

Programme for Launch of Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice

'The Church and the Migration Crisis: UK Perspectives'

13th June 2016

Location: CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

Afternoon Workshop Timetable 1-5.30pm:

Please note that all workshops will run twice. Once from 1.30-3pm, and again from 3.15-5.15pm with a short coffee break in between. Please arrive by 12.45pm for afternoon Registration.

Workshop 1: *Migration, Ethics and Public Policy*, Dr Sara Silvestri, City University and Von Hügel Institute, Cambridge.

Workshop 2: *Migration, Churches and Community Organising*, George Gabriel, Citizens UK.

Workshop 3: *Migration and the Response of Faith-Based Organisations*, Dr Mark Provera.

Workshop 4: *The Law and the Protection of Refugees and other Displaced Persons*, Dr María-Teresa Gil-Bazo, University of Newcastle.

Evening Launch Timetable:

Please arrive by 5.30pm for evening panel session.

5.30-6pm Drinks Reception and Launch of the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice

6-8pm Panel Event: *'How Should the Churches Be Responding to the Current Migration and Refugee Protection Crises?'*

Introduction: Dr Anna Rowlands, Durham University and Chair of Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice.

Chair: Sarah Teather, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service UK.

Panel: Zrinka Bralo, Migrants Organise.

Dr Joshua Ralston, Edinburgh University.

Dr Mark Provera, Jesuit Refugee Service, Brussels.

George Gabriel, Organiser at Citizens UK.

Dr María-Teresa Gil-Bazo, Newcastle University.

8pm Drinks and Canapés Reception



Workshop Details

Workshop 1: Migration, Ethics and Public Policy, Dr Sara Silvestri

Dr Silvestri will highlight some key findings from her Plater Trust project on the contribution of Catholic charities in the migration field in the UK. It explores the application of the principles of CST, e.g. solidarity and social justice, in the field of migration and asylum in the UK in order to establish the added value of the work of migration-focused Catholic charities to British society. It also addresses the ramification of CST for the practitioners working in Catholic charities in the field of migration, and the relationship between Catholic charities devoted to migration issues and the UK policy community in this field.

Sara Silvestri is Senior Lecturer in the International Politics Department at City University London. She is also Affiliated Lecturer at POLIS (University of Cambridge) and Director of Research at the Von Hügel Institute. She specialises in the role of faith-based actors in international affairs and issues at the intersection of migration, multiculturalism, and security. Her latest project, funded by the Plater Trust, examines the contribution of Catholic charities to migration policy in the UK.

Workshop 2: Migration, Churches and Community Organising, George Gabriel, Citizens UK

This workshop will explore the ways in which community organising has drawn on faith communities as key agents of accompaniment, advocacy and change in relation to migrant and refugee experience. It will explore learning on questions of increasing dignity within the immigration system and organising to ensure effective access to law. This workshop will include reflection on previous and current Citizens actions on migration.

George Gabriel is the Lead Organiser for the New Citizens strand of organising. He has worked with Citizens UK for 6 years, first to help build new broad based alliances and more recently to lead national programmes of work and explore how community organising can be put to work building broad social movements for change. George has worked to build Nottingham Citizens, on the Living Wage in the retail sector and helped explore potential to create a Global Living Wage initiative through a summer placement at the World Bank. He now leads New Citizens work, a wide ranging brief that covers immigration and integration. In leading Refugees Welcome work George recently helped organise a pioneering court case and public campaign to help the children of Calais.

Workshop 3: Migration and the Response of Faith-Based Organisations, Dr Mark Provera

This workshop will focus on EU developments in migration and international protection, considering faith-based organisation's perspective. Dr Mark Provera will focus on shared universal values, such as the concept of "dignity" as common to both CST and EU and ECHR law, and the use of subsidiarity within both an EU legal context and its use within CST, to consider the possibilities and opportunities for faith-based responses.

Mark Provera is the Policy and Advocacy Officer at Jesuit Refugee Service Europe. Prior to his appointment, Mark was a researcher in the Justice and Home Affairs section at the Centre for European Policy Studies. Previously, he had taught Substantive European Union Law and European Migration Law and Citizenship at Maastricht University, where he also completed his doctoral thesis on the laws surrounding the detention of asylum seekers in the European Union and Australia. Additionally, he was also a refugee caseworker at Amnesty International Australia. Mark is a member of the New South Wales' Bar, the Ius Commune Research School and the Maastricht Centre for European Law.

