



Conference
“YMCA working for Refugees and Asylum Seekers”
11-13 March 2016
“Ernst Sillem Hoeve”
Den Dolder (The Netherlands)

Draft programme (version 15-02-2016).

Friday 11. March 2016.

Arrivals.

18.15 hr. Dinner

20.00 hr. **Session 1 – “Introduction” (Plenary meeting).**

- Welcome – Peter Klein (President YMCA The Netherlands)
- Introduction, presentation of objectives of the Conference; overview of the programme – Robèrt Feith (National General Secretary YMCA The Netherlands) and Juan Simoes (Secretary-General YMCA Europe)
- Introduction of the participants and expectations – Juan Simoes
- YMCA work with refugees and asylum seekers in the past and what can be learned from it today – Jim Thomson (Former WAY Staff for refugee work; Scotland)
- Experiences of a volunteer with YMCA work for refugees in refugee camp Traiskirchen (Austria) in 1982 – Hetteke Wapenaar (The Netherlands)
- State of play with YMCA refugee work in Europe – Juan Simoes

22.00 hr. Devotion and closure of the day.

Saturday 12. March 2016.

08.00 hr. Breakfast

09.00 hr. Thought for the day

09.15 hr. **Session 2 - “What is going on” (Plenary meeting).**

- YMCA projects with refugees and asylum seekers in Spain – Mary Antelo (Executive Secretary YMCA Valencia; Spain)
- YMCA work with refugees and asylum seekers in Germany – Dorothee Pfrommer (Executive Director YMCA Germany)
- YMCA Ukraine working with internally displaced persons – Viktor Serbulov (General Secretary YMCA Ukraine)

- Work with migrants in YMCA of the USA – Linda Gonzales (Vice-President for Diversity and Inclusion YMCA of the USA)
- Work with unaccompanied refugee minors in Umea; Sweden – Camilo Segura (Manager Fenix Programme YMCA Umea; Sweden)

10.45 hr. Coffee break

11.15 hr. **Session 3 – “Good examples” (Two Parallel workshops)**

3.1. Support for First Arrivers.

Short pitches of max. 7 minutes as introductions for further sharing; exchange and discussion.

- YMCA work with first arrivers in Bavaria (Germany) – Bernd Decker (President YMCA Lauf; Bavaria; Germany)
- YMCA volunteers project in The Netherlands with children of refugees – Dinet Kreeft (Leader Refugee project; YMCA The Netherlands)

3.2. Longer term YMCA programmes

Short pitches of max. 7 minutes as introductions for further sharing; exchange and discussion.

- YMCA work for asylum seekers in France – Charlotte Faure (Le Rocheton; YMCA France)
- Welcoming programme for refugees – Tim Wieringa/Joe Schmutz (YMCA Munich; Germany)
- Summer Camps for young refugees – Inge Bussink (Manager YCamps; The Netherlands)

12.30 hr. Lunch

14.00 hr. **Session 4 – “Learning; sharing and developing” (Four Parallel workshops).**

- 4.1. *Requirements and training for volunteers (and Staff) working with refugees and asylum seekers*
- 4.2. *Co-operation between YMCA’s in developing new programmes; Strategic partnerships with other organisations*
- 4.3. *Inclusive Christianity and interreligious dialogue in the context of refugee work*
- 4.4. *Designing YMCA programmes for new immigrant communities*

15.30 hr. Coffee break

16.15 hr. **Session 5 - “Reporting back and Summary” (Plenary meeting).**

- Plenary reports from Session 4.
- Discussion

17.30 hr. Dinner

19.30 hr. **Session 6 – “Our stories and our plans” (Plenary sharing and energizing for the future).**

- ✓ “Personal stories”.
- ✓ “The fish bowl experience”: Free room to express views by participants on whatever may be considered to be relevant, like for instance:
 - Next steps with the outcome of the discussions.
 - What will you do in the work for refugees in your YMCA ?
 - Developing partnerships between YMCA’s in Europe in the work with refugees
 - Establishing a European YMCA Working Group on refugees and asylum seekers ? (who wants to join)
 - Working on a joint grant application to facilitate our work in the coming years ?
 - Advocacy work (through our office in Brussels) ?

21.15 hr. Devotion and closure of the day.

Sunday 13. March 2016.

08.00 hr. Breakfast

09.00 hr. Thought for the day

09.15 hr. **Session 7 – “Summing up and Appointments” (Plenary meeting).**

- Making concrete appointments about reporting of the conference results; about follow-up actions and next steps (including issues of session 6);
- Next conference.
- Final conclusions

10.45 hr. Closure of the conference and final remarks – Robèrt Feith; Juan Simoes and Ed Eggink

11.00 hr. Departures

Display.

All participants are invited to display materials they work with and which they like to share with the other participants.