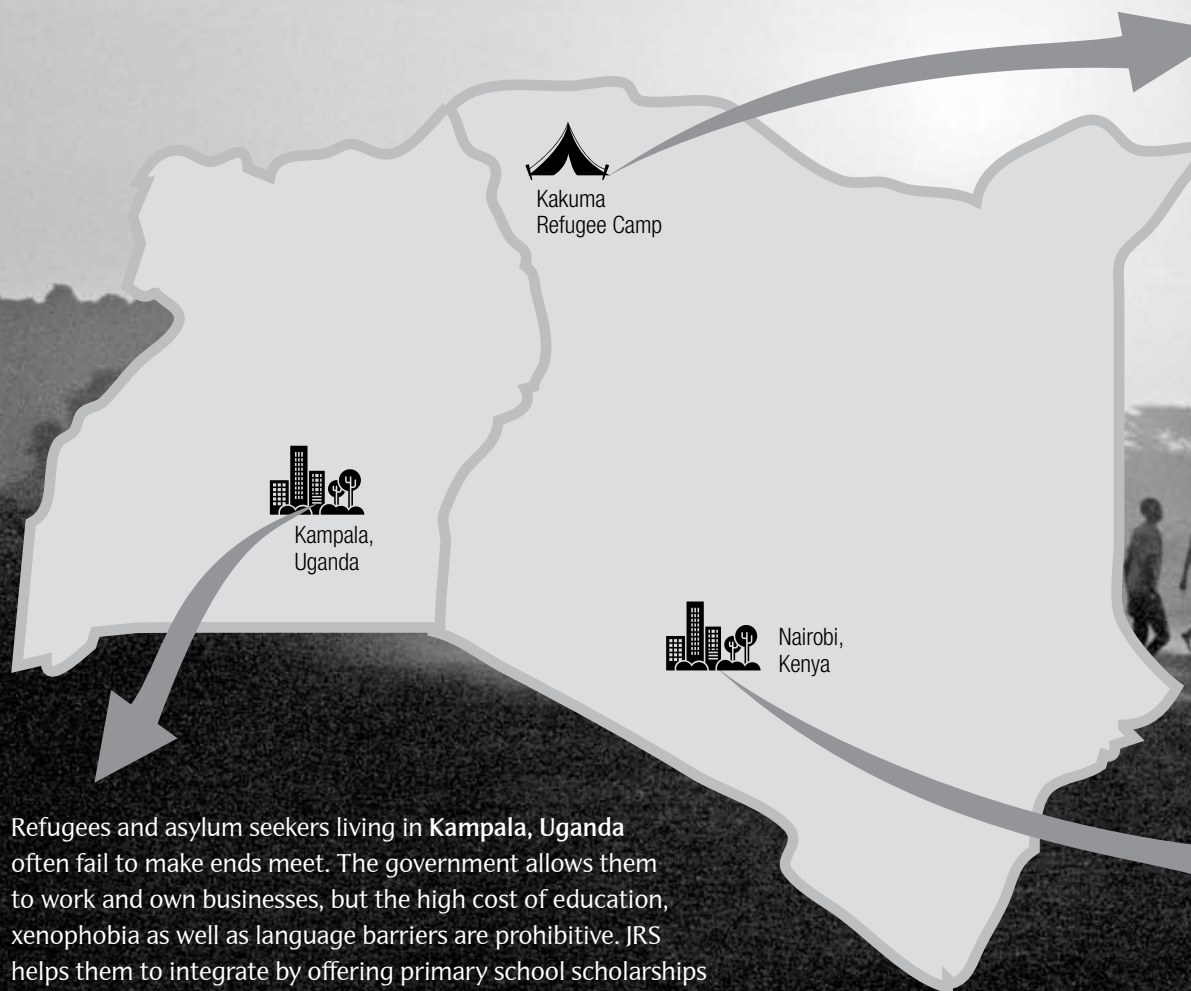




PONTIFEX
HEAR US

JRS 6

Jesuit Refugee Service in Kenya and Uganda



Refugees and asylum seekers living in **Kampala, Uganda** often fail to make ends meet. The government allows them to work and own businesses, but the high cost of education, xenophobia as well as language barriers are prohibitive. JRS helps them to integrate by offering primary school scholarships as well as English courses. Small business loans and vocational training in trades such as hairdressing, fashion design and catering empowers refugees to access the labour market. In addition, JRS provides asylum seekers and refugees in need with emergency assistance such as medical care, rent payment, food and other essential items.

