on www.avisafortheworld.org and information will be sent to all those who have registered their support for freedom of movement on the website.



2. ... AND SIMMER

You are used to liaising with your local media:

→ **Make use of all your internal resources in order to publicise this event** (put information on your websites, blogs, social networking sites, etc.) and even take advantage of another event bringing a lot of people into your group (such as an open day or special sale) where you have a captive audience.

→ **Forge and maintain media contacts**

- The media guide in the toolbox on the intranet (how to contact journalists etc.) provides information or alternatively offers a reminder about a few tips and ingredients needed when forging local and / or regional media contacts.

The guide contains information and resources about the different stages of the process:

- . How to decide which media to contact (newspapers, radio, TV).
- . How to write a press release.
- . How to send information.
- . How to chase up journalists.
- . How to collect media coverage.

- You will probably be approached by one or several media agencies and asked to answer a certain number of questions about this issue: What is Emmaus International's stance? What are the main lines of the freedom of movement campaign? and so on.

If the information provided in this guide is not sufficient to answer these questions, do not hesitate to contact us (see Resource Sheet 6 for the contact details of the migrants' rights programme reference group or the International Secretariat).

Media guide: Visit www.emmaus-international.org and login in to the intranet with username: intranet and password: 1949

→ **Offer the media some real-life accounts about the consequences of impeding freedom of movement (take care not to put the person in question in difficulty).**



4-B

Local debates: how to run your debate

Serve warm

- **Set the debate's boundaries:** 'where we want to go and where we don't want to go' (do not let a biased or 'off topic' debate get underway, for example).
- **Ensure that as many people as possible are given the chance to speak.**
 - Do not let one or two people or organisations take over the debate.
 - Enable all participants wishing to do so and who are not 'off topic' to express their opinions.
 - Do not force those who do not wish to speak to do so.
 - Tell the participants that a suggestions box will be available at the end of the session (for people who wanted to air their views but could not or did not dare to speak out).
- **To hear about real-life experiences,** let migrants from your community take the floor if they are willing to do so and have talked to you about it beforehand.
- **Have a good grasp of the issue and draw on the arguments** (please refer to **Resource Sheet 4-C**, which you should have to hand during the debate, even though it is likely to be modified in the future).
- **Carefully assess what external resources are needed and, if necessary, bring in an outside speaker in order to:**
 - Chair the debate (ensuring that participants have the chance to speak and summarising).
 - Provide arguments (specialists, contacts in local organisations, Emmaus International's reference people for this issue, or the International Secretariat team working on the programme).
- **After the debate,** remember to pass on a summary of the discussion to Emmaus International, so that we can add to the database of arguments for and against (see **appendix 1: debate feedback from**)

A FEW IMPORTANT REMINDERS DEPENDING ON THE KIND OF EVENT THAT YOU DECIDE TO ORGANISE:

- **The average length of the debate is estimated at a maximum of three hours,** using, for example, the running order proposed in **Resource Sheet 4-A**.
- **We recommend that the maximum number of participants should be set at 50,** as interaction between participants will be more limited once that number is exceeded. The quality of the debate depends on this.

If it turns out that you are likely to have a much bigger gathering, you should of course still go ahead but adapt the conditions (the chairperson should be chosen accordingly in order to handle the group).

- **Choosing the right person to chair the debate is very important.** The chairperson must be comfortable with their role and have some subject knowledge in order to be able to guide the debate (focus the discussion if the debate goes off topic, know how to end off-topic interventions, allow those wishing to participate to express their views).

Clearly establish the abilities and skills required of the chairperson and then decide who the best person for the job is, whether from within your group or from outside.



Local debates: arguments for and against freedom of movement

Arguments that you need to know in favour of freedom of movement

→ **Migration has always existed in all the countries of the world** and has contributed to the economic, social and cultural development of nations and societies. Societies that have withdrawn into themselves and refused to continue accepting a human mix have declined socially and economically or have slipped into a xenophobic, separatist and even totalitarian way of being.

→ **Morally speaking, there cannot be two types of citizens:** on one hand, those who can migrate and, on the other, the poorest citizens who are forbidden to move freely.

