

## 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants

*Contributing to the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe  
through interreligious and intercultural dialogue*

### AGENDA

(latest update: 2 November 2020)

**Date:** Tuesday 3 November to Wednesday 4 November 2020

**Location:** online on Zoom, all times are CET

### Tuesday, 3 November 2020

#### 09:00-10:30: Opening plenary

**MC:** Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, Network for Dialogue Project Manager, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

**Opening remarks:** H.E. Faisal bin Muaammar, Secretary General of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

**Keynote remarks:** “Encourage and promote: The German way to integration” by H.E. Stephan Mayer, Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and Member of the German Parliament

**Introductory remarks:** H.E. Amb. Jörg Wojahn, Representative of the European Commission to Germany

#### Conversation on migration, faith and social inclusion

**Moderator:** Dr. Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of the European Affairs Programme at the Egmont Institute

**Speakers:**

- **Ms. Shaza Alrihawi**, Chairwoman for the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN)
- **Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister**, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Vienna, Austria
- **Imam Yahya Pallavicini**, President of the Islamic Religious Community of Italy (COREIS)
- **Dr. Shannon Pfohman**, Policy and Advocacy Director, Caritas Europe
- **Dr. Rainer Münz**, former Special Adviser on migration and demography at the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC)

**Framing of the event:** Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, Network for Dialogue Project Manager and The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and Mr. Johannes Langer, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

#### 11:00-12:30: Working Session 1: Current context, main challenges and new opportunities

**Aims of the session:** Getting to know each other. Discussion on the current context and challenges in the specific field of the track regarding social inclusion processes of refugees and migrants in Europe.

##### 1. Strengthening social inclusion in education

- **Dr. Scherto Gill**, Senior Research Fellow at the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace Research Institute

##### 2. Building trust in local communities

- **Ms. Anne Bathily**, Independent Expert of the Intercultural Cities Network of the Council of Europe

##### 3. Reshaping narratives on migration

- **Dr. Torsten Moritz**, Secretary General of Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)

## 14:00-16:00: Working Session 2: Methods and approaches to address challenges

*Aims: Dive deeper into the conversations. Discussion on how to best address the challenges through best practices, what has worked or not.*

### 1. Strengthening social inclusion in education

- **Ms. Sophia Burton**, Managing Director and co-founder of Migration Matters

### 2. Building trust in local communities

- **Dr. Andrew Orton**, Director of Education, Associate Professor Department of Sociology at Durham University, UK

### 3. Reshaping narratives on migration

- **Dr. Alberto-Horst Neidhardt**, Policy Analyst for the European Diversity and Migration Programme at European Policy Centre (EPC)

## Wednesday, 4 November 2020

### 09:00-09:15: Short plenary for framing Day 2

*Aims: Overview what was achieved during the first day and looking ahead on Day 2.*

*Introductory remarks: His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France*, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and member of the KAICIID Board of Directors

### 09:15-11:00: Working Session 3: Developing joint proposals and policy recommendations

*Aims: Drafting key policy recommendations in the specific field of the track.*

### 11:30-13:00: Working Session 4: Implementation and way forward

*Aims: Agreeing on the way forward in how to reach policy makers, religious actors and other relevant stakeholders in that specific track.*

### 14:30-16:00: Closing plenary with presentations of results

*Presentation of the policy recommendations of each track by one rapporteur. Possibility of Q&A and discussion on way forward.*

*Keynote remarks: Mr. Juan Fernando López Aguilar*, Member of European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) in the European Parliament

*Moderator: Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer*, Senior Advisor of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

*Speakers:*

- **Dr. Anna Hjälmsjö**, Programme Director for “A World of Neighbors” at the Church of Sweden
- **Canon Dr. Sarah Snyder**, Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Adviser for Reconciliation and Founding Director of Rose Castle Foundation
- **H.E. Amb. Drahošlav Štefánek**, Special Representative on Migration and Refugees at the Council of Europe
- **Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf**, President of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)

*Way forward: Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic*, Network for Dialogue Project Manager and The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and *Johannes Langer*, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)



KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE



## 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants

*Contributing to the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe through interreligious and intercultural dialogue*

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Date:** 3-4 November 2020

**Location:** online

#### INTRODUCTION

The European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants represents an annual platform that brings together key stakeholders working on the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe. Acting as a convener for discussing the growing diversity and complexity of migration flows and migration dynamics, the Forum gathers diverse participants in interactive discussions that combine different perspectives and build bridges between various actors working with refugees and migrants around Europe. The Forum also supports new directions towards dialogue in migration policies and calls attention to the mission and experiences of grassroots organizations to contribute to the work of policymakers.

