



Young people everywhere

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION  
FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“Young people everywhere want to live. They know instinctively that living means fighting and creating. And that living peace means being able to do this, being called upon for it and taking action.”

Abbé Pierre, “The world’s youth and the violence of peace”, Faim & Soif, 1968



## Emmaus on the move

The Americas work camp was an occasion for its participants to learn about the theme of “social transformation”. Organised with allies of the Movement, the presentation of the struggles in the region enabled participants to make the link between solidary actions and political advocacy work. A glance at three key struggles!



“Juntas Podemos” collective  
Workshop “Gender equality”

### FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Gender equality is a constant struggle. In Buenaventura, in Colombia, women have decided to become agents of change. Their group’s name? The “Juntas Podemos” collective. Supported by Emmaus Buenaventura, this collective brings together mothers who have difficulty supporting themselves. Together, they create and develop sustainable income-generating activities. Today there are 14 of them, entrepreneurs and freelance workers with various professions, such as hairdressing and jewellery design. Marjorie, a member of the collective, tells us about the support provided by Emmaus: “This allows these women to believe in themselves, to discover their abilities and skills. Recognition and self-esteem lead to empowerment. An entrepreneurial woman is a woman who empowers herself, takes care of her family and plays a role in society.” For the collective today, it is a matter of “showing other women who are not yet on this path that they have the opportunity to take charge of their own destiny and reduce the inequalities they suffer, both within society and in their community.”



Leandro Patricio, member of the Education Commission  
Workshop “Education to raise awareness”

### EDUCATION TO RAISE AWARENESS

Convinced that education is a weapon against ignorance, groups in the Americas region have made this issue one of their main struggles. For this reason, they set up an “Education Commission” whose mission is to coordinate educational work in the region and defend a common position. Leandro Patricio, a member of this commission, tells us about how a teaching method, specific to Emmaus, has emerged: “Through our educational method, we want to defend the most vulnerable, the common good, democracy and social transformation. This means creating spaces for debate about the causes of poverty and inequality that we face.” In this context, the Luis Tenderini vocational education school, a social action centre run by Emmaus Recife in Brazil, prepares its students for the world of work, without losing sight of its objective to bring about social transformation. This school is a democracy laboratory, where classes in electronics and electricity on the premises are combined with spaces for raising awareness and building capacity to become an agent of social change.



Students of the Danzarte dance school  
Workshop “Art and culture as a vehicle for social change”

### ART AS A SOURCE OF EMANCIPATION

In Colombia, Emmaus Pereira has supported the dance school, “Danzarte”, for over 10 years. The latter runs courses for children who have disabilities and for marginalised adolescents. Claudia Escobar, its director, explains to what extent art contributes to the development and social transformation of individuals: “Through its universal language, art promotes the socialisation of individuals. It builds confidence and self-esteem by providing us with other ways to express ourselves. It develops our sensitivity and awakens the humanity in each of us. Practising art, whatever its form, is a source of individual emancipation for the good of the collective.” Today, many communities in the Americas region rely on artistic practices to create spaces of expression that enable vulnerable populations to become aware of their reality, develop their understanding of the world and their ability to act in it.

## Next port of call... Pereira in Colombia

After training and working in the community, it was time for action! The Americas work camp participants took to the streets to meet the local population of Pereira. Gustavo Cano, the national delegate for Colombia, tells us more about organising this public demonstration.

**Why did you decide to organise a march through the streets of Pereira?** Having the chance to welcome 80 people from around the world in one of our communities is not something that happens everyday! At a regional level, we thought that it was a good opportunity to hold a march through the streets of Pereira, making the most of the international presence of members of our Movement. It wasn’t as much about protesting as about raising awareness among the population about environmental damage on a global scale and the responsibilities that we all share as citizens. We hope that, together, we can raise our voices to appeal for help for mankind and our planet.

**Why did you choose the environmental angle?** Since the very beginning of Emmaus, Abbé Pierre instilled in us that the struggle for social and environmental justice is a way to act against the causes of poverty. This is why we believe that the environment is now a powerful indicator of the failure of our society’s dominant economic model. Unfortunately, no improvement is possible if we do not aim to change this scenario to combine justice, equity and sustainability. The



major objectives that any society should pursue, such as peace, environmental protection and respect for human rights, can only be achieved if citizens are directly involved. That is why we, the Emmaus Movement, have a role to play.

**Why is it important to continue to take action, all together?** The fact that we are gathered here is an effort of solidarity by the Movement itself, an incentive and motivation that should encourage us to continue working with more commitment and enthusiasm on each of our struggles. These participative spaces are, for the younger generations, a springboard towards greater activism.

## Editorial

Patrick Atohoun, Chair of Emmaus International

At the 2016 World Assembly we decided to relaunch the international work camps as participative spaces where actors in our Movement can learn about the contexts in which we work and get involved in the struggles we lead throughout the world. Since then these opportunities to gather together have been a regular part of our lives.

After Asia and Africa, the Americas region organised an international work and training camp, drawing on its long experience developed over several decades. In September 2019, almost 80 people were welcomed by the Emmaus community in Pereira, Colombia. Together, they shared their experiences and their approaches to our struggles, with a particular focus on

social transformation. This work camp has led to the development of proposals to strengthen this work. International meetings like these help to strengthen our commitment and our sense of belonging to the Movement, along with training new generations who will take up the torch to continue our fight.



## All aboard

- A peek inside the Americas work camp! View the pictures taken of this gathering by visiting Emmaus International’s photo gallery: [www.flickr.com/photos/emmaus\\_international](http://www.flickr.com/photos/emmaus_international)
- The next international work camp will be organised by the Europe region and will be held in France in 2021.
- The next World Assembly of the Emmaus International Movement will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 19 – 23 October 2020. A first for the Americas region! Practical info at: [uruguay2020.emmaus-international.org](http://uruguay2020.emmaus-international.org)
- Why take part in the next World Assembly in Uruguay? We asked the participants of the Americas work camp the same question! Find out what they said at: [uruguay2020.emmaus-international.org](http://uruguay2020.emmaus-international.org)



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47 av. de la Résistance – 93104 Montreuil Cedex – France  
Contact: [communication@emmaus-international.org](mailto:communication@emmaus-international.org)

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Editorial: Raphaële Monnet ; Adrien Chaboche ; Nathalie Péré-Marzano  
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