→ **Freedom of movement is a fundamental right championed by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (articles 13.1, 13.2 and 14.1). Any step backwards marks a decline in citizens' freedom, human dignity and rights. It is also nonsensical at a time when the economy and trade, political governance, communication systems and environmental issues are becoming globalised and at the very moment when the countries that are open to migrants are reaping the benefits of their policy.

→ **Freedom of movement is possible and beneficial**, with successful examples including Latin America and the European Union.

In the European Union freedom of movement between rich and poor countries has been successful and has actually strengthened Europe, without bringing about mass population movements to the EU's richer countries.

It is financial speculation and the lack of collectively accepted regulation that are currently endangering the countries of Europe, not freedom of movement.

→ **Freedom of movement does not involve one or two countries having to cope with 'the whole world's poverty'** but instead means that all the countries of the world should receive and integrate migrants.

→ **Migration and freedom of movement enrich both host countries and countries of origin** due to the money sent home by migrants. These remittances have overtaken state public development aid and, when seen in this light, migration is undoubtedly a key factor in development.

*According to World Bank figures, in 2007 PDA (public development aid) totalled **\$105 million**, while remittances amounted to **\$337 million**. In 2008, PDA totalled **\$107 million**, while remittances amounted to **\$328 million**.*

→ **Border closure and control measures**, apart from their tragic human consequences, are largely ineffective despite the stance maintained by those who defend them. They encourage 'illegal' immigration, cause Mafia-like human trafficking and are also exorbitantly expensive. These funds would be better used to organise and properly fund migrant reception and support measures.

*With regard to the cost of migration, in France alone the 'detention and deportation' system costs **700 million euros** a year (Emmanuel Terray and Claire Rodier, Immigration: fantasmes et réalités, éditions de La découverte, 2008, pages 40/41).*

→ **Freedom of movement brings many benefits:** original skills and knowledge conducive to economic and entrepreneurial innovation, cultural and lifestyle contributions, demographic and socioeconomic contributions in response to the difficulties and imbalances experienced by the social security systems of some countries (when the right to work is properly controlled, we see an increase in healthcare, social and pension contributions and taxes generated by migrants in work which outweigh the social expenditure incurred).

Some recurring criticisms of freedom of movement

Possible answers to counter these criticisms

GENERAL OR ETHICAL

'They are going to invade our country'

→ **'There is no concrete proof of this as in reality at international level migrants only account for 3% of the world population** (UN 2006 report).

While the rich countries are undoubtedly attractive, the situation varies greatly from country to country. Migrants account for at least 20% of the population in 41 countries. In fact, migrants very often settle in a neighbouring country and only half of them have moved to developed countries.' (*Petit guide pour lutter contre les préjugés sur les migrants*, Cimade)

The UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report (*Overcoming Barriers*) clearly demonstrates this important distinction: 60% of migrants in the world do not leave the developing world. 2/3 of refugees and displaced people head for a developing world country.

The same report also states that there are:

214 million international migrants
740 million domestic migrants
62 million south to north migrants
61 million south to south migrants
53 million north to north migrants
14 million north to south migrants

Not to mention that diversity is an asset for humanity!

'Opening borders will lead to chaos' or 'Freedom of movement will give fresh impetus to migration'.

→ **There are no grounds for this statement.** When analysing recent open border experiences, for example within the EU and West Africa, no particular disruption is apparent. In any case, **phenomena should be observed over a long period of time before drawing conclusions.**

This argument has never been proved by past experiences. **In fact, it is the political, economic, social and environmental situations in migrants' home countries that cause migration** whereas the migration policy of receiving countries does not trigger population movements (or manage to stop them!). 'Freedom of movement means that all countries allow non-nationals to settle there and therefore that migration flows will spread out throughout the world rather than being concentrated in one or two or even five or ten countries'.

ECONOMIC

'Migrants will take locals' jobs and freedom of movement will cause a decline in socioeconomic conditions and will make the host country's population poorer.'

