

Report of Burning Issues: European Youth Ambassadors

Migration and the Rise of Right-Wing Populism

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Migration was our main topic at the mission synode and the Youth Summit in June 2018. Since then some months have passed but the topic is still prevailing. It seems as there are few topics which are as newsworthy for the media and for political debates in Europe as this subject. Especially the topic of refugees fuels emotions and fear within the society. While European governments invest billions (milliards) of euros to secure their borders and prevent refugees to enter the country, it is estimated that over 1500 people, who were trying to flee to Europe, died in the Mediterranean Sea only since the beginning of this year. Also, the treaty between the EU and Turkey to reduce the numbers of refugees crossing European borders shows its effects. In Switzerland the numbers of people seeking asylum was cut into halves since its peak in 2015. Nevertheless, right-wing parties are on the rise in the whole of Europe. In France, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Switzerland – to name a few – migrants and refugees are often taken as scapegoats and portrayed as dangerous and criminal in the political discourse. Fortunately, it still exists a civil society that shows solidarity and love. We hope that the acceptance and understanding of our cultural and religious differences can help us to also see our similarities. In our globalized world and the current political atmosphere consisting of fear and hatred, the fact that we all belong to the human race seems to me an important realization.

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