Recent influxes from South Sudan have drastically increased the population of **Kakuma refugee camp**. As of 20 June 2015, 185,000 people sought refuge in the camp. Resources for food, healthcare and other essential items continue to decrease. JRS fulfils the spiritual and intellectual needs of refugees in the camp through psychosocial counselling, scholarships for students with special needs, five day care centres for children with mental disabilities, and two safe haven shelters for women, children and teenage boys with protection needs. In addition, Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins offers online Jesuit higher education.



In **Nairobi, Kenya** refugees struggle to integrate and secure gainful employment due to strict work permit restrictions and policies which confine refugees to camps. Many choose to eke out their survival in the metropolis as they feel they are denied security and personal fulfilment in the overcrowded camps. JRS social workers immerse themselves in refugee communities by basing themselves in six local parishes where they provide counselling and distribute food and by visiting refugees in their homes. JRS provides scholarships in early childhood, secondary and higher education as well as vocational training and small business loans. JRS also sells handicrafts made by refugees in the Nairobi-based Mikono Shop.



The Jesuit Refugee Service welcomes Pope Francis on his first visit to Africa with stories and messages from refugees in Kenya and Uganda.

Join the conversation online at facebook.com/JesuitRefugeeService and [@JesuitRefugee](https://twitter.com/JesuitRefugee). Share our messages with [#PontifexHearUs](https://twitter.com/PontifexHearUs).

Dear Holy Father,

You have heard the calls of the marginalised and displaced worldwide. You have called on the Church and humanity at large to open their doors and their hearts to the plight of those who have suffered the most from conflicts driven by greed and injustice. Thank you for hearing us.

Thank you for addressing this current global crisis of conflict and persecution which has driven 60 million people to flee for their lives causing an age of unprecedented displacement in our world's history. These 60 million people are often characterised as numbers on a page. Their stories, emotions and the aspects of life that make them human are unheeded.

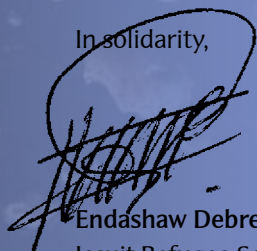
In anticipation of your visit to Eastern Africa, we are bringing you 12 stories out of 60 million – allowing their voices to be heard as they call on to the Church to drive the world forward into a more peaceful and inclusive future.

They have crossed manmade borders of Uganda and Kenya where they seek, not only their rights to protection, but also spiritual guidance, opportunities to learn and grow as well as recognition from their host communities. More than anything, they look forward to the day when they can return home after the present destruction in their home countries of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia and South Sudan ceases.

Please remember their messages as you journey through this land and in your engagement with citizens, refugees and world leaders. Please continue to encourage inter-religious dialogue over discrimination; help us to spread generosity instead of greed; and let justice reign over violence.

Your Holiness, you have been an outstanding advocate for the displaced. On behalf of the refugees served by the Jesuit Refugee Service, Pontifex, continue to hear us.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Endashaw Debrework SJ', written over a circular scribble.

Endashaw Debrework SJ

Jesuit Refugee Service Eastern Africa Director

A woman wearing a black hijab is seen from the side, looking out over a cityscape. In the foreground, there are purple flowers. The city in the background has many multi-story buildings under a cloudy sky.

Testimony

My mother took me from Somalia to Dadaab refugee camp when I was two years old, and I lived there for 20 years. We spent time trying to survive – gathering fire wood and water – but it was our home.

When the government talks about closing Dadaab, I feel terrified. My siblings and I cannot go home to the place where our father was killed and our home was burnt. We have nowhere to start in Somalia. I have no recollection of life there. In Dadaab, the refugees behave like family, there is no discrimination and we all feel equal.

I moved to Nairobi in order to finish my secondary school and decided to stay. I make a living as an interpreter and my brother works as a driver. In my spare time I volunteer as a refugee social worker. I visit refugees in their homes where I administer medicine and raise awareness on sanitation and healthcare issues like diabetes. I've learned I'm not the only refugee with problems, and I've been trained to address these problems. I want to continue this work by becoming a doctor one day.