→ **Once again this idea is not borne out by experience and statistics.** The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) has highlighted the positive impact of migration on the economies of European countries. Not only do migrants not take advantage of the system, they in fact contribute to it. Indeed, **the working migrant population** also consumes and consequently **contributes to the host country's economic development.** Between 1991-1995, an **increase in GDP from 1.25% to 1.5%** was observed in 15 European countries **due to a 1% rise in the migrant population.** These figures clearly demonstrate the positive impact of migrants' work. Whether this is a matter of legal work or illegal exploitation, migrants' contribution to the country's development and wealth is undeniable. **Migrants give more than they receive.**

The aim is to improve socioeconomic conditions and to enable a redistribution of wealth at international level.' (*Petit guide pour lutter contre les préjugés sur les migrants*, Cimade)

Freedom of movement cannot be conceived of without there being equal rights between migrants and nationals. Only equal rights will avert the potentially perverse effects of freedom of movement.

→ **As regards employment,** the fact is that today, there is **very little competition between nationals and migrants** because they do not operate in the same sectors of the job market.

In short, migrants do the jobs that nationals no longer want to do; they are therefore not taking anyone's job. It is regrettable that these jobs which are looked down on are actually reserved for foreigners, but for the moment this is the case: foreigners and nationals do not apply for the same jobs.

→ **In addition,** the application of international trade regulations as established by the WTO is carried out to the detriment of the sovereignty, especially food sovereignty, of countries in the South of the world. **Farming and fishing policies are largely responsible for the ruin and exodus of thousands of farmers.** Rich countries are also largely responsible for climate change which is forcing thousands of people to flee their homes.

Europe, China and the United States flood African markets with their products which are cheaper than local goods due to farming subsidies and thereby gradually wipe out food-producing and small-scale farming. There are any number of examples: chickens from France, fish and cotton from the United States, etc.

In short, we continue to exploit these countries and their resources, polluting them in the process and giving them very little in return.

In this context, what right do the greedy have to close their borders to those who are starving?

A wrong yet commonly held idea: 'If people are doing well in their own country, they do not migrate. The richer people become, the less they migrate. Wealth and educational level encourage geographical stability. Therefore we just need to give the countries in the south an economic boost and that will put an end to migration.'

→ **This idea is untrue and is a non-issue,** irrespective of the fact that, from a fairness standpoint, whether people are rich or poor, they should all have the same right to travel and settle where they choose. No statistics have ever proved these ideas. Migrants do not just come from the poorest and most disadvantaged groups. **Globalisation, liberalisation, the market economy** (free financial movement and movement of goods) **all encourage people to move and particularly people with financial resources or cultural, educational or social 'capital'.**

For example, the number of French people living abroad increases every year! According to figures issued by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 31 December 2009 there were **1,469,629 French people** living abroad.

Increasing development aid will not 'confine' people to their home countries.

Recent figures show that migrants contribute most to the development of their countries, in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

According to World Bank figures, in 2007 PDA (public development aid) totalled **\$105 million**, while remittances amounted to **\$337 million**. In 2008, PDA totalled **\$107 million**, while remittances amounted to **\$328 million**.

In addition, in qualitative terms, experts have shown that development aid figures (for France) include figures that have absolutely nothing to do with development (or codevelopment), such as Frontex funding, investing in the police forces in certain countries, the presence of the French army, etc.

SOCIAL

'Migrants wrongfully take advantage of the benefits system'

→ **Even if in some countries** legally staying foreign nationals are entitled to the same services as 'nationals', they pay the same contributions and taxes. On the other hand, **undocumented migrants often pay contributions and tax and do not receive any benefits**, meaning that these ideas are groundless.

The specific case of family reunification in countries which allow migration on these grounds needs to be studied.

'Yes to freedom of movement, but no to freedom of movement of criminals and wrongdoers'

→ **Obviously, freedom of movement** does not prevent **the law being applied whatever country the person is in** and 'migrants' who are being sought by the police or who have criminal convictions will not benefit from a more favourable or unfavourable system than the current national and international conditions.

The proportion of migrants who commit criminal offences is minuscule, all the more so because they are highly educated. If they turn to crime it is because they are socially excluded.

Migration and crime are not connected. Exclusion and crime, on the other hand, are closely linked.

CULTURAL

Fear of losing local cultures and standardisation of cultures, seen as obstacles to freedom of movement.