#### BACKGROUND

The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) established the Network for Dialogue platform, which brings together secular and faith-based civil society organizations from across Europe to strengthen dialogical approaches in the integration of refugees and migrants. KAICIID and the Network for Dialogue are organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants in 2020, under the title **“Contributing to the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe through interreligious and intercultural dialogue”**.

This follows the successful organisation of the [1<sup>st</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants](#), which gathered 60 participants in Athens, Greece, in October 2019. By bringing together both religious and secular views into the discourse on migration, the Forum succeeded in [showcasing ways to foster the social inclusion](#) of refugees and migrants in Europe.

#### THE THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE 2ND EUROPEAN POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum addresses the current social inclusion processes of refugees and migrants in Europe. The Forum does not address border security or reforms in the asylum system; it deals with the question of how dialogue can contribute to the social cohesion and social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe. In doing so, the Forum concentrates on three specific topics:

- ❑ **Strengthening social inclusion in education:** including both formal and non-formal approaches. This topic addresses the difficulties that many refugees encounter in learning a new language and understanding a new culture. It deals with the challenges of teachers in addressing cultural and religious diversity in their classroom.
- ❑ **Building trust in local communities:** finding ways to enable interactions between refugees and the local host community to come together to learn from each other. This topic focuses on fostering mutual understanding and creating spaces where members of the host community can learn about other religions and cultures, reducing fear and prejudices against newcomers.
- ❑ **Reshaping the narratives on migration:** with a focus on the current negative perception about refugees. Instead of giving room for derogatory discourse and hate speech, ways of fostering tolerance and understanding are explored. Promising practices coming from media, academic research and policy initiatives are also shared to show how to better counter hate speech and discrimination.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum was to take place in Bonn, Germany; under the German presidency of the European Union, supported by the German Foreign Ministry and the European Commission Representation in Germany. The Forum has been moved online due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19 and will take place virtually on 3-4 November 2020.

## CONTEXT IN EUROPE

Refugees face numerous hurdles in their new social, economic and political lives in their host country. Many difficulties are due to policies that do not always distinguish between the needs of specific groups versus the unique needs of each individual. Refugees, migrants and members of host societies need contact points and shared spaces to successfully integrate in their new environments. Dialogue can help foster mutual understanding and a two-way integration to better understand each other's cultural context, including one's religious background. Local and national initiatives can become positive examples for other cities and countries to learn about and embrace opportunities that help refugees enjoy equal rights and boost their integration. The social inclusion of refugees and migrants provides the means for disadvantaged groups to access resources and experience wellbeing.

## PARTICIPANTS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum will bring together around 100 participants from various countries around Europe. In particular, policymakers, policy advisers, religious leaders, academics, and secular and faith-based civil society organizations will be taking part. Whether at the local, national or European level, participants are all working on the social inclusion of refugees and migrants.

## APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGY

Dialogue is a tool to foster an attitude of openness and understanding for diversity. By providing a **space for dialogue**, the European Policy Dialogue Forum enables participants to share experiences and harvest perspectives of current refugee and migration policies in Europe. This input contributes to collaborations between policymakers, religious leaders, scholars and civil society, and provides a means for developing policy recommendations. Divided into four days, the Forum will open with the introduction on the first day, followed by two days of in-depth discussions in three groups and will end with the closing plenary on the last day.

Visit us at <https://www.kaiciid.org/refugees/epdf> or <https://network4dialogue.eu/>