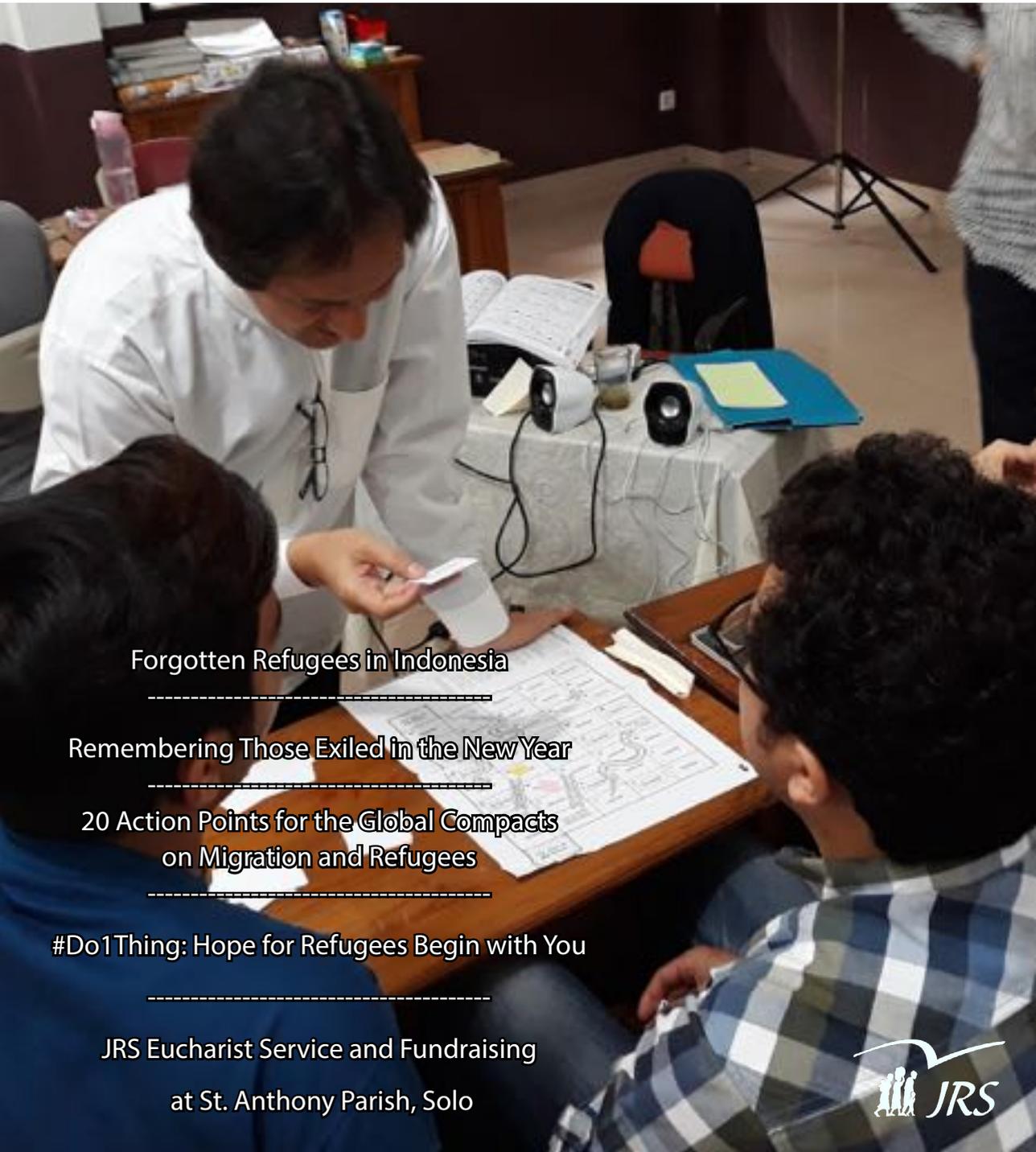


REFUGE

Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

Accompany, Serve, and Advocate the Cause of Forcibly Displaced People



Forgotten Refugees in Indonesia

Remembering Those Exiled in the New Year

20 Action Points for the Global Compacts
on Migration and Refugees

#Do1Thing: Hope for Refugees Begin with You

JRS Eucharist Service and Fundraising
at St. Anthony Parish, Solo



Forgotten Refugees in Indonesia

Lars Stenger



JRS staff member, Diah, during a fun day event for refugee children waiting for resettlement out of Indonesia, in one of the refugee run education centres in Cisarua, West Java.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country and home to 250 million people, hosts 13,800 forcibly displaced people from 52 nations—e.g. Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen. Men, women, and children from ethnic or religious minorities (such as the Hazara from Afghanistan, Rohingya from Myanmar, or Tamil from Sri Lanka) have come to Indonesia during the last decade as asylum seekers and refugees, in search of international protection.