→ **Culturally, equal population movements between countries lead to mutual cultural enrichment** (interaction and diversity) and definitely do not cause cultures to disappear.

On the contrary:

- Cultures and languages often disappear when one population dominates another or when a nation takes a separatist stance.
- The creation and dynamism of **new cultures is without fail the result of integrating diversity and cultural mixing.**

This is the case in Brazil, for example, where not only have the cultures of the different communities that make up the population (with the arrival of different waves of migrants who make Brazil what it is today) not been lost, but Brazil has also developed its own unique, strong culture.



Before, during and after the debates: available resources

→ Emmaus International poster for local debates

Emmaus International has created a poster on which you can include the date and venue of your debate.

→ A PowerPoint presentation

Project the breakdown and running order of the debate on a screen (venue, session title, objectives and length).

Using a presentation enables the chairperson to better manage the debate and keep to the timescale.

→ Stickers

Stickers encouraging people to join Emmaus by registering their support for freedom of movement can be distributed in your group, to those who attend the debate and to people with links to your association.

→ The [avisafortheworld.org](http://www.avisafortheworld.org) website

The website lists the debates, presents *A Visa for the World*, enables people to register their support for freedom of movement and be kept informed about the dates of events, provides reference resources for freedom of movement, and enables news to be circulated on social networks.

Visit: www.avisafortheworld.org

→ *A Visa for the World* book (see Resource Sheet 4-E)

For each group:

- A few free copies that you can distribute to decision-makers / politicians / public figures (contact Stéphane or Thomas at the International Secretariat). The book provides more information and could help to generate more support for Emmaus International's campaign.
- Copies to sell (15 euros) to publicise Emmaus's work and stance on this issue and to support the Movement's work.

→ Bibliography and filmography (see Resource Sheet 4)

→ Some facts and figures about freedom of movement (see Resource Sheet 5)

→ List of international organisations upholding freedom of movement (see appendix 3)

Emmaus International has asked each Emmaus region and nation to carry out some research and to add to this list in order to provide the local Emmaus groups with information about relevant national and continental organisations.

→ International texts and conventions supporting freedom of movement and migrants' rights (see appendix 2)

→ **A media information pack** made up of various resources which will be updated and developed as required (including a media guide, posters, stickers, etc. Some will already be available from March 2011.).



Local debates: using *A Visa for the World*

1. HOW WAS THE BOOK PUT TOGETHER?

A Visa for the World was a collective year-and-a-half long international initiative with contributions from 150 people in the four Emmaus regions:

- **Around 60 people were involved in the stages of writing the book:** Discussion, design, interviews, transcriptions, copywriting, translation, proofreading.
- **Over 90 people were interviewed:** Emmaus companions, volunteers, leaders, social workers, trustees and people given support by Emmaus.
- **Around sixty personal stories were used from approximately 20 countries in which Emmaus works at local level:** Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, France, India, Italy, Peru, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Uruguay.
- **A preface written by the former President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva,** in which he talks about his personal experiences and his attachment to the principle of freedom of movement and the freedom to seek a better life.

2. WHAT DOES THE BOOK CONTAIN AND WHAT DOES IT DEMONSTRATE?

The book comprises five major themed sections which are structured around personal accounts.

- **The first section (Exile)** looks at the causes of migration and the different situations that have forced these foreign citizens to flee their countries, families, friends and possessions.
- **The second section (Nightmares and Disappointments)** focuses on the barriers and difficulties that migrants must overcome on their journeys (networks, trafficking, physical and psychological ordeals) and on their arrival in the host country (segregation, substandard housing, undocumented status, exclusion, poverty, manhunts).
- **The third section (Hopes)** highlights the way in which the local Emmaus groups work with migrants in the different countries in which Emmaus is established: unconditional shelter, support to rebuild their lives and access their fundamental rights, social and professional integration and so on.
- **The fourth section clearly stresses the positive aspects** of migration that have been observed and experienced in Emmaus and goes against generally accepted ideas and the rejection of migrants. It shows how migrants contribute to creating economic and social wealth and solidarity.
- **Finally, the last section presents the Emmaus International Movement's political stance on the issue in six points:**
 - Re-establish the truth about the causes and reality of migration and acknowledge its positive impact.