Workshop 4: The Law and the Protection of Refugees and other Displaced Persons, Dr María-Teresa Gil-Bazo

The latest available official figures by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) showed that the year 2014 hit the record in forced displacement, with about 60 million of forcibly displaced persons in the world, 86% of whom are hosted by countries in the global south. About 51% of persons who are forced to leave their countries due to persecution, human rights violations or war are children. Since then, the forced displacement of persons has continued and it has reached European countries, with the year 2015 witnessing the arrival of more than 1 million persons through the Mediterranean, 82% of whom come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries. What are the rights of asylum-seekers arriving into Europe? Do refugees have the right to choose their country of asylum? Does fleeing from economic deprivation make someone an "economic migrant" and therefore not entitled to the protection of the law? Do unlawfully present aliens have no rights? This workshop will examine these questions in the light of the international legal obligations of States, including the UK, and the decisions of international courts and human rights bodies.

Dr Gil-Bazo is Senior Lecturer at Newcastle Law School, Senior Research Associate at the School of Advanced Studies (University of London), and Fellow of the European Law Institute (Vienna). Prior to coming to Newcastle University in 2007, María-Teresa was Lecturer in International Human Rights and Refugee Law at Oxford University (2004-2007), where she was also Director of its International Summer School in Forced Migration (2009-2010). Between 1999 and 2007, María-Teresa was Visiting Professor at the Pontifical University Comillas (Madrid, Spain), where she taught an annual postgraduate course on "The Human Rights of Migrants". María-Teresa is a qualified lawyer and member of the Spanish Bar Council. Between 1999 and 2004, she worked in Brussels during the first stage of the Common European Asylum System, where she was first responsible for the work of Amnesty International in this area and later she headed the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) EU Office. María-Teresa regularly advises the UN, the EU, governments and NGOs on human rights and asylum. She is an External Expert to the EU Asylum Agency (EASO), where she has advised on the development of the EU's official training curriculum on asylum and human rights for government officials, EU officials, and border guards. María-Teresa has published extensively in the field of asylum and human rights.

Further Panellist Information

Sarah Teather has been the Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) UK since January 2016, joining the UK team after a short contract with the JRS International office that took her all over the world visiting JRS projects in East Africa, the Middle East and many of the recent pressure points in Europe. Prior to joining JRS, Sarah was an MP in Brent, North West London, for 12 years, including two and a half years serving as Minister of State for Children and Families.

Dr Joshua Ralston is Lecturer in Muslim-Christian Relations at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. Prior to moving to Scotland, he was Assistant Professor of Theology at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He co-edited, with Susanna Snyder and Agnes Brazal, *Church in the Age of Global Migration: A Moving Body* (Palgrave, 2016) and has published journal articles and opinion pieces on political theology and migration. While completing his PhD at Emory University (Atlanta, GA), he worked with refugee resettlement agencies and also co-founded a new church development with the Presbyterian Church (USA) for former refugees resettled into the States. His forthcoming book, *Law and the Rule of God: A Christian-Muslim Exchange*, leverages political theology and comparative theology to engage longstanding debates over the place and function of law in Christian-Muslim relations.

Zrinka Bralo has been Chief Executive of Migrants Organise since 2001. Formerly known as the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, Migrants Organise is a platform where refugees and migrants organise for power, dignity and justice. They develop leadership and open up spaces for relational, organised participation of migrants and refugees in public life, and they do this through mentoring, training, celebrating, organising and mobilising. As a former refugee herself, Zrinka has led numerous successful campaigns on behalf of refugees and migrants. She served as a Commissioner on the Independent Asylum Commission, took part in campaign to end detention of children for immigration purposes in 2010. In September 2015, in response to the recent refugee crisis she has lead civil society response in the UK and is a founding chair of the National Refugee Welcome Board. She has previously written for *The Guardian*, *OpenDemocracy* and *The Huffington Post* and her evidence about biased media coverage of immigration to the Leveson Inquiry into the Ethics of the British press was included into the Leveson report and recommendations. In 2011 Zrinka launched the Women on the Move Awards for outstanding grass roots leaders, with the Awards Ceremony held on the International Women's Day at the Royal Festival Hall in London. Zrinka is a founding trustee of Most Mira (The Bridge of Peace) charity that delivers arts based programmes for ethnically segregated young people in rural Northern Bosnia where some of the worst atrocities were committed during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. She is also a winner of the 2011 Voices of Courage Award by the Women's Refugee Commission in New York, for the work with refugees in urban areas. She holds MSc in Media and Communications from London School of Economics and is 2014 Churchill Fellow.

Dr Anna Rowlands is Lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Theology and Deputy Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University. Anna teaches and writes on Political Theology, Moral Theology and Practical Theology and has a specialist interest in Catholic Social Thought. Dr Rowlands has a particular interest in multi-contextual research and is Founding Chair of the innovative practitioner-academic Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice. She works closely with a number of leading Faith-Based Organizations including, Citizens UK, CAFOD and the Caritas Social Action Network on migration related issues. Her key research interests include theological ethics, asylum and migration and the political theology of the common good. She is currently writing a book for theologians and policy makers on Catholic Social Teaching.