

Europe's Refugees and Migrants: A Christian Response

The first half of the 2010 decade has seen a resurgence in refugees and migrants crossing from North Africa and the Near East into Europe. Driven by factors such as war, conflict, prejudice and poverty, refugees and migrants have been flooding Europe's borders. What is the story on the ground and how can Christians respond in a balanced way that reflects God's love for the widow, the orphan and the stranger.

Paul Sydnor is the EU Director for the International Association for Refugees (www.iafr.org). An active participant of the Refugee Highway Partnership (RHP) in Europe, as well as the Lausanne Global Diaspora Network (GDN), Paul has helped to build church-based ministries among refugees and asylum seekers throughout Europe since 1985. He has also come alongside of a number of refugee leaders over the years to strengthen and support them in their own efforts, including refugee leaders from Croatia, Kosovo, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and several parts of Africa. Paul and his family live in Lille, France. His wife is from Germany, and they have raised their three grown kids raised in three different countries. Paul has completed the MDiv and MA Counseling (Gordon-Conwell) and recently a PhD (Middlesex) about the intersection of forced displacement and faith.

I. Overview of the refugee crisis

- A. The global reality
- B. Issues and impact in Europe
- C. What are people's questions and how do we see churches responding?

II. The experience of forced displacement

- A. Experiences among refugees in Europe
- B. A trauma of the soul

C. How do you see this experience among refugees around you?

III. The continuum of refugee ministry

A. Emergency response and recovery work

B. Building on resilience

C. Where are you on this continuum?

Suggested Readings:

Ruiter, Bert de, Ed. (2014). Engaging with Muslims in Europe. Nürnberg, Germany, VTR Publications.

<http://www.europeanea.org/index.php/refugees/refugee-crisis/>

<http://refugeehighway.net/resources/ministry-resources>

www.iafr.org