Indonesia, which produced refugees in the past, has not ratified the Refugee Convention or protocol, but has so far mostly upheld its non-refoulement obligation. The country allows UNHCR to determine those in need of international protection, but had until the end of 2016 no clear guidelines for authorities as to how to handle their refugee population.

While some JRS Indonesia staff are present to provide psychosocial activities in only two of the thirteen immigration detention centres, which serve a minority of the 2,000 people who are detained under the immigration law, its focus since 2012 has been the asylum seekers and refugees living independently in the community in surrounding areas of the capital city Jakarta. 40 per cent of people seeking asylum in Indonesia survive without support from the government or other humanitarian organisations; they are forced to use their savings and rely on money sent by family and friends. Many, at some point, end up in desperate situations without sufficient food or shelter. JRS Indonesia's "befriend urban refugees" project in West Java is the main service provider for the most vulnerable: those trying to survive the year's long waiting process of receiving refugee status and resettlement.

We are confronted with difficult decisions as to whom is most vulnerable and deserving of our support. JRS Indonesia provides life-saving support towards housing, food, and healthcare to vulnerable families with children, and people with physical and mental health conditions.

Seven JRS staff members, from a variety of backgrounds, accompany those who have urgent healthcare needs, but are unable to pay for a physician's care at local medical facilities. There is also a cadre of volunteers who go with the refugees to local clinics to interpret their condition to the doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. Telephone or face-to face-requests for financial support towards housing and food are followed up by home visits, where individual needs and resources are evaluated, and decisions are made as to the most appropriate form of support.

Refugees with skills and talents are encouraged to volunteer their time as community interpreters or as English teachers in one of two JRS learning centres, where they help each other acquire important language skills.

First and foremost, we aim to be a friend during a difficult period in the lives of the refugees, whom we see as our brothers and sisters; we also strive to identify and realize solutions, and enable them to regain at least some aspects of normality and autonomy as teachers or students.

Recently, we have also encountered an increasing need to assist asylum seekers to learn about their rights. We established information sessions and individual consultations to keep them aware as to where they stand in the asylum-seeking process.

All in all, this year has not been any easier for refugees in Indonesia: many experience even longer waiting times and less prospect

for resettlement out of the country. Such conditions have increased the urgency to explore new and creative possibilities towards a dignified life in exile. While the number of asylum seekers and refugees is small compared to other states, a harmonious and mutual engagement between forcibly displaced people and local communities is paramount. JRS Indonesia conducts public awareness and community engagement activities, such as inviting refugees to celebrate national holidays with the local community. Educating local students about forcibly displaced people, both living in Indonesia and throughout the world, promotes greater understanding and tolerance.

We are encouraged by a growing number of volunteers, from both the refugee community and local Indonesians, who support and inspire our humanitarian effort towards better refugee rights and integration. Over the years, JRS has become a trusted partner of refugees and their host communities; part of our mission is finding solutions towards a better and safer future for both.

Within the financial and human limitations that we experience, we are committed to do our best to enable our brothers and sisters seeking international protection, the ability to overcome the adversities of the past and move into a more stable future-wherever it might be.



JRS holds a Teacher Training for refugees who volunteer as teachers in learning centre.

Remembering Those Exiled in The New Year

Martinus Dam Febrianto SJ



Ignatian Partners Community visiting refugee on the sidewalks
of Kalideres Immigration Detention Centre.

The new year celebration is for many something very special. When the roaring sounds of fireworks and the sparkling lights brighten the night sky, people, young and old, are looking back at the past year and some look enthusiastically forward to the year starting after this special night. Menteng Raya one of the main streets in Jakarta , where I spent my New Year's eve, was packed with people since 8pm. Vehicles, cars and motorcycles, kept moving only very slowly until midnight.