Preserve Dadaab, our only safe place.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Khadra*

Age: 25 years

Location: Nairobi

From: Somalia

Khadra promotes healthcare and the well-being of other refugees in Eastleigh, Nairobi

The most difficult challenge of living in Nairobi is avoiding police harassment. They try to take bribes from refugees and if we cannot pay we are taken to jail where our possessions are taken, we are beaten and harassed. This discrimination paralyses our daily lives.

Dear Pope Francis,

Please keep protecting refugees. You welcome them when they come to Europe, please encourage leaders to welcome us in other countries throughout the world, too.

Please tell the Kenyan government that Dadaab is a place of protection, especially for the children born there who do not know Somalia and are terrified of being sent there. It is the only safe place we have in this world.

In solidarity,
Khadra, Somali, social worker, future doctor,
former Dadaab resident, refugee

*Name has been changed for security reasons



Testimony

I come from Jonglei state, South Sudan, which is now totally destroyed from recent conflict. I came to Kakuma refugee camp in 1992 when the camp first opened. I was 24 and didn't have a single day of education, but in 2004 I graduated from secondary school, and one year later I became a mental health supervisor with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the camp.

Refugees come here with horrible memories – memories of their homes being attacked, of living in war zones – so their mental health is obviously affected. Without mental healthcare, entire communities suffer.

The refugee counsellors and I show the community the benefit of being together and caring for others, especially widows, unaccompanied minors and people with special needs, so they can feel loved and welcomed here. Helping others has helped me heal from my own trauma too.

I don't think about my future too much, but I do hope I can find another place of peace in this lifetime.

Today, I will continue to be a counsellor of others.

Pray for us.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

David

Age: **44 years**

Location: **Kakuma**

From: **South Sudan**

David works as the Jesuit Refugee Service
Mental Health Supervisor in Kakuma
refugee camp, Kenya

Dear Pope Francis,

Thank you for coming to Africa. I am grateful you are showing
the world that Africans are people too.

Tell God thank you for protecting me throughout my entire life.
I'm sure that God listens to you and answers your prayers to
stop wars and bring peace, so continue to pray for us and for
our challenges.

In solidarity,
David Manyang, South Sudanese, mental health professional,
community leader, counsellor of others, refugee



Testimony

In my dreams I am a journalist, a college-educated writer, but, today I am a refugee.

Becoming a refugee changed my life for the worse – I can't study anymore and I'm raising my sisters alone without an income. It's very hard to find food and pay the rent.

Sometimes, I fear I may have to sell my body to make ends meet. I can't work here and don't have parents to rely on. Luckily, I have a house to live in but I don't know how to find money for my survival.

When I think about the day my parents were killed I feel so sad to realise we can't be

together anymore. We used to share many things, we danced and talked and loved each other. I never thought I would lose them all to war until it happened and I was in exile.

Coming to another country has been my chance to share with other people. I am proud of myself for learning so much from my experience and especially for improving my English.

I know if I study, I can achieve more. I hope peace returns to my country so I can go back or that I can go overseas to make my dream come true: to become a journalist.

Consider the invisible.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Sylvia

Age: 19 years

Location: Kampala

From: DRC

Sylvia studies English at the Jesuit
Refugee Service centre in Kampala,
Uganda

Dear Pope Francis,

Please tell the global population to love each other, to stop injustice.
Everyone in this world is equal so we deserve equal rights.

I know you know about the struggles of refugees, but try to consider
specifically the challenges of urban refugees – those of us invisible in
cities around the world. Help us to integrate into countries that are not
our own.

Please also urge leaders to care for their people instead of focusing
only on harvesting all our resources which only bring us war. If we can
distribute these resources justly the situation will improve in our country.

I will continue to keep my faith, because God has helped me – even
when I've lost hope. I have faith He will continue to help me.

In solidarity,

Sylvia, Congolese, English student, future journalist, refugee

Testimony



One night in 1987, my home town in South Sudan was blasted by the Khartoum army, and I fled toward Ethiopia. I was forced to become a child soldier until 1994, but I eventually escaped to Kakuma refugee camp where I could attend school. I knew in war, I wouldn't achieve my dreams.