- Denounce and combat the fear of foreigners and preconceived ideas.
- Fight discrimination and persecution.
- Make use of international law and ensure that it is respected.
- Reintroduce a healthy relationship between migration and development.
- Make migration a topic for international discussion.

3. A FEW USEFUL SECTIONS OF THE BOOK HIGHLIGHTING CERTAIN ISSUES

(These are the titles of the personal stories appearing in the book)

→ The causes of migration

"The war made me flee my country", Anna, a Kosovan migrant, p.36

"There is no proper rain nowadays", Emmaus leader, India, p.37

"I decided to leave Senegal for Angola in order to earn a living", Abdoulaye, a Senegalese migrant, p.29

→ Inhumane treatment of migrants

"I was unable to see my family for five years", Adam, a Romanian migrant, p.57

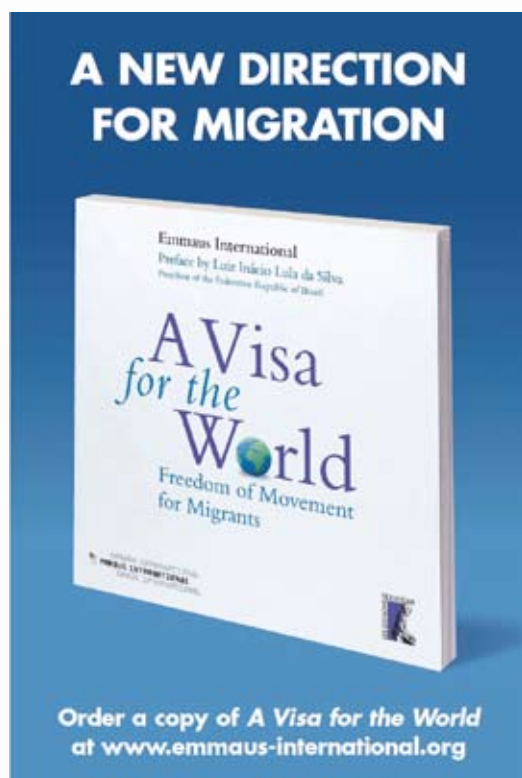
"Threatened and beaten to make them work faster", Emmaus leader, India, p.56

→ Success stories

"We have our papers and work", Dikran and Anouch, a couple who are Armenian migrants, p.72

"I ended up on the streets very quickly and I spent three years living rough", Mourad, a Moroccan migrant, p.71

"Finding a job meant that I could integrate and have a social life", Nelly, a Romanian migrant, p.69



What next? Ways of becoming involved alongside Emmaus International



FOR DEBATE PARTICIPANTS

- **Register their support for freedom of movement** and keep an eye out for Emmaus International campaigns.
Visit: www.avisafortheworld.org, and click on 'Register your support for freedom of movement'.
- **Organise their own debates:**
 - a) In their own network(s)
 - . Talk about Emmaus International's Freedom of Movement Campaign.
 - . Propose Emmaus International presentations on the subject.
 - b) On behalf of Emmaus and as part of the Emmaus International campaign
 - . Request authorisation from Emmaus International.
 - . Link up with the closest Emmaus group and the International Secretariat of Emmaus to evaluate the possibility of organising a debate.
- **Give media coverage to the Emmaus International message and campaign:**
 - . Use information from the Emmaus International handbook resource sheets.
 - . Do not hesitate to refer your media contacts to Emmaus International:
s.melchiorri@emmaus-international.org
- **Circulate campaign resources**
 - . Posters, stickers, etc, that we will send you on request from the International Secretariat.
 - . Keep an eye out for Emmaus International appeals and proposals.
- **Make a donation to Emmaus International's campaign**
 Send a cheque to Emmaus International indicating that it is for the "migrants' rights programme" or contact the Emmaus International accounts department for any other payment method.
- **Stay involved with the local Emmaus group** in order to support freedom of movement.

- **Keep an eye out for any concrete initiatives** suggested as part of the freedom of movement campaign (whether by the local Emmaus group, Emmaus International or other organisations working with Emmaus International).