What are people looking for during new years? Is it just to join in to a crowd and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere? Or to find an impressive moment and making new resolutions for this new year? I'm not sure. But apparently, many human beings have a need for celebration. If we reflect on it deeply, celebrations satisfy and excite us; either physical, psychological, or spiritual. Life maybe indeed given to be celebrated.

However, amidst the cheery new year's eve and the joy of the new day, there are people who cannot enjoy the festive turn of this new year 2018. On Sunday December 31st, Mr. Djohan from Ignatian Partners Community of the Heart of Mary Immaculate Parish, Tangerang, sent me some photos. His group had recently visited the asylum seekers and cross-border refugees currently living on the sidewalks of Kalideres Immigration Detention Centre(IDC). The man and woman from Ignatian Partners, accompanied by Fr. Wartaya Winangun SJ, visited the refugees on several occasions. They came to meet the refugees, bring food and drinks for those man, woman, and children who wished to be admitted to the detention center to gain access to shelter, food and health care and other basic needs, as they no longer have money or support from family, friends, or other institutions to sustain their lives.



Refugees, man, woman, and children on the sidewalks of Kalideres Immigration Detention Centre

We observed there were around 28 refugees there, 20 adults and 8 children, from various countries, from the third group of refugees arriving in Indonesia. The first group came in last August. After some time, Kalideres IDC staff put them in detention, even though the IDC was already full. The second arrivals came in October, including Omar Ferozi, an Afghan refugee who had been accompanied by JRS in Cisarua. Based on Ferozi's information, JRS contacted Fr. Wartaya who then invited Ignatian Partners to go and visit and see how to help.

On the first day of 2018, the 51st World Day of Peace, Pope Francis voiced his message, especially for migrants and refugees. The Pope said, "In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands." He proposed a strategy combining four actions: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating. These four actions (also voiced in the Pope's message for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on January 14, 2018) are clarified in 20 Action Points

towards global agreement (Responding to Migrants and Refugees: Twenty Action Points for the Global Compacts).

Faced with high numbers of refugees in the world today* with 22.5 million people forcibly displaced as refugees and asylum seekers, only 13.800 of them are in Indonesia, the Pope invites us to view it in a contemplative way. Quoting Pope Benedict, Pope Francis reminded us that: *"The wisdom of faith fosters a contemplative gaze that recognizes that all of us belong to one family, migrants and the local populations that welcome them, and all have the same right to enjoy the goods of the earth, whose destination is universal, as the social doctrine of the Church teaches. It is here that solidarity and sharing are founded."*

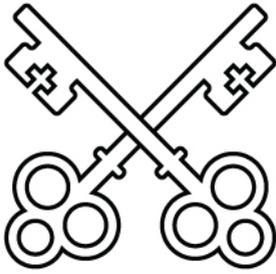
This contemplative view, I hope, will lead us and others to respond to the invitation of compassion, first as a moral or ethical calling, which we believe is a call from God himself going hand in hand with the putting aside of prejudice and suspicions that commonly arise when facing a refugee as a stranger.

JRS expresses its gratitude to Fr. Wartaya Winangun SJ for accompanying Ignatian Partners Community in the Heart of Mary Immaculate Parish since 2014 which led to meeting with refugee families and individuals, and to befriending them. This initiative so we hope will be joined by many more following the popes call and the Twenty Action Points asking us to speak out and act towards refugees and migrants and by taking small and bigger steps to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate them. This is like the new years resolution of the Catholic Church something we want to strive towards in the coming year and beyond, together and in solidarity.

A Happy New Year 2018.

*<http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

Twenty Action Points For The Global Compacts On Migration And Refugees



MIGRANTS REFUGEES

I - To Welcome: Enhancing Safe and Legal Channels for Migrants and Refugees

Migration should be safe, legal and orderly, and the decision to migrate voluntary. With this in mind, the following action points are suggested:

1. Encourage States to ban arbitrary and collective expulsions. The “non refoulement” principle should always be respected. This principle is based on the individual situation of the person and not on how “safe” a country is generally claimed to be. States should avoid using safe country lists, as such lists often fail to meet the refugee’s needs for protection.
2. Encourage States and all actors involved to expand the number and range of alternative legal pathways for safe and voluntary migration and resettlement, in full respect for the principle of non-refoulement.
3. Encourage States to adopt a national security perspective that fully takes into account the security and human rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees entering its territory.