In 1997, I was shot and became bound to a wheelchair. I suffered for years until a Good Samaritan paid for my treatment. In 2008, I began my studies again and have attained diplomas in Theology and Psychology as well as a Bachelor of Divinity.

Recently, war broke out in my country again because of poor leadership. When we achieved independence in 2011, we

thought our country would focus on health, education and peace. We never thought we'd go back to war after fighting for almost 50 years. We never thought we'd fall back into conflict just so an elite few can take advantage of our resources.

The victims are children, women and the disabled. Living life as a disabled person is not easy, but God opens the way for me and the rest of my disabled brothers and sisters to keep hoping.

Though I am stressed, I never feel alone because I rely on my belief in God. In difficult moments I turn to the Bible which gives me comfort and solace.

Walk with us.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Daniel

Age: **30 years**

Location: **Nairobi**

From: **South Sudan**

Daniel Deng is pursuing a Master's degree in Peace Studies and International Relations at the Hekima Institute in Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Pope Francis,

I've been following you and I see you have compassion for all humanity. You value all people regardless of their belief or status. I watched you on television during your visit in Philadelphia and saw you embrace a person with a disability on the road. I believe this person and his family have now been relieved from their pain. A man of God has touched him.

Is there a way for those with disabilities to be more recognised in our world? Can we be given room to speak? We have ideas and we can contribute, but often we are stigmatised. I know Jesus was really compassionate to people with disabilities – He healed them, He loved them. Today, I wonder if the entire Church has the same compassion. Please encourage more space for the disabled to take on positions of power. Thank you for walking with us.

Please also engage with those countries from where people flee and those leaders who aren't thinking about their brothers and sisters in exile. Urge them to stop these conflicts and make their countries peaceful. We need the international community to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan.

In solidarity,

Daniel Y. Deng, South Sudanese, peace activist, disability advocate, refugee

A young man with short dark hair and a slight smile stands outdoors. He is wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt over a dark t-shirt. The background shows green trees and a clear sky. The bottom half of the image has a semi-transparent white overlay containing text.

Testimony

I came to Kakuma refugee camp in 2010, and I now live at the Jesuit Refugee Service Amani Centre with other unaccompanied minors. We must stay here because we've faced dangers in the camp, and we struggle to survive or study without parents to take care of us. I'm happy living here, and I feel at peace. I've met guys from different countries and we realised we can be strong together.

I'm studying in secondary school, and someday I want to become an engineer so I can build roads that will help children

reach school and increase trade within the continent. If Africa can build a good network of roads, then anything will be possible. We won't depend on others.

Luckily, I was chosen to be sent to the United States with my 16-year-old brother. When I reach there, I'll finally have the chance to be independent and self-reliant. Being taken away from Kakuma is a gift from God, but I'll always remember this place and I'll come back to help others one day.

Protection for all.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Malith

Age: **18 years**

Location: **Kakuma**

From: **South Sudan**

Malith used to live at the Jesuit Refugee Service Amani Centre, a secure place for young boys with protection concerns in Kakuma refugee camp. He has now been resettled to the United States of America

Dear Pope Francis,

War seems to be the hobby of the world – there is violence in Egypt, attacks in Kenya, and war in South Sudan. This problem is not ours alone to solve, we need the whole world. You are a great person, so please help us Africans to not be victims on this continent anymore. Please pray for us to love each other and to end these wars.

I also ask the whole world to join together to help refugees. No one likes to be a refugee, but no one wants to stay home and watch people they love die either. I hope one day all people can move to other countries to seek new experiences, but not because they are forced.

Thank you for calling on families to accommodate Syrian refugees and emphasising the importance of staying together. If we are all together, regardless of nationality, then we can make this world great without discrimination and hate.

If it's possible for you to really help refugee children, please do it. We need school, because being in school keeps us safe and allows us to start our lives over again.

Please also pray for me to succeed in life so I can help others who are suffering.

In solidarity,

Malith, South Sudanese, student, Messi fan, future engineer, refugee



Testimony

At the age of seven, my entire family was killed except for my youngest brother. We fled together to an internally displaced person's camp within the country, but there was no safety there.

Within four years, I was raped twice by policemen in the camp. This place was supposed to be my place of safety, but instead I suffered from more violence. It really hurts to think about these tragedies. After the second time, my brother and I fled to Kampala.

