

Introduction:

The Jesuit Mission office has worked for over 50 years in supporting Jesuit missionaries in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Zambia, Eastern Africa, Chile, and Paraguay. All of these missionaries have been involved continually in humanitarian development programmes with their people in the field. Our present Strategic Plan focusses on support to the Jesuit Provinces of Zambia/Malawi, the Eastern Africa Province, and the Jesuit Refugee Service.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) was founded in 1980 in response to the Boat People fleeing Vietnam. Now it works in over 50 countries with some of the over 15 million refugees and migrants worldwide. Its three pronged approach is To Accompany the Refugees, to Advocate on their behalf, and to Serve their needs.

Key Issues:

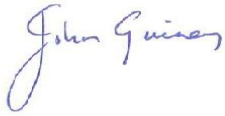
The Jesuit Mission Office proposes that the issue of Refugees and non-documented Migrants be made a key issue of the Irish Aid White Paper. These many millions of people have no homes, often no national identity papers, no source of income, no freedom of movement in their host countries, very little dignity in their accommodation in the camps, very poor health services, very little educational opportunity, and most of all very little hope for the future. Many of them have been born and have lived in the camps for over 20 years.

As the number of refugees and migrants shows few signs of diminishing, we propose that they become a key issue in Irish Aid in the coming years.

- We see this as happening in increased focus and effort in Conflict-Prevention, Conflict-Resolution, and Peace Building.
- The Irish Government should also strongly support Resettlement Programmes throughout the world
- The Government should also support with Direct Aid to organisations who work on the ground with Refugees and Migrants, particularly in Africa.

Conclusion:

The Jesuit Mission Office very strongly supports the Irish Government in its continued very generous support to the poorer countries and peoples of the world, and it congratulates the many Government Departments and the People of Ireland for these efforts. It urges the Government to continue this generous support even in these times of economic difficulty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Guiney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Signed:

r. John K Guiney SJ, Director Irish Jesuit Mission Office