FOR THE EMMAUS GROUPS

- **Send Emmaus International** the debate feedback form.
- **If possible, run several debates** and encourage other Emmaus groups to organise a debate. **Do not hesitate to take advantage of other events or forums organised by Emmaus at local, regional or national level to promote this cause.**
- **Take part in other events** supported or organised by Emmaus International.
- **Make a donation to Emmaus International** for this work programme.
- **Gain media coverage** for this message.
- **Circulate** the campaign resources.
- **Forward to Emmaus International** press contacts who may be willing to support an event, the campaign, or any other initiative.
- **Maintain the networks** set up for these debates, whether local or national.
- **Launch local concrete initiatives to champion freedom of movement** and develop them further following on from your debates. For example, you could approach your local authorities to ask them to issue a symbolic resolution in favour of freedom of movement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The first stage on 20-21 January 2011:** International training session organised by Emmaus International: 'How to organise local debates on freedom of movement?'
- **In the groups** that will organise debates over the coming months.
- **During initiatives** that the Movement may organise with other organisations on the issue in the coming months.
- **The next Emmaus International** World Assembly.



YOUR CONTACT PEOPLE

International Secretariat contact people

→ **If you need advice** or support or wish to ask an Emmaus International elected representative and / or staff member to attend your debate, please contact the International Secretariat of Emmaus.

Alain Fontaine: Executive Director

The Political Programmes Team

Stéphane Melchiorri: Head of Political Programmes,
s.melchiorri@emmaus-international.org

Thomas Bodelet: Project Leader, t.bodelet@emmaus-international.org

Tel: +33 (0)1 41 58 25 50

Elected representative contacts

→ **To talk to the elected representatives** and reference people for migration issues in the Movement's different regions, please contact:

In Africa: **Jean Busogi (DR Congo)** / busogijean@yahoo.fr ; caged2002@yahoo.ca

In America: **Luis Tenderini (Brazil)** / luistenderini@gmail.com

In Asia: **Oswald Quintal (India)** / kudumbamtry@yahoo.co.in

In Europe: **Margherita Zilliacus (Finland)** / emmaus@surfnet.fi

Birgitta Göranson (Sweden) / goranson.iliste@gmail.com

Renzo Fior (Italy) / emmaus.villafranca@tin.it

Jean Rousseau (France) / jean.rousseau36@orange.fr



Debate feedback form

Name of the organising Emmaus group:

Date and venue of the debate:

Approximate number of participants: (of whom Emmaus stakeholders)

Organising partners (if applicable):

.....

Participant breakdown

Emmaus stakeholders: YES NO

Non-profit sector stakeholders: YES NO

Politicians: YES NO

Academics and students: YES NO

Business: YES NO

General public: YES NO

Media presence / coverage: YES NO

If yes, which media (specify date / type / media agency):

Any difficulties encountered during the debate:

.....

Any arguments against freedom of movement that were not countered during the debates:

.....

New arguments in favour freedom of movement that came to light during the debates:

.....

Post-debate follow-up /prospects:

Possible media follow-up / new debates / public figures expressing an interest

.....

Comments / suggestions:

