

JUHAN

STUDENT LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

JUNE 27-29 2017 | COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Principles in Crisis: Refugees and Responsibility

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) invites research paper, advocacy, and panel discussion proposals on topics substantively related to humanitarian relief, and especially welcomes proposals on subjects addressing this year's conference theme, Principles in Crisis: Refugees and Responsibility.

The conference theme, "Principles in Crisis," references the moral and ethical frameworks, as well as guiding principles, that motivate and channel the global response to human suffering. Humanitarians, across faith traditions, espouse principles like the "humanitarian imperative," whereby the international community provides assistance wherever it is needed. Simultaneously, the conference theme reminds us that we face dilemmas in the rush to assist; it compels us to consider the consequences of well-intentioned actions and to reflect on the practical meaning of compassionate deeds.

The conference focus topic, "Refugees and Responsibility," highlights the needs of the displaced. Refugees lie at the heart of humanitarian response, as the conditions that foster displacement – conflict, famine, ecological disaster – signify acute social and political breakdown. Just as refugees are compelled to cross borders by conditions of vulnerability, so too are we morally compelled to respond to human suffering wherever it exists. And yet, with refugees at numbers unseen since World War II, media and political discourses reflect a fraying consensus on the rights of vulnerable populations. This conference surveys efforts, from Syria to South Sudan to Central America, to respond to mass displacement emergencies. It explores the tensions between political systems and humanitarian principles and reflects on our relationship with human suffering.

Some potential guiding questions to consider in developing proposals include:

- » What are the ethical frameworks and guiding principles that ideally underlie global responses to human suffering, particularly suffering associated with mass displacement?
- » How can we, as citizens, work to craft a more humane politics in our own communities? How can empathy be fostered in response to crises that can feel so distant and overwhelming?
- » What is, or should be, the relationship between humanitarian imperatives and geopolitics?
- » Which local models and practices have proven most effective in facilitating refugee resettlement? What role can Jesuit institutions play?



Proposals can be submitted via the Holy Cross JUHAN 2017 website from October 15, 2016 through February 28, 2017. Registration for students, faculty/staff, and community members who wish to attend the conference will also begin October 15, 2016.



For additional details, contact information, and for conference proposal submissions, please visit www.holycross.edu/juhan or email juhan2017@holycross.edu.