



*Jesuit Refugee Service
-Europe-
Service Jésuite des Réfugiés*

Rue du Progrès 333
1030 Brussels, Belgium.

Writing about Refugees: A Competition for Student Journalists

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Writing about Refugees: A competition for Student Journalists.

The Jesuit Refugee Service is today launching a competition to encourage Student Journalists to examine and report the truth about the refugee situation in Europe.

It is inviting aspiring journalists to investigate the reality behind the headlines concerning refugees and asylum seekers. Three winners will be invited to Brussels to meet with the members of the jury who are all experienced journalists in this area. The overall winner will be offered the opportunity to visit Kenya for 12 days in the summer of 2006 to broaden his/ her knowledge of asylum and refugees issues. JRS Eastern Africa will organise meetings with refugees, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and local media, in Nairobi and in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

"Refugees and asylum seekers coming to Europe repeatedly make headlines, but not all information given about them is true," says Fr Jan Stuyt SJ, JRS Europe Director. "What is true is that every day there are people arriving in Europe who are fleeing persecution, that some European governments put these people behind bars, and that often the numbers of new arrivals make headlines and the stories behind the sound-bites are lost. We want to challenge young journalists to tackle a significant humanitarian problem in Europe and to help break down misunderstandings and myths," says Fr Stuyt.

Students are asked to write an article of not more than 1,200 words on: 'Refugees in Europe'. The competition is open to students at, or who have graduated during the last 12 months from, recognised institutes of higher education in Europe.

Application forms and further details on the competition, in English, can be found on JRS Europe's website, www.jrseurope.org. The deadline for entries is 21 March 2006. Website links to organisations that work with refugees and asylum seekers in various European countries are also available on the JRS Europe website.

This competition is supported by the International of Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

For queries or more information, contact Ms Alice Kennedy, Media Officer JRS Europe at press.europe@mail06.jrs.net or tel.: 0032 2 250 3220.

*JRS Europe is a network of 20 offices working in Europe with and for refugees and displaced people
It is part of the JRS international network and a project of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials.*

Tel +32 (2) 250 3220. Fax +32 (2) 250 3229.
Web: www.jrseurope.org E mail: michael.schoepf@jrs.net
'Serving Forgotten Refugees'