II - To Protect: Ensuring Migrants’ and Refugees’ Rights and Dignity

The Church insists on the importance of taking a holistic and integrated approach, with a focus on the centrality of the human person. A holistic approach remains, indeed, the best way to detect and overcome harmful stereotypes, and to avoid stigmatizing anyone in respect to a few specific aspects, to take account of all dimensions and fundamental aspects of the person as a whole. “The proper implementation of human rights becomes truly beneficial for migrants, as well as for the sending and receiving countries. The measures suggested are not a mere concession to migrants. They are in the interest of migrants, host societies, and the international community at large. Promoting and respecting the human rights of migrants and their dignity ensures that everyone’s rights and dignity in society are fully respected.”¹ Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees should be received as human beings, in dignity and full respect for their human rights, regardless of their migratory status. While it is the right of every State to manage and control its borders, migrants and refugees must be received in conformity with applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international refugee law. The more alternative and legal pathways are

available to the migrant and refugee, the less likely they are to be taken advantage of by criminal networks and to find themselves victims of human trafficking, or victims of exploitation and abuse in the context of the smuggling of migrants.

The right to life is the most basic guarantee of civil and political freedom. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “[e]very human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” Every response to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in search and rescue operations, should be directed primarily to ensure and protect the right to life of all, regardless of their status. With this in mind, the following action points are proposed:

4. Encourage States with significant labour migrant outflows to adopt policies and practices which provide protections for citizens choosing to emigrate.

5. Encourage States with significant labour migrant inflows to adopt national policies which protect against exploitation, forced labour, or trafficking.

6. Encourage States to adopt national policies which enable migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to make the best use of their skills and capacities, in order to better contribute to their own and their communities’ well-being.

7. Encourage States to comply with their obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) when enacting domestic legislation to address the vulnerable situation of unaccompanied children or minors separated from their family.

8. Encourage States to comply with their

obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) when dealing with all migrant minors and recommend the following actions, among others:

a. Adopt procedures that guarantee legal protections to minors approaching the age of majority. In particular, enact legislation that preserves their legal status and prevents them from becoming undocumented and thus subject to detention and deportation.

b. Adopt procedures that permit minors that are close to the age of majority to continue their education without interruption.

c. Adopt policies that require the registration of all births, providing each newborn with a birth certificate.

9. Encourage States to adopt national policies that provide equal access to education for migrant, asylum seeker and refugee learners of all levels.

10. Encourage States to adopt legislation which provides migrants and refugees with access to adequate social protections.

11. Encourage States to enact legislation to prevent migrants and refugees from becoming “stateless”.

III - To Promote: Advancing Migrants’ and Refugees’ Integral Human Development

At the present time the average duration of exile for those who have fled armed conflict is 17 years. For labour migrants as well, the time away from home can amount to many years. Hosting states, rather than providing merely emergency responses and basic services, should assure structures which allow those staying long-term to develop as human beings and to contribute to the development of the host country. Moreover, since a basic principle of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals is to “leave no one behind”, the international community should take care to include refugees, asylum seekers and labour

migrants in their development plans. The following action points are suggested:

12. Encourage States to enact legislation that enables the recognition, transfer and further development of the formal skills of all migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees residing in the host country.

13. Encourage States to adopt laws, policies and practices which facilitate the local integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugee populations.

14. Encourage States to adopt policies and practices which promote and preserve the integrity and well-being of the family regardless of migratory status.

15. Encourage States to adopt policies and practices that provide migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with special needs or vulnerabilities with the same opportunities as other disabled citizens.

16. Encourage the international community to increase its share of development and emergency assistance to States which host and support large influxes of refugees and migrants fleeing armed conflict so all may benefit, regardless of migratory status.

17. Encourage States to adopt policies and practices that guarantee the freedom of religion, in both belief and practice, to all migrants and refugees regardless of their migratory status.

IV - To Integrate: Enriching Communities through Wider Participation of Migrants and Refugees

The acceptance of migrants and refugees is an opportunity for new understanding and broader horizons, both on the part of those accepted, who have the responsibility to respect the values, traditions and laws of the community which takes them in, and on the part of the latter, who are called to acknowledge the beneficial contribution

which each immigrant can make to the whole community. Both sides are mutually enriched by their interaction, and the community as a whole is enhanced by a greater participation of all its members, both resident and migrants. This is also true for the migrant or refugee who chooses to return home. The following actions points are suggested:

18. On the basis that integration is neither assimilation nor incorporation, but a “two-way process,” which is essentially rooted in the joint recognition of the other’s cultural richness, encourage States to enact legislation which facilitates local integration.