I've spent nearly my entire life in displacement – first in my own country and

now here in this city. I've experienced very little happiness in my life.

Right now, I'm trying hard to learn catering skills through the Jesuit Refugee Service livelihoods training, but I'm still learning step by step. After I acquire these skills, I'll be able to work and help myself. I pray God will help me change my life for the better.

I know God will help guide my life. I often think about where I came from and how I'll end up. Sometimes I wonder if I will die a refugee. How is my end going to be? Those questions occupy my mind.

Pray for mercy.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Jackine

Age: **30 years**

Location: **Kampala**

From: **Burundi**

Jackine is learning catering skills through the Jesuit Refugee Service livelihoods course in Kampala, Uganda

Dear Pope Francis,

People are tired, blood has been shed everywhere, and families have been divided. Pray for God to forgive us for this hatred and help us to seek peace. By praying to God we can change the hearts of people together.

Power should come from God, not people, because many people lack mercy and compassion – they use power for wicked actions. Let them change and turn to God so innocent blood will no longer be shed.

In solidarity,
Jackine, Burundian, Catering student, sister, refugee

After political persecution compelled me to flee my home in Ethiopia, I journeyed to an unknown shore – Kenya – in search of safety. Arriving to Kenya was a new chapter in my life that began with bleak expectations. My dreams had been shattered, and I had been separated from my family.

For most people, the thought of being separated from loved ones is unbearable; let alone adjusting to the label of ‘refugee’ – a status with which no one wants to identify. However, in life I believe we must grow where we have been planted in order to rise above our circumstances.

A major turning point in my life came when I was accepted into the Jesuit Refugee Service scholarship programme to study Journalism and Media Studies, allowing me to fulfil a tenacious drive to expose the injustices imposed on people who cannot speak for themselves.

My status as a refugee is temporary. What I do today will determine my future and permanent status in life. Everything I am and will be, I owe them to the Almighty God and to those who stood with me through changes and challenges I underwent.

Global solidarity.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Ebba

Age: **23 years**

Location: **Nairobi**

From: **Ethiopia**

Ebba studies Journalism and Media Studies at Zetech University in Nairobi, Kenya with a scholarship from the Jesuit Refugee Service

Dear Pope Francis,


Your visit to Africa as the spiritual leader of Catholic faith is a rare privilege bestowed upon us — especially for refugees. At this time in history, we need your solace and encouragement.

There's nothing more disheartening than watching people's homes under bombardment and lives taken away at sea. You have spoken out against xenophobia, violent terrorist attacks and endless wars in Syria and beyond. You have consoled the pain we refugees feel in our hearts after suffering from such events.

My admiration for your generosity, love and compassion for the displaced goes beyond words. Your commitment to justice renews our strength to face difficult moments with optimism. You remind us that despite our differences, our spiritual and physical oneness unites us. You compel us to think beyond our tribe, religion and imaginary borders so that all of humanity may flourish.

I humbly request you, dear Pope, to urge governments and every influential leader of the world to put humanity above everything.

In solidarity,
Ebba, Oromo, journalist, dreamer, refugee



I've been in Kenya for 15 years. I feel like I am Kenyan, but I often wonder how safe I really am. My father has been deported twice, and our family is in constant fear of deportation. There's an aspect of security – not just physical but psychological – to which everyone has a right.

I thank God I'm in university where I'm safe to live, learn and spread my ideas. I'm studying International Relations and Security Studies, because I want to extend the right to freedom from fear. My family and I know this fear and how it feels to sleep hungry and to watch your back with every move.

People don't only need physical security. We also need inclusion and recognition. This is what we refugees really lack. In Kenya,

we aren't accepted. Every time there is a terrorist incident, we are collectively blamed and our rights become more limited.

When the government issued a directive forcing most refugees to live in camps, our lives changed. Police started to patrol neighbourhoods and buses that refugees frequent to harass, detain and extort money from us. We now have to offer bribes for basic documents, and we are sometimes denied entrance into public secondary schools. Some of us have been denied refugee status while others have been forcefully repatriated. We can't move or live freely.

After I graduate, I'll work in security research and human rights to advocate for my community.