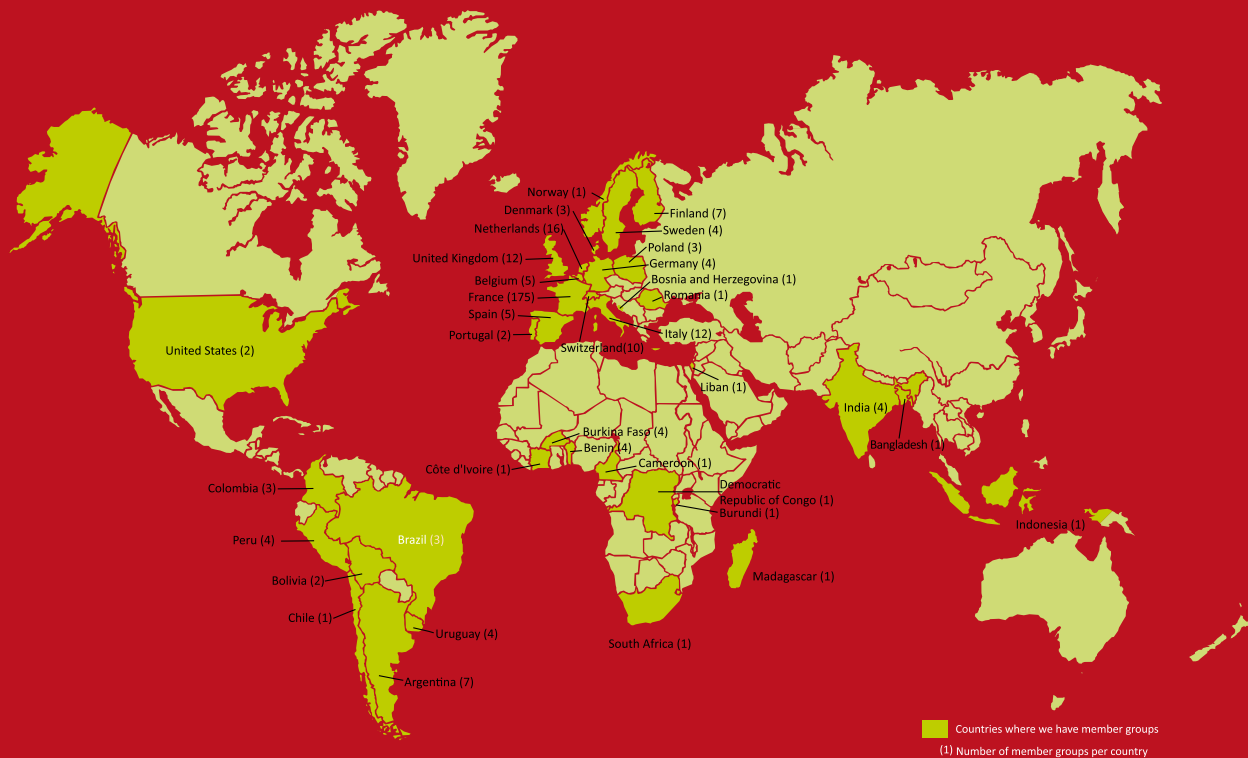
.....

Find out all about Emmaus International

→ www.emmaus-international.org

→ ONLINE EMMAUS MEMBERS' AREA

Username: intranet / Password: 1949



Emmaus International: a world based on solidarity built by the hard work and commitment of those living on the margins of society

→ As Abbé Pierre's sole legatee, Emmaus International is a secular solidarity movement that has been targeting the causes of exclusion since 1971. What does it fight for? Allowing the most underprivileged to take back control of their own lives by helping others. From India to Poland, via Peru or Benin, the Emmaus Movement has more than 300 member organisations in 36 countries that develop economic activities and solidarity with the poorest in society. Their activities range from combating waste by collecting and recycling secondhand goods, producing handicrafts, and organic farming to helping street children, and providing microcredit. Present in the four corners of the world, these organisations work together to combine their efforts and establish ties of solidarity.

→ Rejecting the idea of access to fundamental rights being a privilege, Emmaus International unites its members around practical, tangible achievements and political programmes. At the heart of this commitment is the Movement's collective work on five priority programmes: access to water, access to health, ethical finance, education and migrants' rights.

→ Through their daily work dealing with the social reality, and through their collective commitments, the Emmaus groups set an example worldwide of the viability of a society and economic model founded on solidarity and ethical values.



Following the publication of *A Visa for the World*, the Emmaus International Movement is pursuing its international commitment to migrants' rights and freedom of movement. This Fact File is the next stage in this process. It is a practical handbook, presented in the form of resource sheets, offering guidance and advice to Emmaus groups intending to hold debates to promote freedom of movement: Why is the Movement taking action on this issue? What are the arguments for and main criticisms of freedom of movement? How should you go about organising this kind of debate? Who should be invited? All these and many other questions are answered here.

Its content is the result of collective consultation, with the help of the "migrants' rights reference group" made up of representatives of each of the Emmaus regions as well as the input of over 50 Emmaus groups. It may well evolve in the future to incorporate your comments and feedback. Let's keep fighting for freedom of movement!

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