19. Encourage States to adopt policies and programmes which actively promote a positive narrative on migrants and refugees and the solidarity towards them.

20. When foreign nationals are forced to flee from violence or environmental crisis in the host country, they are often eligible for voluntary repatriation programmes or evacuation programmes. In these cases, the host State, donor states or the State of origin should be encouraged to adopt policies and procedures which facilitate the reintegration of returnees.

¹ GA res. 2200A (XXI), 21 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 52, UN Doc. A/6316 (1966); 999 UNTS 171; 6 ILM 368 (1967).

Excerpted from the full document [here](#)

“ *Solidarity is no mere ideal; it is expressed in concrete actions and steps that draw us closer to our neighbours, in whatever situation they find themselves.* ”

Pope Francis

#Do1Thing

#Do1Thing: Hope For Refugees Begins With You



A single individual is enough
for hope to exist.
And that individual can be you.
Pope Francis

#Do1Thing

Pope Francis encourages each one of us to act to bring hope to refugees. At Jesuit Refugee Service, we believe that we can all #Do1Thing to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate refugees in their communities.

We hear the words “refugee crisis” all the time, and the sheer magnitude of the current situation – more than 65 million people forced to leave their homes to seek safety, with 22.5 million of them having had to flee their countries – can leave us feeling powerless and frustrated. Can anything be done?

The real crisis, however, is not a “refugee crisis”, but a crisis of solidarity, or what Pope Francis has called “the globalisation of indifference”. The response that is needed is both individual and collective: solidarity is not just an ideal, but is expressed in concrete actions and steps that draw us closer to our neighbours, in whatever situation they find themselves.

To mark the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 14 January 2018, JRS is releasing a campaign, called #Do1Thing, to show what individuals are doing to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate

refugees in their communities. These are ordinary people, doing simple things: offering friendship, or helping with a language class. They are not engaged in many great and heroic acts, but often are just offering one thing, one form of support, one day in a week. Often they just #Do1Thing.

“ ...We are precious, each and every one of us... Through the darkness of today's conflicts, each and every one of us can become a bright candle, a reminder that light will overcome darkness, and never the other way around.”
Pope Francis

Hope for refugees begins with you.
#Do1Thing

Sari's Story

For most of us, visiting a foreign country whose language we do not speak is not always a great challenge. We stay in hotels where the concierge makes restaurant, taxi, and excursion bookings for us, and we can consult smartphone apps for the odd phrase or two that we need to use.

For a refugee waiting a long time for resettlement, or trying to negotiate the many layers of bureaucracy, in a country whose language is unfamiliar, the experience is very different. Sari, a young Indonesian woman in Cisarua, knows this. We hear her saying in [this video](#), "I am young, and I don't have much money. So what can I actually give to refugees?"

What Sari has is a little spare time, and the knowledge of her own language, Bahasa Indonesia. This is her gift to Hazara refugees who have fled Afghanistan for Indonesia, and who are waiting there for resettlement to third countries: the gift of language, which opens doors, connects people, and makes relationships possible. It seems like the tiniest thing, but teaching a refugee the language of the community where she or he lives helps to welcome,

“
One thing you
can do is have
friendship and
get to know
each other.
”

Sari - Cisarua

#Do1Thing



protect, promote, and integrate that refugee, the four things that Pope Francis calls on us to do.

Sari's message to us is that we should be open, be friendly, and get to know refugees. Maybe, she suggests, we should talk less, and do more. Sari shows us that we can #Do1Thing to make a difference.

How unexpected people help Najib

Swimming is a skill many of us take for granted: maybe we are accustomed to beach holidays, or live close to the ocean, or grew up attending schools with swimming programmes.

However, for a refugee from an arid and landlocked country such as Afghanistan, swimming skills are not a given; and lacking these skills can often be a death sentence. This is especially true if you are forced to flee to another country via rickety boats across restless seas, as many Afghans have had to do to.

Najib is a Hazara who fled Afghanistan for Indonesia, and is currently faced with a long wait for resettlement. Before arriving in Indonesia, he had no idea how to swim. Watch [this video](#), now he is learning with help from a few coaches: local children who

“
Many people
from other
countries want
to help refugees.
When a person
helps me, I feel
happy. I feel
close to them.
”

Najib, Cisarua

#Do1Thing



frequent the neighbourhood swimming pool.

