

JRS Day: Protecting people since 1980

JRS
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

This year, we mark **46 years of the Jesuit Refugee Service** and the **75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention**.

The **Refugee Convention** represents a commitment and a promise, that people fleeing persecution, and violence should never be abandoned.

JRS was founded as a living expression of that same promise.

For 46 years, JRS has translated its response through accompaniment, service, and advocacy.

“The help needed is not only material: in a special way the Society is being called to render a service that is human, pedagogical and spiritual.

Father Pedro Arrupe SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus.



Photo: JRS staff helping a migrant family in Mexico.



Photo: JRS staff in Lebanon playing with children affected by the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East in March 2026.



Photo: The Festival of Encounter organised by JRS Jordan, is a space where refugee and migrant communities living in the country come together and express themselves through their own cultural and artistic traditions.

For millions of people forced to leave their homes, seeking safety means facing closed borders, exclusion, and barriers to even the most basic rights.

As global fragmentation deepens, indifference towards migrants and refugees grows, and the international system designed to protect them comes under increasing threat, **defending their right to protection and safety has never been more urgent.**

For JRS, **protection means** ensuring that every refugee is treated with dignity, has their rights respected, and receives the support needed to rebuild their life and feel at home in a new community.

Protection takes many forms across our projects: education, mental health and psychosocial support, economic inclusion, reconciliation initiatives, pastoral care.



Photo: JRS welcome centre for migrants and refugees in Greece.



Photo: JRS brings communities together through social inclusion activities in Lake Chad Province.



Photo: Safe spaces for children in Ecuador, where they can grow, share experiences, and feel supported.



Photo: Fish farming project supporting food security and the economic inclusion of refugees in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

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Protection means **living in a "safe home",** feeling welcomed, belonging to a community, and participating actively in it.

It also entails providing people with the **opportunity to build their own future** through access to education as well as economic inclusion and livelihood opportunities to support themselves and their families.



Photo: Children in a refugee camp along the Thai-Myanmar border participate in classroom learning activities supported by JRS Thailand, following the reopening of the school.



Photo: Refugee students participating in an English language course at JRS Uganda.



Photo: JRS supports youth in Bambari, Central African Republic, with vocational training and reintegration kits that foster socio-economic inclusion.

Protection is not something that a single person or organisation can provide alone.

JRS works alongside refugees, host communities, and a wide range of partners to create safe and inclusive environments.



Photo: More than 500 advocates gathered for JRS USA Advocacy Day, meeting with congressional offices on Capitol Hill to advance refugee protection, defend human rights and turn faith into action.



Photo: Coordinated Jesuit response to the earthquakes that struck Venezuela in June 2026 (Unidos en la Mision Foundation).



Photo: JRS Romania staff and partners assisting refugees arriving from Ukraine.

Protection means creating spaces where every person feels safe, respected, and heard. It is also about safeguarding people's physical safety, dignity, rights, mental well-being, and hope.

Fransisca Dwi Indah Asmiarsi, known as Mia, first joined JRS Indonesia in 2012.
Over the years, she has taken on a variety of roles within the organisation, leading to her current position as Interim Country Director of JRS Indonesia.



No one can turn a blind eye to those who are seeking protection and safety. I also urge everyone to welcome those who are victims of persecution so that they may live in peace, with dignity, and look to the future with hope.

Pope Leo XIV, World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026.

On this JRS Day, we add our voice to Pope Leo's appeal, calling on the international community to choose solidarity, protect the most vulnerable, and create the conditions for lasting peace.



Let’s get together to defend the right to safety and protection.

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