

## MIGRANTS SEARCHING FOR WORK IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

An Exploration Of the Implications for Europe

### Study Days Programme

26 & 27 September 2005

Lisbon, Portugal

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*“The migrant worker is not a product of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Women and men have been leaving their homelands in search of work elsewhere ever since payment in return for labour was introduced. The difference today is that there are far more migrant workers than in any period of human history. Millions of people now earning their living or looking for paid employment came as strangers to the States where they reside. There is no continent, no region, which does not have its contingent of migrant workers.”<sup>1</sup>*

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**The 2005 Study days will explore how the situation of migrants along with their families and globalization effects each other in order to identify what social justice for migrants and migrant families might look like in individual European countries and for Europe as a whole.**

This theme was chosen based upon the following concerns:

- In a globalizing world where labour market tensions are growing, migration becomes an even more complicated and pressing human rights/social justice concern
- Migration issues are a national concern; therefore investigating the situation of our host country, Portugal, can provide us with insight into the national level of this issue
- Migration issues are an international concern; therefore we must understand migration in the context of Europe and the context of globalization.

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<sup>1</sup> Fact Sheet, No.24, The Rights of Migrant Workers, <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs24.htm>

## **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005**

### **9:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

*Josef Bieger-Hänggi & Lesia Kovalenko*

### **9:15 KEYNOTE LECTURES: Migration and Portugal**

#### **Social Justice In A Globalized World: The Case Of Portugal And Its Migrants**

*Rui Marques, Alto Comissário Adjunto, Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e  
Minorias Étnicas*

Through discussion of globalization and its effect on migrant workers in Portugal important national migration issues are identified as well as questions to reflect upon during our study days.

#### Audience Reflection Questions

- What is the effect of globalization on Portugal?
- Who is migrating to Portugal?
- What does the Portuguese experience tell us about: the challenges of migration, how nations are responding to migrant workers, how to find creative ways of addressing the unjust situations of migrant workers?

### **9:45 Questions & Plenary Discussion**

### **10:00 Break**

### **10:15 Portugal As Immigration And Emigration Country - Two Family Stories**

*Cristina Barroso, from Portugal living in Switzerland  
Father Fernando Ka, from Guinea Bissau living in Portugal*

Through personal and family stories we hear about the experience of African individuals and their families who migrated to Portugal and a Portuguese woman who migrated to Switzerland.

#### Audience Reflection Questions

- What pushed people to migrate to another country & what are the dreams and goals of people who have migrated?
- What are the biggest challenges of migrating to work in another country? E.g. in relation to family & kids, personal success & value, position in the host country, relationship with the homeland, etc.

### **10:45 Questions & Plenary Discussion**

### **11:00 Break**

### **11:15 PRESENTATION I: Irregular Migrants, Undocumented Workers, Human Trafficking**

#### **The Situation Of Irregular Migrants & The Problem Of Trafficking: A Ukrainian perspective**

*Olexandra Kozankevych from Caritas Ukraine*

Through testimonies, reports, and description, Ms. Kozankevych will describe her work with irregular migrant workers and how Caritas Ukraine is addressing the challenge of this illegal kind of migrant work.

#### Audience Reflection Questions

- What are the biggest challenges for Ukrainian people that lead them to get involved with illegally entering other countries for work?
- What are the stereotypes in your country about Ukrainians or Eastern Europeans?
- What affects international cooperation on the issue of irregular work?

### **12:15 Questions & Plenary Discussion**

### **12:30 Break**

**13:00 Lunch**

**15:00 INTRODUCTIONS**

*Miguel Ángel Sánchez Gómez & Helena Zabzova*

**15:15 Churches and Undocumented Workers: Let's Apply Human Rights**

*Didier Vanderslycke, Vice-president Platform for international Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants and of KMS Kerkwerk Multicultureel Samenleven (Church Action in a multicultural society)*

Exploring the situation of people working and living as undocumented workers, we will explore what responsibilities the Church and Christian organizations have in the protection of undocumented migrants rights. Ten ways to protect undocumented workers will be offered.

Audience Reflection Questions

- Is your organization aware about the situation of undocumented workers in your country or region?
- Are you aware about the fact that in many European countries, undocumented workers are protected by the same labour legislation as documented workers?
- What is your opinion on this statement? : 'As churches and catholic organizations we can in no way accept employment of undocumented workers. We have to protect them, not to employ them!'

**15:45 Questions & Plenary Discussion**

**16:00 Break**

**16:15 PRESENTATION II: The International Perspective**

**Challenges: Migrant Rights, National Laws & Interests, & International Coordination**

*Emilio Gómez, Spanish Justice and Peace Commission  
Hans de Jonge, Council of Europe & North South Centre*

Through a discussion of the barriers to legalizing rights for migrant workers and of promising migrant worker initiatives we consider what must be done to create infrastructures, which support migrant workers' economic success and protect their human rights.

Audience Reflection Questions

- What rights, laws, and interests currently exist dealing with migrant workers?
  - What rights, laws, and interests need to be investigated and internationally coordinated in order to address migrant worker rights both on a local and an international level.
- What policies or laws in your country hinder or help the migrant worker having equal rights?

**17:15 Questions & Plenary Discussion**

**17:30 PREPARE & COLLECT QUESTIONS**

*Christina Sasaki*

Reflecting upon the Study Day lectures all members have the opportunity to identify questions / issues in order to explore the implications of the Study Days for Justice and Peace and to prepare for the discussions on Tuesday.

**18:15 Break**

**18:30 Meetings (Working Groups, New EXCO, Roundtable Participants)**

**20:00 Dinner**

## Tuesday, September 27, 2005

**9:00 OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS**

*Thomas Wallimann / Christina Sasaki*

**9:15 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION**

### **Migrant Workers, Labour, and Globalization: Perspectives from Different Regions of Europe**

*Lesya Kovalenko (Ukraine)*

*Henrik Alberius (Sweden)*

*Maria Manuela Silva (Portugal)*

*Wolfgang Bürgstein (Switzerland)*

Responding to the questions & Issues identified on Monday evening, the lectures, and readings, the roundtable will explore the differences between regions of Europe on the subject of Migrant workers and globalization via their own experience.

#### Audience Reflection Questions

- What migrant worker, labour, and globalization issues of concern for unions, politicians, the church in your country? How are they similar or unique in comparison to other regions / countries in Europe
- In your country what influence do unions, politicians, and the church have on migrant rights?

**9:55 Questions/Plenary Discussion**

**10:10 Break**

**10:25 Ratification of the International Convention**

*Jörg Lürer*

Through open discussion in the General Assembly we explore the implications of the study days for Justice & Peace with the goal of ratifying the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**.

**11:25 CONCLUSION**

*Josef Bieger-Hänggi*

**11:30 Break**

**12:00 Lunch**