"When I swim, I forget all my problems being a refugee. Swimming is the thing that makes me feel good."

Often, we think of psycho-social support as confined to the work of trained professionals. But, as Najib shows us, the key to a healthier state of mind and heart can often come from unexpected people who may themselves be unaware of their own ability to change lives.

In fact, the young children who spend time teaching Najib how to swim likely have little idea of what they contribute to his wellbeing. They just #Do1Thing and that has made all the difference.

Tine's shared laughter with the refugees

When we think of a medical doctor among refugees, we might be forgiven for assuming that the doctor is there to provide emergency medical treatment. When we first see Dr Tine Quendangen, however, she is lying on a floor next to a refugee, and they are both trying to suppress their laughter, like shown in [this video](#).

Tine retired from fulltime medical practice a year ago, and she did not want to spend her time shopping, or finding other ways to make more money. She realised that she had one thing that she was truly rich in: *"I now have time to give."*

When she decided to volunteer with Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia, Tine noticed that a common complaint among the refugees was chronic back pain. She now teaches refugees exercises that stretch and strengthen their back and other muscles, to alleviate and prevent back pain.

The training sometimes involves physical contact, and this can lead to awkwardness, and then to laughter. "The laughter also helps them forget their pain," says Tine.

"Even if we have no special skills, we can give refugees our attention, just asking them how they are, for example." For Tine, being a medical doctor is not the most important thing that she brings to refugees. She provides friendship, a listening ear, a minute to share a laugh. Tine knows that you just need to #Do1Thing to change the life of a refugee.

www.jrs.net

Check more #Do1Thing stories [here](#)



#Do1Thing

Since 2017, some sisters from the Daughters of St Anne have been helping JRS in accompanying refugees and asylum seekers in Medan Immigration Detention Centre. They also #Do1Thing to help make a difference in the lives of refugees and asylum seekers. Sr. Soni Hermita is one of them.

"I remember the first feeling when I received the orientation and watching the situations of the refugees who escaped from their countries, it was very shocking it made me sad. Their stories of suffering and escaping made me more curious to see their real faces. Then the first day when I encountered them, I felt pity looking at them. I could see their faces with some fears, awkward, shy, and hesitate to approach. Looking at them, observing them drawing, I found that they have the will and the spirit to learn more. Then we began to teach them numbers and letters. The first day, I felt so thankful and grateful to God to know them and I want to know them better.

The other week, I brought my guitar so that we can sing and dance to enjoy the time with some songs. When I saw them singing, I felt so consoled, happy, and satisfied to see their smiles. Then I began to realize that even though we are doing small things with them, it gives so much support, accompaniment, and joy in their hard life."



Nuna with her students in English Class

Nuna Farhanggi volunteered in JRS Bogor for 2 months, she was in charge of teaching English for the local kids who lives around the Cipayung Refugee Educational Centre.

"Being a volunteer and teaching for 2 months there was one of my greatest achievement. It made me realize that language is a very important thing.

One day on my way back from the center after class, I found some local children and 2 Iraqi child refugees playing kites together. They were running around, yelling instructions to each other to fly the kites, in two different languages. It looked a bit sad for they couldn't understand each other. The local kids could only speak Sundanese and Bahasa Indonesia, while the Iraqi kids speak Arabic and English. So they were trying to understand each other with gestures while speaking in their own languages.

I realized that speaking and understanding English is very important. Especially these kids live together with some refugees in their communities. At least by learning English, they can greet the refugees or the child refugees. They could also help their parents in communicating with the refugees."



JRS Eucharist service and Fundraising at St. Anthony Parish, Solo



On Saturday-Sunday, December 2nd-3rd, 2017, JRS Indonesia held Eucharist Service and Fundraising in St. Anthony Parish, Purbayan, Solo. Before the mass, JRS volunteers greeted parishioners at the entrance of the church and distributed the Refuge newsletter with bookmarks and envelopes. Then after the mass, the parishioners put the envelopes of donations into boxes hold by volunteers.

JRS Indonesia is very grateful of the prayers and all kind of support from our donors, supporters, and volunteers. Your caring support will make a great difference in the lives of refugees and asylum seekers accompanied by JRS Indonesia.



EDITORIAL

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Cover Photo
Teacher Training held by JRS for refugees
who volunteer as teachers in Learning Centre

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