Open our possibilities.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Iragi

Age: 25 years

Location: Nairobi

From: DRC

Iragi studies International Relations and Security Studies at Daystar University with a scholarship from the Jesuit Refugee Service

Right now, I volunteer as the partnership director for an organisation providing life skills, HIV/AIDs prevention and job training for anyone in the community. We want to reverse the idea that without formal education you can't make a difference. I also helped to start a primary school which is now recognised by the government.

I am a refugee, but I am also human who wants to improve our world. This should not disqualify me from access to basic human rights.

Dear Pope Francis,

As refugees, our rights are ignored. We are given the means to survive, but not to fully live or participate in society. We run from home to seek safety, and then we're sent to camps where we're fed but still suffer. We don't want to be seen as vulnerable. This makes us feel less than human. We want to do more, to be more.

Our psychological and physical security is constantly threatened which causes more suffering and conflict. Let us not be limited in Kenya; let us explore our creative and professional abilities. Be our voice and speak for the protection of human rights for all.

Each individual has a different perception of what security means to them, but we all want acceptance. Please explore other options so we can integrate and lessen our suffering.

In solidarity,
Iragi, Congolese, security expert, humanitarian,
partnership director, refugee

A silhouette of a person, likely a woman, is shown from the chest up, looking out of a window. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, with their back to the camera. The window is on the right, showing a view of a brick building outside. The lighting is soft, creating a contemplative mood.

Testimony

My happiest memory is of my parents. All the love in their hearts was for me. They taught me about the Church and gave me strength in spirit which I'll never forget.

I lost both of my lovely parents to war in DRC. When I left home I travelled to Kenya alone in the back of a petrol truck.

Since 2011 I've been living in the Jesuit Refugee Service Safe Haven, a protected area of Kakuma refugee camp, because the insecurity within the camp is too much for

me to handle. Here I live with women from different countries – like Somalia and South Sudan – and learn about new cultures.

I try to be brave by remaining strong in my faith. If we refugees are poor in spirit, if there is no peace in our hearts, then we will suffer. Without God, we wouldn't have made it this far. I wouldn't have been able to travel across three countries as a child. It is only by His grace that I'm still alive. Prayer helps me to forget my past life and reminds me that God is here with each of us.

Strength in spirituality.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Mary Angel

Age: 21 years

Location: Kakuma

From: DRC

Mary Angel lives at the Jesuit Refugee Service Safe Haven where women and young children who have survived gender-based violence receive protection and vocational training

Now I am in secondary school and I really like science class. I will become a gynaecologist one day to help cure women who've been affected by violence like me. Hopefully I will return to DRC to do this work, someday, when it becomes safe.

Dear Pope Francis,

Welcome to Africa. Please remember that people in refugee camps need the Church and people of God to be with us, to give counselling and hear us. Refugees of all faiths need spiritual guidance to become stronger.

Pope Francis, what is your vision for refugees in the world? How will the Gospel spread into these refugee camps?

May God bless you.

In solidarity,
Mary Angel, Congolese, student, future gynaecologist, refugee



In DRC I experienced violence, persecution and discrimination. My father was a journalist and an advocate, working on a book which described the social and political situation in the country. The government retaliated by kidnapping him and killing my entire family in the middle of the night.

I was the only survivor. Local Bishops hid me for three days and helped me escape the country. I could not even attend my own family's funeral. I crossed Uganda and kept traveling as far as I could to seek safety. Finally, I just ended up in Kakuma refugee camp.

I didn't think I'd stay more than one day, but eventually I picked myself up and got a job. I

was a certified electrician in DRC, so I worked on generators in Kakuma and monitored the distribution of power. Later on, I joined the International Rescue Committee, where I've worked as a logistics manager up to now.

Three years ago I also joined Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins, the only form of higher education in Kakuma refugee camp. I just recently graduated with a Diploma in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis in business. I now lead an organisation called Hope Vision. We host debates about social justice issues and help refugees devise business plans and secure loans to start businesses in the camp.

Inspire leaders.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Tshils

Age: 27 years

Location: Kakuma

From: DRC

Tshils graduated from Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins with a Diploma in Liberal Studies in September 2015

I've realised that being a refugee is a process. Policy makers working on refugee issues are doing a good job, but because I've gone through this process myself, I have ideas to improve humanitarian response.

