



tam-tam
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What we can do right here,

TOMORROW'S ACTIONS

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“What we can do right here, right now is pool our talents and skills to help others, in a spirit of fraternity. This makes the inequalities of nature bearable, for we counteract them with our honesty and fairness” Abbé Pierre



Editorial

Patrick Atohoun, new Chair of Emmaus International

Although we've all now returned to our groups and daily lives, it's time to work together to implement the Jesolo World Assembly's resolutions. These resolutions embody the different challenges our movement will have to face in the upcoming months and years. **Firstly, I think we should**

make sure the movement remains united, in a spirit of solidarity, around the Emmaus values and guiding principles adopted at the World Assembly. As we approach the 10th anniversary of the death of our founder, we also have a duty to mobilise to keep Abbé Pierre's heritage and struggles alive and

relevant. We should show that Emmaus is putting alternative approaches into practice and that they enable us to guarantee access to fundamental rights. We should prove that we can use solidarity to transform society and campaign. I invite you to join us to tackle these challenges together.



All aboard



→ The new elected members:

Patrick Atohoun (Benin), Chair

Executive Committee:

Juan Melquiades (Peru), 1st Vice-Chair | Moon Sharma (India), 2nd Vice-Chair | Nantegue Kone (Côte d'Ivoire), Secretary | Hélène Sayad, (Lebanon), Treasury | Han Van Beek (France) | Paul Matthews (UK) | Gloria Zuluaga (Colombia)

Jean Berchmans (Burundi) | François d'Assise Tokpo (Benin) | Suzanne Waré (Burkina Faso) | Jorge Ambrado (Uruguay) | Joshua Prochaska (US) | Josephine Martine (India) | Selva Alexander (India) | Willi Does (Germany) | Julia Finer (Sweden) | Michael Heap (UK) | Jean Karekezi (France) | Jean-Philippe Légaud (Romania) | Nathalie Martz (France) | Silvana Nogarole (Italy) | Tobias Petersson (Sweden) | Eduardo Sanchez (Spain) | Maria Luisa Testori (Italy)

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Emmaus international

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Emmaus on the move

From 18 to 23 April, 450 participants attended the Jesolo World Assembly and approved resolutions that will guide our movement over the next four years.



“OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES”

In a changing world, the Emmaus movement asked itself what values inspire and characterise its action. For over a year, Emmaus groups from all continents were consulted, and the result was a common basis of 5 values: welcome, openness, sharing, respect for human beings and the environment and solidarity. Guiding principles were identified for each value, giving rise to our **5th founding text Our Values and Guiding Principles, adopted at the 2016 World Assembly.**

Nearly ten years after our founder died, we must strengthen the movement, ensuring that all its members around the world live and work by the same values and evolve our action in line with this.



KEEPING OUR HERITAGE ALIVE

Sole legatee of Abbé Pierre and the movement since 2007, Emmaus International is responsible for promoting its heritage. The Jesolo World Assembly reaffirmed that **today, we need to involve all the movement's groups in this task, strengthening our shared ownership of the history and struggles of the movement and its founder,** and using our initiatives to show how we have modernised to face the challenges of the 21st century all around the world. Using the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the death of Abbé Pierre, from September 2017 onwards all Emmaus groups will be invited to showcase the alternative approaches they consider to best represent Emmaus's current and future struggles, to share them with the general public and win over as many people as possible to our cause.



TACKLING THE CAUSES OF POVERTY

Following the 2014-2015 surveys of the groups on policy and campaigns and solidarity, and the Guidance Report based on them, the World Assembly reaffirmed that **we must see solidarity as a political commitment in combatting poverty and its causes.** Beyond the 6 work areas of past years, the assembly decided to organise its fight against the causes of poverty around 3 struggles: building a truly **ethical and social economy** to give access to fundamental rights, **implementing social and environmental justice** for a sustainable world, and advocating **peace and freedom of movement and settlement** for universal citizenship. Work to capitalise on the local and shared experiences of the past 10 years will help our campaigns.



STRENGTHENING OUR MOVEMENT

The Jesolo World Assembly recalled that our movement functions on the basis of common rules and collective work that comply with our values. The participants reaffirmed the need to **improve the movement's democratic functioning** – even if this didn't happen through adoption of the statutes to gain public interest status, it can be done via honest, transparent and participative governance. The assembly reminded all members that they have a joint responsibility to encourage and **support future leaders in the movement** to ensure it's sustainable. They also insisted that we **must boost our collective resources, by fulfilling our duties** especially in paying subscriptions or the annual solidarity sale. Our actions should correspond to our words.



Next port of call... Cotonou (Benin)

Patrick Atohoun, leader of the Emmaus Pahou group in Benin and active in the movement since 1992, is the new Chair of Emmaus International. He talks about the plans he has for his chairmanship.

Tell us about your journey with Emmaus. I worked for the archbishop of Cotonou, who created Emmaus Hèvié. The group joined Emmaus International in 1992, before becoming Emmaus Pahou in 2003. I'm now its leader. We work with young people in difficulty, who take drugs, are unemployed, whose family relationships have broken down or have been in prison. We help them reintegrate into society and the world of work through training in agriculture, livestock and fish farming. For 10 years I've also headed up the Nokoué project.

Why did you want to become Chair? My work, in my group or to Nokoué, led me to take on responsibility in the Africa region, then in Emmaus International bodies, as Secretary then Vice-Chair. I'd now like to fully devote myself to serving the movement in the hope of giving back as much as it's given me. Having a chair from the 'South' could be a great chapter in our history, as all former chairs have been European. This shows the movement's maturity, it sees groups from other continents not as 'recipients' of solidarity but as a source of inspiration, along with all other groups. We should learn from each other and pursue the same goals.



What plans do you have for Emmaus? We'll implement the World Assembly's resolutions. I expect the elected members to embrace the decisions taken and commit themselves to their role, without ever losing sight of the interests of the movement. The Emmaus International secretariat has been restructured to better carry out its work. I'd like us to be a movement united in addressing our joint challenge: improving the well-being of the people we work with. Finally, I'd like Abbé Pierre's struggles and our values to be shared and respected by everyone, that Abbé Pierre's saying 'come and help me help' be brought to life.