I aspire to continue studying and go home to DRC to work as an engineer or in humanitarian logistics. There are too many wars and disasters worldwide, so humanitarian coordination and new infrastructure is really needed. I think I can bring that change, one day at a time.

Dear Pope Francis,

Thank you for supporting refugees. Please encourage world leaders to look at the current refugee response in this world differently than they have before. Refugees around the world are limited in opportunities. We should be given the chance to help revise the humanitarian response of today.

We need better leaders across Africa to counter a perpetual cycle of conflict. We can be these leaders and contribute to this world for the better. Please inspire the leaders of the Church to speak out on our behalf and include us in decision making.

In solidarity,
Tshils, Congolese, electrician, humanitarian,
change maker, refugee



Testimony

Before coming to Uganda, my life was better than it is today. Even though there was insecurity in DRC, it at least was possible to live a semi-normal life. Eventually, I had to flee after I lost my father, but even here in Uganda, I have not found my peace or even my basic needs.

Some Ugandans think that Congolese have money, gold and silver, but the truth is that it is because of these things that there is war in DRC. Sometimes they treat us poorly, like animals without rights.

On the other hand, I have received so much help from others, and I must give back. I dream of becoming a physician and building a hospital that treats patients for free.

Even if I live in bad conditions, God blessed me with knowledge. I am trying to improve my life through studying English at the Jesuit Refugee Service centre in Kampala.

I have faith that God will never forget me.

We are human beings too.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Christian

Age: **17 years**

Location: **Kampala**

From: **DRC**

Christian studies English at the Jesuit
Refugee Service centre in Kampala,
Uganda

Dear Pope Francis,

We only need peace – to become united and end these wars. The world must listen to our ideas to foster peace.

We must be considered and our rights must be respected, we are human beings too. Maybe your prayers will help us to find our way out of refugee life.

In solidarity,
Christian, Congolese, English student, future doctor,
refugee



I dream of becoming an engineer one day, and an important woman in this world. I dream of having my own family. I would like to live freely like everybody else.

When I left DRC and became a refugee, I came with nothing. I left my friends, my school. The worst moment in my life was when my parents told me I can't go to university, because they can't afford it.

I'm like a prisoner in Kampala, but at least I can study English. Without knowledge of

English refugees struggle to do the simplest tasks, like go to the market or the hospital. In this class I learn a lot from my teacher and my classmates.

When I finally break free of my refugee status I will become a builder – build my life, build bridges, build homes, build roads, and build a future.

Women can change the world.

Pontifex, Hear Us.

Sylvie

Age: **20 years**

Location: **Kampala**

From: **DRC**

Sylvie studies English at the Jesuit
Refugee Service English course in
Kampala, Uganda

Dear Pope Francis,

Continue to work for a world where there are no more refugees, where everyone can choose to stay in his or her country. Remind the world that refugees are people with rights. Peace will return to our lives when we have the chance to study and work.

Also remember the value of women in society – we have power, we are equal and we can change the world.

Please pray for me, my family and my fellow refugees in Kampala. Even if I am poor in my earthly life, after this life I know I'll be happy again.

In solidarity,
Sylvie, Congolese, feminist, future engineer, refugee



#PontifexHearUs

A Sudanese girl seeks refuge in Maban, South Sudan along with 132,000 other refugees who fled Blue Nile, Sudan after their homes were bombed by the Sudanese army.

The Jesuit Refugee Service offers psychosocial counselling as well as English literacy and teacher training courses to Sudanese refugees in Maban.



A young Eritrean man plays a traditional instrument in a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia where 84 percent of refugees are under the age of 24. Faced with a traumatic past and limited future opportunities, many decide to make a perilous journey north – to Europe or Israel. **The Jesuit Refugee Service offers visual and performing arts classes as well as sports activities and psychosocial counselling to help young people relieve stress and encourage them to remain in Ethiopia.**



Eastern Africa
accompany • serve • advocate

Email: easternafrika.communications@jrs.net www.jrsea.org Twitter: [@JesuitRefugee](https://twitter.com/JesuitRefugee)

Photographs in this booklet were taken by Angela Wells, Ebba Abbamurti, Beatriz Arnal, Sergi Camara, Scott Poulter, Andrew Ash and Christian Fuchs

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